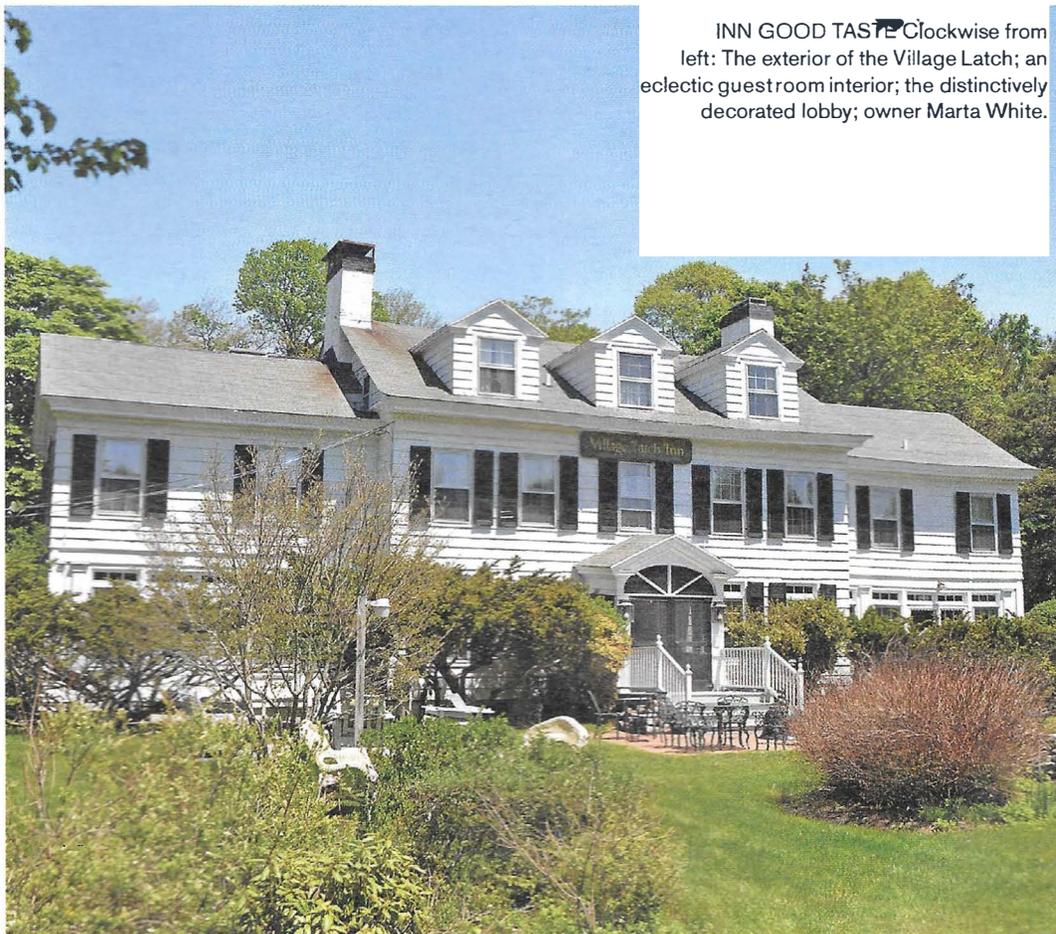


# GREAT ESTATES

HOTELS



**INN GOOD TASTE** Clockwise from left: The exterior of the Village Latch; an eclectic guest room interior; the distinctively decorated lobby; owner Marta White.



## CHARM MEETS HISTORY

At the **Village Latch Inn**, Southampton's 115-year-old hotel, owners **Marta and Martin White** take pride in upholding its timeless character. —*Vivian Lee*

Nestled behind privet hedges that run along Hill Street, on five whimsical acres at the entrance to Southampton, is the Village Latch, the turn-of-the-century hotel and town staple. Formerly the grand annex to the Irving Hotel—the oldest hotel on Long Island, built c. 1900—the Village Latch, comprised of 65 unique guest rooms, is the last remnant of the old Southampton summer colony. “We’re in the established part of town, where everything has stayed the same,” says longtime owner Marta White, who bought the inn with her husband, Martin, some 40 years ago. “My father used to say, ‘Always buy in the established part of town because you know exactly what you’re getting.’ We did, and I think we’ve done a really good job in keeping the character of the place,” says Marta.

A genuine piece of Hamptons history, the mansion—once a favorite of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy—has attracted the rich and famous over its many years, from politicians (Vice Presidents Al Gore and Joe Biden) to movie stars (Kate Hudson, Sarah Jessica Parker, Michael J. Fox, Isabella Rossellini). It’s a true celebrity hideaway. “We call it Hollywood East—actors and celebrities are always in and out,” says Marta. “You never know who you’re going to bump into.”



In a world of uniform hotels where all the rooms are identical, the Village Latch stands apart—no two rooms are alike. Decor ranges from antique to modern; some rooms have decks, fireplaces or balconies; and there are duplexes and suites.

Lodgings also include quaint, cottage-style villas that can be rented separately for families and extended stays, all with distinct Hamptons histories. The Terry Cottage, a grand 10-bedroom villa, was designed by world-famous neoclassical architect Stanford White, creator of the shingle-style seaside homes frequently associated with historic Southampton. In the Potting Shed suite, the very first American steam locomotive was built. The Homestead East and Homestead West villas are set far from Hill Street and decorated with furnishings and collectibles from around the world.

The Whites have worked for decades to preserve the hotel’s history and *Great Gatsby*-esque charm. Artists themselves, they’ve reflected their creativity everywhere, constantly changing the artwork and decor. “It’s not cookie-cutter,” Marta says. “Every year I give more to it—that’s the fun part!” *From \$395 per night, 101 Hill St., Southampton, [villagelatch.com](http://villagelatch.com)*