

2016 OFFICIAL FALL/WINTER VISITORS GUIDE

Connecticut[®]

still revolutionary

FIRE

Autumn Adventures

ICE

Winter Wonderlands

gallivant

BY TRACI L. SUPPA

STAY + PLAY

Gaming is growing up in Connecticut, but hardly slowing down. Two casino resorts—**Foxwoods Resort Casino** and **Mohegan Sun**—celebrate major anniversaries with new spaces and amenities to make your stay even better. In Uncasville, Mohegan Sun turns 20 this fall with the opening of its second hotel, Earth Tower. Inspired by the crystal and rock formations important to the Mohegan Tribe's culture, the new seven-story boutique property is located next



to Sky Tower and features 400 deluxe guest rooms, an indoor pool and fitness center.

In February 2017, Foxwoods marks 25 years in Mashantucket. Adding to its list of entertainment options such as golf and live music and comedy shows, a new

fine-dining restaurant opened on the 24th floor of the Grand Pequot Tower. The panoramic views from Vue 24 are yours to enjoy whether you go for the Sky Brunch, dinner with a modern Continental menu or classic cocktails set to live piano music.

Mohegan Sun's Earth Tower, Uncasville

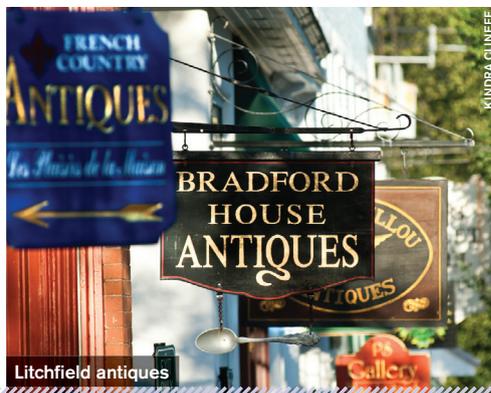


MODERN + VINTAGE

We have tort law to thank for today's modern rules, which cover everything from "hot" warnings on your coffee cup to tobacco marketing. The new **American Museum of Tort Law** in Winsted, founded by

Ralph Nader, presents its evolution through timelines, displays and artifacts. You will see how flaming rats and other quirky wrongful-injury cases have affected how we assign fault and compensate victims.

For a trip back to simpler times in the Litchfield Hills region, go antiquing. Find a cozy inn or B&B and make a weekend out of it. A statewide antiques trail of more than 100 shops, multi-dealer stores and auction houses ultimately leads visitors to Kent, Litchfield and Woodbury, which is the unofficial **Antiques Capital of Connecticut**. You'll bring a treasure home to remember your trip, maybe a vintage stone-ware mug to keep your coffee hot—no warning required.





IT™ Adventure Ropes Course, New Haven

COURTESY OF IT™ ROPES COURSE

BRAWN + BRAINS

It takes both brawn and bravery to barrel through IT™, the world's largest indoor adventure ropes course, located at Jordan's Furniture—yes, a furniture store—in New Haven. The breathtaking, 60-foot-tall course includes more than 100 activities such as bridges and planks, zig-zag swinging beams, angled rope ladders and cargo nets. There are also four zip lines, a 50-foot free fall jump and a 200-foot cat walk. Kids can try the “Little It” course, and everyone will enjoy the Liquid Fireworks water show, a snack at Blaze Pizza and ice cream from Scoop It.

showcase an unparalleled collection bridging five centuries. Be among the first to see it in the stunning, sky-lit galleries. The **Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library**, one of the world's largest collections of rare works, has expanded research, classroom and exhibition facilities. Its collection includes ancient papyri, medieval manuscripts and one of 21 Gutenberg Bibles in existence.



Yale Center for British Art, New Haven

COURTESY OF YALE CENTER FOR BRITISH ART

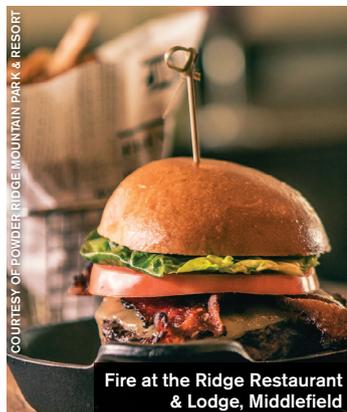
For more cerebral exercise, head uptown to Yale University for the re-opening of two major cultural institutions. Renovations at the **Yale Center for British Art**

THRILL + CHILL

For more than 50 years, River Valley thrill-seekers have skied at **Powder Ridge Mountain Park & Resort** in Middlefield. There are 19 trails and four terrain parks, nearly half of which are illuminated for night skiing. Don't ski? There's also snowboarding, tubing and new B6 Skibikes that let you ride on the snow—seated—with two mini-skis at your feet and two skis on the bike.

The resort offers a great way to end the day—**Fire at the Ridge Restaurant and Lodge**. Guests enjoy a rustic yet upscale restaurant,

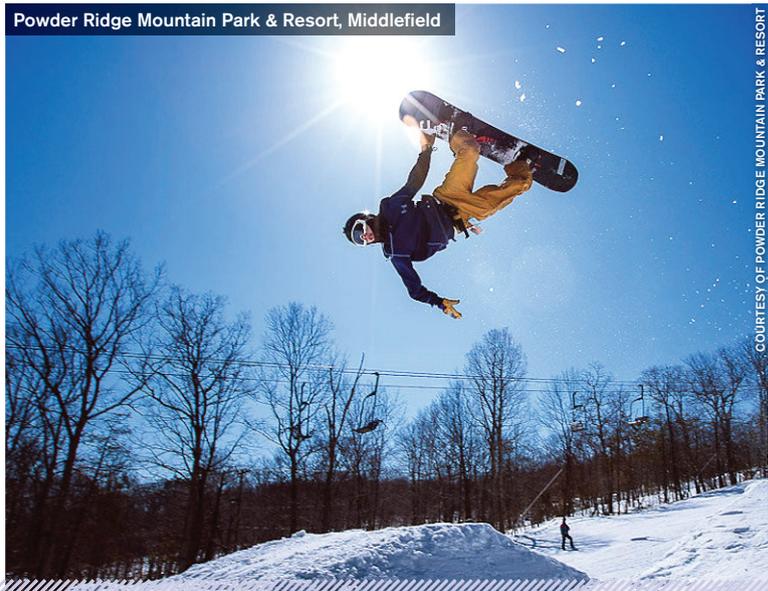
enhanced by mountain views and crackling stone fireplaces. Executive Chef Kevin Cottle's menu is inspired by native New England flavors and locally sourced ingredients. The **Ridgeside Tavern**, a modern twist on old Colonial taverns, serves locally brewed beers and craft cocktails. [CT](#)



COURTESY OF POWDER RIDGE MOUNTAIN PARK & RESORT

Fire at the Ridge Restaurant & Lodge, Middlefield

Powder Ridge Mountain Park & Resort, Middlefield



COURTESY OF POWDER RIDGE MOUNTAIN PARK & RESORT

Freelance travel writer and blogger Traci L. Suppa recently visited several Connecticut Dino Trail sites with her kids.



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