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High SPIRITS

Inside Ken Fulk's World of Whimsy & Wonder

The Lake Estate on Winnisquam is here.
by ABBY BIELAGUS

New-Fashioned Tradition



Situated on 36 acres, The Lake Estate on Winnisquam's exterior of stone and cedar shingles is both impressive and cohesive with its surroundings.

The buzz surrounding The Lake Estate on Winnisquam's (thelakeestatenh.com) opening began over a year before the doors opened. Anticipation and expectations ran high for the new 114-room independent luxury resort and spa now gracing the shoreline of the humble lake. A first step into the majestic, expansive lobby with unobstructed water views out grand windows immediately signals that this will be worth the wait.

Inspired by iconic historic grand hotels that graced the White Mountains in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the resort successfully walks the line between luxury and approachability. Modeled after a private estate, the decor is reminiscent of an old

monied family's sprawling summer retreat. Walking through the lobby, different nooks reveal themselves, each designed a little differently to evoke living areas and sitting rooms. Stately leather chairs and oversized ottomans, along with deep, cushiony sofas, are adorned with patterned throw pillows and sit alongside dark wooden tables. A curated collection of nearly 100 vintage paintings, needlework, small bronzes, and ceramics was sourced from around New England by Boston-based interior designer Manuel de Santaren (manueldesantaren.com). The effect is that of an organic collection of things amassed over time. It's welcoming and cozy without sacrificing grandeur. Walking through the rest of the hotel unveils other thoughtful details, from the



◀ big to the small, such as crown molding, a grandfather clock, a grand piano and a leather blotter on the guest room's desk. The oversize guest rooms, with sweeping tall ceilings, mimic the shared spaces' aesthetic with solid custom dark wood canopy bed frames in the king rooms, plush chairs, and a plaid carpet. The beds are adorned with quilts as a nod to the area's traditional housewarming gift, symbolizing comfort and community. Blues, greens and cream echo the serenity of the lake, views of which can be enjoyed from the majority of the rooms and their roomy patios. Eighteen suites also feature fireplaces.

Situated on 36 acres, the same care was given to The Lake Estate's exterior and its 3,400 linear feet of private shoreline. The stone and cedar-shingled exterior of the building is both impressive and cohesive with its surroundings. Approaching the property from the water clearly showcases the intention with which architects Cris Salomon and Clay Hayles from Samyn D'Elia Architects placed the building so as not to overwhelm. It nicely blends with not only the landscape but also the modest character of Lake Winnisquam.

Another distinct aspect of The Lake Estate's appeal is its three dining options, all overseen by renowned director of culinary arts, chef Chris Viaud, a two-time James Beard nominee recognized for his seasonal dishes crafted with locally sourced ingredients. The Dining Room, the most formal of the three, is a large, elegantly furnished room that seats 96, with white tablecloths, sage green walls, wood accents, and leather chairs in blues, greens and creams. A fireplace is at one end of the room, and panoramic views of the lake, the lawn and the mountains line another side. For a

slightly more informal experience, guests can also choose to dine at The Bar, which features a dramatic 55-foot-long custom-made granite bar with 22 seats that also face the beautiful outdoors. In the warmer months, The Folly Grille opens poolside and serves up lunch alfresco to hotel guests.

It's clear after a visit to The Lake Estate why the doors took so long to open. Behind them is a space where every moment of a visit has been thoughtfully considered by owners and minority investors, general manager Ed Rocco and his wife, Patti Rocco, the estate manager, along with their investor, Dan Dagesse. It's a testament to the Rocco's decades of experience in hospitality, but also to their shared passion and vision. They base all their decisions on three pillars: unassuming, refined, luxury. The strength of those ideals will most likely keep the doors open and the space filled for decades to come.



Clockwise from top left:
One of the many seating
options in the lobby; the
resort's grand entrance;
the interior of The Bar.

