

# Hampton Terrace Bed & Breakfast

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[www.hamptonterrace.com](http://www.hamptonterrace.com)

## Berkshire Restaurant Recommendations

There are hundreds of restaurants in the Berkshires, due to the fact that this area draws 2.5 million upscale visitors per year. We eat out often, so we have our opinions....but more importantly, we have sent literally tens of thousands out to dinner...and we hear about their experience over breakfast the next day.

During the high season (July, August and October) you pretty much need reservations on the weekends, and you may need to call weeks in advance. Dress is casual (not beachwear) in most places because this is a tourist destination. That does not mean you cannot dress up - anything goes. During the off-season, probably the only places that need advance reservations are Blantyre and Wheatleigh.

But the off-season is the best time to find out why this is a true culinary destination. According to a recent article in the New York Times, Berkshire chefs led the nation to the "farm to table" movement, and many well-regarded chefs have chosen the Berkshires to live....because here, it is possible to attract the New York/Boston culinary audience without having to run a restaurant in a 24/7/365 urban environment.

### Lenox

Nudel: Like "Iron Chef" or "Chopped?" This unique, small, open-kitchen space is owned by 29-year-old chef who is passionate about fresh ingredients and creative combinations. Only open since October, 2009, Bjorn, the owner/chef (formerly of John Andrews Restaurant) prints a new menu every day inspired by whatever featured ingredients he finds at the markets and co-ops that morning. I am not exaggerating....we have sent hundreds, maybe thousands, and not a single person has called it less than an extraordinary experience. No reservations accepted.

[www.nudelrestaurant.com](http://www.nudelrestaurant.com)

Prime Italian Steakhouse: Opened in 2005 by the same family who ran Antonio's for over 20 years in the same location. They sold it to their son, who decided that the Berkshires had a plethora of Italian restaurants but a shortage of upscale steak places. The "Italian" portion of the title means that you can still get several family-recipe Italian dishes. Very chic, glass, steel & widescreen tv (after dinner only) at the bar. 413-637-2998. Dinner only. [www.primelenox.com](http://www.primelenox.com).

Alta: Located where Napa used to be (for those who liked Napa, including us, it is now in Great Barrington in the old Union Grill space) Alta is getting high marks from us and our guests. It is owned by a young Frenchman and his American wife, and we have especially liked the fish entrees. 413-637-0003

The Gateways Inn: 2 doors up from us. This is a very beautiful inn with a rather formal restaurant. We like the owners very much and they do a great job making you feel welcome. The menu choices are limited. There is also a late hour bar with interesting menu *during the season*. As you may know, Lenox closes up too early and this is a new and welcome addition for those looking for a bite or late-night drink after Tanglewood. [www.gatewaysinn.com](http://www.gatewaysinn.com) 413-637-2532

Café Lucia: One of the more established restaurants in Lenox, it features Northern Italian cuisine and a white tablecloth atmosphere. Also closes for a while mid-winter. 413-637-2640

Fin: Sushi in Lenox. No reservations accepted. 413-637-9171

Chocolate Springs Café: Located in the new Lenox Commons several blocks north of the village, this new café is a MUST stop for dessert and coffee. The chef, formerly of Wheatleigh, has been named one of the "Top Ten Chocolate Makers in the U.S." by Saveur Magazine. [www.chocolatesprings.com](http://www.chocolatesprings.com)

Jonathan's: This new restaurant was opened by the former manager of Pearls in Great Barrington (one of our favorites) and we have been adequately impressed. It has everything from grilled gourmet pizzas to venison with reduced maple/fig sauce (great!). Nice modern décor that is candle-lit. 413-637-8022

Village Inn: This is another inn, established in the 1700s, and they feature a much more "New England" type of dinner: turkey and dressing, pot roast, and the sides are included. Especially great is their butternut squash bisque and any of their seafood appetizers. 413-637-0020.

Cork n' Hearth: Another "New England" comfort food choice. Dark wood and fireplace. Especially good is the duck and clam chowder. 413-243-0535. [www.corknhearth.com](http://www.corknhearth.com).

Wheatleigh/Blantyre – for meals completely over the top - ambiance and price to match..... These are two of the more castle-like "Berkshire Cottages" that have become resort hotels, with rooms at \$1,000 and up. Both are now open year-round and feature price-fix menus at roughly \$80 to \$125/person depending on whether you get three courses or six. Both feature prominent chefs and impeccable staff. The drive is less than 5 minutes to either. Expect them to ask for a credit card to hold your reservation and there will be a \$25/person cancellation fee if you do not give them 24 hours notice of cancellation. Wheatleigh also offers an a la carte option if you eat in their "library." Wheatleigh: [www.wheatleigh.com](http://www.wheatleigh.com) 413-637-0610. Blantyre: [www.blantyre.com](http://www.blantyre.com) 413-637-3556.

## BEYOND LENOX

The Old Mill in Egremont: OUR FAVORITE RESTAURANT. This is a 25 minute drive down through Great Barrington and the food is definitely worth the drive. They DO NOT take reservations. You could plan a day that ends in the Great Barrington area and then the drive would only be 5 minutes south on Highway 23. The building is 200 years old and the bar area is cool..... good thing because there is usually a wait. Once again...it is worth it. South Egremont 413-528-1421  
[www.oldmillberkshires.com](http://www.oldmillberkshires.com)

Jae's Spice: Open as just "Spice" in 2006, at the cost of \$4.5 million, it was the centerpiece of Pittsfield's downtown renewal. Ultimately, the original owner could not sustain that much overhead and he brought in an Asian partner. Many of the original menu items remain (the original chef used to be at the Red Lion Inn) but now there is an addition of Oriental choices and sushi. Especially if you are going to theater in Pittsfield, this is worth trying. We really like it and so do the guests we send. [www.eatatjaes.com](http://www.eatatjaes.com)

Bizen (pronounced bee ZANN) - My 29-year old daughter would eat here every meal if she could afford it (and probably did anyway when she lived in Great Barrington). The Boston Globe said "best sushi outside Japan." I guess that means something. 413-528-4343

Chez Nous: On the main drag in Lee, a French chef/American wife team, and we have loved every meal we have had there, and so have our guests. Fairy lights and branches in the ceiling. French. Mid-price range. The wife specializes in desserts and although we have never personally made it that far, we are told we should try. Boston Magazine says "Best New Restaurant in the Berkshires." 413-243-6397  
[www.cheznousbistro.com](http://www.cheznousbistro.com)

Truc's: This is a truly unique place. Authentic Vietnamese food in West Stockbridge - about 15 minutes away. Louie Truc is an immigrant, and I am sure his original restaurant was probably quite modest. But now, his success has put him in a beautiful building, full of Oriental antiques and art, photos of him posing with presidents. The prices are medium and the food is very interesting. 413-232-4204.

Aegean Breeze: A Greek restaurant in Great Barrington...this place goes way beyond. Best seafood in the Berkshires...no one close. Especially good is any fish prepared in the garlic cream sauce, or the Lobster Ravioli. [www.aegean-breeze.com](http://www.aegean-breeze.com)  
413-528-4001.

Café Adam: A new choice in Great Barrington, and we have had two great experiences there, and have gotten perfect feedback from our guests.  
[www.cafeadam.org](http://www.cafeadam.org).

The Morgan House: On main street in Lee, this 1700s-era inn/tavern has new owners and chef, and has been renovated. Other innkeepers were raving, so we tried it. Another New England comfort food choice....it was really good.  
[www.morganhouseinn.com](http://www.morganhouseinn.com) 413-243-3661.

Mazzeo's: The best basic Italian food in the Lenox area, but there are a lot of choices. This is a family-owned place Pittsfield destination that for 30 years was known by the locals only. They recently moved into the Astor's location north of Lenox...and the parking lot is ALWAYS full. So now they have the local crowd, plus visitors, now that they can be found. 413-448-2095. [www.mazzeosristorante.com](http://www.mazzeosristorante.com)

Panda House. Chinese. We've never had better. You don't normally think of "gourmet" in a Chinese restaurant. Instead of piling up more quantity than you can eat, this place gives you a nice size portion of delicately prepared food that rivals the better restaurants in Lenox. 413-499-0660

The Dakota: We did not list Dakota here in the past because we assumed that most of our guests would want a unique culinary experience. However, we eat at the Dakota all the time, and it dawned on us that maybe many of our guests would prefer a good steak and salad bar. So here it is. It is located about ten minutes north of us on Highway 7 and is a huge log cabin-type place with a stuffed bear in the front entry and wild game heads hanging everywhere. But it has been voted "Best Restaurant in the Berkshires" by the locals for ten straight years, so it definitely is worth considering. They also have seafood and lobsters and the prices are mid-range. There is always a wait (7 nights a week) but you can do something called "call-ahead seating" which does not guarantee you a table when you walk in but does put you at the front of the line. [www.dakotarestaurant.com](http://www.dakotarestaurant.com). 413-499-7900.

Viva: This is a Spanish restaurant and tapas bar that has had really good reviews. The owner is truly Spanish with a pedigree from several of the local high-end restaurants. There are literally 25 tapas choices....a real find for those who enjoy the "small plate" experience. Plus actual Paellas and a large choice of entrees. 413-298-4433 [www.vivaberkschires.com](http://www.vivaberkschires.com)

The Mill on the Floss: Just short of Williamstown, this is one of the Berkshires' most revered restaurants and we just tried it for the first time recently, because it is about a 30 minute drive straight up Highway 7. But for those planning a day, or evening theater in Williamstown, I do not think you will find any better in that area. 413-458-9123. [www.millonthefloss.com](http://www.millonthefloss.com)

Baba Louie's: Locations in Great Barrington and now Pittsfield...this is the best pizza you will ever have. Sour dough crust and a list of optional ingredients that, frankly, will ruin pizza experiences for the rest of your life. Also pastas and salads. [www.babalouiespizza.com](http://www.babalouiespizza.com)

## INFORMAL PLACES, HANG-OUTS AND BARS:

Betty's Pizza Shack – Best pizza in Lenox.

The Heritage Tavern - also in Lenox. This is where you will play pool with the local brick mason and watch the game on a tv hanging from the ceiling. You want local color? Some of our guests have witnessed fist fights. Tired of the \$8 glasses of wine in the other Lenox hang-outs? Decent bar food. (recently upgraded so maybe the fight crowd has gone elsewhere). Walking distance.

Patrick's Pub - Best hot wings around. Burgers, pub food. Located on the rotary in Pittsfield town center - about 10 minutes. Big screen tvs.

The Lion's Den - located in the basement of the Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge - about 10 minutes south on Highway 7. This is a very historic and large inn, dating prior to the Revolution. The ambiance is textbook New England and we especially like the Lion's Den - which features a low, red tin ceiling, Guinness on tap and free music every night. Good clam chowder. Upstairs, there are two places to eat. We like the Tavern, which is also very period. There, you can order from either the Tavern menu or the more expensive Main Dining Room menu. [www.lionsdenpub.com](http://www.lionsdenpub.com)

Mission Bar and Grill: If you find yourself in Pittsfield, on the way to or from Williamstown, or if you are going to Barrington Stage, this is a good option. Also a Spanish theme, tapas, and a very large wine-by-the-glass selection. [www.missionbarandtapas.com](http://www.missionbarandtapas.com)

Well, that should be more than enough for now. If you have any questions, please call Stan or Susan at 800-203-0656!