

# AMERICAN SUMMER

From coast to coast, the nation's buzziest destinations tempt one final fling

**A**s we enter August, our thoughts invariably begin to turn from carefree summer adventures to the back-to-work realities of fall. But it's not too late to soak up the sunny season and plan one final getaway. All across the country new restaurants, hotels, and cultural destinations are enticing design-savvy holidayers to explore American locales. Here, *Architectural Digest* presents the best places to go in the U.S. before summer's end. →



A view of Napa Valley from the Auberge du Soleil resort, which boasts a series of revamped suites by decorator Suzanne Tucker.

Boats sweep across Maine's Penobscot Bay, where the coastal town of Rockland recently unveiled the new Center for Maine Contemporary Art.



With its constellation of picture-perfect islands, Maine's Penobscot Bay has long been a favorite of discerning aesthetes. But before you leave the mainland, be sure to swing by Rockland's weeks-old **Center for Maine Contemporary Art** ([cmcanow.org](http://cmcanow.org)), a masterfully minimalist structure by AD100 architect Toshiko Mori. Its light-filled galleries are currently showcasing a trio of exhibitions, including a survey of small paintings by summertime Maine resident Alex Katz.

Down in Nantucket, Massachusetts, July saw the launch of **Greydon House** ([greydonhouse.com](http://greydonhouse.com)), a 20-room inn set in a gracefully expanded 1850s clapboard home. Eclectic interiors by AD100 duo Roman and Williams celebrate the isle's indigenous people, as well as its history of whaling and maritime trade.

Back on the mainland, Knight Architecture has completed an eight-year renovation of New Haven, Connecticut's **Yale Center for British Art** ([britishart.yale.edu](http://britishart.yale.edu)). Inside the iconic Louis Kahn-designed museum you'll find a brilliantly reinstalled cache of treasures—the largest outside the UK.

Farther down the coast, the storied Jersey Shore community of Asbury

Park is in the midst of an overdue renaissance. Over Memorial Day weekend the doors opened to **the Asbury** ([theasburyhotel.com](http://theasburyhotel.com)), the city's first new hotel in five decades. Master-minded by designer Anda Andrei—an Ian Schrager protégée—the 110-room hipster property features two rooftop entertaining spaces, not to mention a bustling pool and beer garden.

Inland might seem like the wrong way to venture in beach weather; but Chicago is bliss in late summer, when locals decamp en masse. There's no better time to snag a reservation at one of chef Grant Achatz's restaurants. This past May he debuted a reboot to his multi-Michelin-starred **Alinea** ([alinearestaurant.com](http://alinearestaurant.com)), with a reimagined menu, plus overhauled interiors by architect Steve Rugo and decorator Tom Stringer. For a more casual setting, try Achatz's new open-kitchen eatery **Roister** ([roisterrestaurant.com](http://roisterrestaurant.com)). As for where to stay, how about a Beaux Arts landmark? The 1923 London Guarantee and Accident Building, just rechristened the **LondonHouse Chicago** ([londonhousechicago.com](http://londonhousechicago.com)), is a 452-room stunner crowned by a restored cupola.

The fields of Montana, meanwhile, are luring art and classical music lovers,

thanks to the recent arrival of **Tippet Rise Art Center** ([tippetrise.org](http://tippetrise.org)), an 11,500-acre ranch, sculpture park, and performance venue between the cities of Billings and Bozeman. Intimate concert spaces host the likes of pianist Yevgeny Sudbin and cellist Matt Haimovitz, and works by Ensemble Studio and Mark di Suvero, among others, dot the landscape.

On the West Coast, all eyes have been on the Bay Area since the May reopening of the **San Francisco Museum of Modern Art** ([sfmoma.org](http://sfmoma.org)), dramatically expanded by the international architecture-and-design studio Snøhetta. Now the focus is shifting to nearby Napa Valley, where the firm is putting the finishing touches on its update of chef Thomas Keller's legendary **French Laundry** ([thomaskeller.com](http://thomaskeller.com)). A short drive away, in St. Helena, AD100 architect Howard Backen has added a spa to **Meadowood** ([meadowood.com](http://meadowood.com)), one of Napa's top resorts, while at the beloved **Auberge du Soleil** ([aubergedusoleil.com](http://aubergedusoleil.com)), decorator Suzanne Tucker has given eight guest suites a new look that blends California with the Côte d'Azur. It's the ideal spot to rest up before autumn arrives. —ANDREW SESSA