the e list

An Excruciatingly Opinionated Guide to the Connecticut Shoreline

Is it just me, or is everyone desperate for a little face-to-face? I'm exhausted by social media and the awkward endings to text streams: no "see you soon" or "all best" or even xxoo. It's just over. We're so used to NOT having to make a phone call that we do anything to avoid it. Social media's point was to make us better connected, but it's had the opposite effect. So it was nice to visit a couple of venues this week whose sole reason for being is connection. Rose Vineyards in Branford offers a lovely spot for a gaggle of gals (or couples!) for lunch, wine, and cheese, or dinner, and a stunning wine cave for special events. And Gather's entire vision is community. Keep an eye on The E List this Spring for the launch of our own series of events, The E List IRL (in REAL life) upstairs in our gallery above the shop. We couldn't lift it off last year with so much on our plate, but excited

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about our offerings this Spring. Here are a few Branford finds.

Rose Vineyards: A Family-Owned Winery in North Branford

Perched on the edge of a centuries-old family orchard, this North Branford winery checked all our boxes. We had a little wine education, a delicious tasting, a loaded cheese plate and so much more.

More Wine

Bedroom Need a Refresh? Head to Fine Linen and Bath in Branford

I always check in here when I'm out and about in Branford. This online resource for high-thread counts and hard-to-find designer bedding has a small retail outlet at 539 Main Street...

See More Pics

Gather: A Pop-Up Shop, Events Space, and Idea Generator

We finally had a chance to visit Gather and meet the brains behind this novel new business in Branford. Samantha Smith is a prominent national events planner with a retail background (Old Navy was her idea!)...

More on Gather

Shop Online!

Sponsored Story

Renovation in Progress

Privé-Swiss Wellness: Not Just for Celebrities

Privé-Swiss Wellness, the CT Shoreline's award-winning, luxury clinical-holistic wellness center (and celebrity destination!), will be expanding its offerings with the opening of its flagship Ivoryton facility at 57 Main Street this Spring.

"Our team of wellness experts, whose services are sought after by clients from around the world, will now be accessible to our shoreline communities," said Heidi Kunzli, founder/owner of Privé-Swiss. "Offering one-to-one, highly personalized programs for each client, our wellness services will include many that are well-regarded in the area including Naturopathic and Chinese Medicine, Acupuncture, Mindfulness Meditation, Chiropractic, psychotherapy, life coaching, massage, facials, body treatments and nutrition services, as well as many new offerings due to our greatly expanded space."

The new location will also be offering a limited number of private health club memberships, providing exclusive access to the facility's indoor saltwater pool, Jacuzzi hydrotherapy, infrared saunas, top-of-the-line fitness equipment, private yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi and Qigong sessions, labyrinth, priority wellness bookings and more. Exclusive pre-grand opening special memberships will be announced soon.

Public offerings will include an assortment of wellness workshops, informative lectures, and special events.

For more information, visit **www.priveswisswellness.com**.

Learn More

From The E List Events Calendar

Singles Night at Los Charros Cantina, 2/13 - 2/15
Belly up to the bar and enjoy margarita specials and tacos for every taste throughout Valentine's weekend. **Read more...**

Ice Festival at the Mystic Seaport, 2/15 - 2/17
Shake off your cabin fever with three days of winter fun at the Mystic Seaport Museum's annual Ice Festival. Enjoy games and crafts, horse and carriage rides, paint-n-sip, ice sculpture demos, delicious food and beverages and much more. **Read more...**

Winter Gala at Water's Edge Resort and Spa Featuring the Music of SUGAR, 2/15
Enjoy a cocktail reception and a delicious buffet, then dance the night away to the sounds of SUGAR. **Read more...**

Essex Winter Series Presents Barnhart/Fryer International All-Star Jazz Band, 2/16
Come hear world-class, dynamic Jazz from the 1920's and 30's in a relaxed atmosphere. **Read more...**

J.M.W. Turner: Watercolors from Tate at the Mystic Seaport Museum, thru 2/23
If you haven't been to see the Turner show at Mystic Seaport, go now! This expansive exhibit, loaned from the Tate is a rare opportunity to see numerous watercolor masterworks in the stunning new gallery. **Read more...**

Love Art? Love Nature? Volunteer at I-Park!, 2/25 - 3/3
Come and learn about volunteer opportunities at this unique artist in

residency program that brings artists from around the world to the woods of East Haddam. **Read more...**

Afternoon Tea the Savvy Way, thru 3/14
Enjoy a traditional English style afternoon tea combined with new traditions, complete with tea sandwiches, savory and sweet pastries, and of course lots of delicious tea. **Read more...**

Regional Italian Wednesdays at Grano Arso, thru 4/30
Let your taste buds travel and join Chef Joel on Wednesdays in February for a special 3-course dining experience that will bring you to a different region of Italy each week. **Read more...**

Looking for more to do? Find lots of Valentine's Day events, concerts, workshops, and more on The E List events calendar:

Browse the Calendar

p.s. from Erica

Fondue, barbeque and a deep freeze on last week's list.

Read it here, if you missed it.

Read the List

Alexa Pulitzer, a family friend and super-talented stationery designer, born and bred in NOLA shares her favorite haunts here. Check out **her lovely collection of Louisiana inspired fine papers**, too.

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