the e list

An Excruciatingly Opinionated Guide to the Connecticut Shoreline



This one is all about Chester! It's about time I shouted out my new little town, one of the best villages for holiday shopping and festivities.

If you're looking to describe the hamlet, handmade is a good place to start. We're well known for a bevy of artists and artisans, and a clutch of shops that will satisfy even the pickiest of people. You'll find original jewelry, crafted-right-in-the-shop leather bags, ceramics, cashmere sweaters and scarves, and all manner of ornament. Spend a day here and check everyone off your list. Plan on staying for breakfast, lunch or dinner as we've got the best restaurants per capita, too. Enjoy a craft beer at our very own Little House Brewery or reviving espresso or chai at Tonic. We've highlighted a few shops on this list but click through below to see our entire round-up of shops and restaurants.









Tonic

The newest addition to our town is a wonderfully welcome one! Known nationally for their fantastic line of local teas, they've expanded here to offer housemade tonics to cure what ails you, a curated selection of CBD products, and their entire range of gorgeous and giftable teas.

Flagging? Stop in for an espresso, cappuccino or chai, too.

The Herbery



Maureen has long been known for her handmade wreaths, and while it's too late to special order, she's always got some strewn about the shop and garden. Not to miss is her astonishing array of French ribbons, canisters of organic spices by the ounce, lovely topiaries (a great gift in lieu of flowers in my book), and the perfect battery-powered candles for your holiday windows (that could pass for real).







Lark

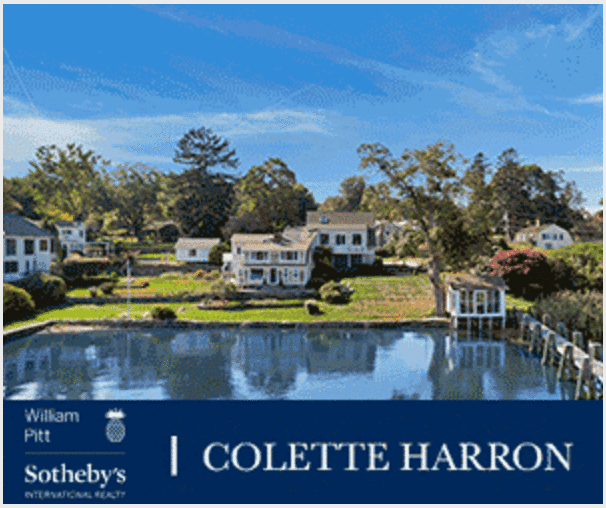
It's easy to get lost in Lark's sprawling (especially for Chester) space. We easily spied these darling hand-felted figures embodying the likeness of such icons as Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Gandhi, John Lennon, and many more. These collectible beauties are made by a woman-led, women-run Fair-Trade cooperative in the mountains of Kyrgyzstan.

Blackkat Leather

Drew Archer, the designer behind this leather atelier, creates all their stunning bags right here in the shop. Known for classic design and minimal hardware, the bags are one of those eternal investments that get better with age. Bags, briefcases, overnighters, and more for men and women.









French Hen

A well-known destination for giftable goodies (many with a French accent), Laurie has done it up this year with an astonishing selection of ornaments. Blown glass hot air balloons, lovely swans, delicate angels, many of which are handmade. Puzzles, cheap and cheerful jewels, candles, and plenty of host/ess with the mostest gifts here.

Wait, there's more! See the entire list of shops (and our gift picks), plus where to park and where to eat:

Read The Entire List of Chester Shops Here





What's in Store at The E List Shop

Gifts With Meaning: Ayurvedic Perfumes, Handmade Baubles, and Billie Beads.



Shop The E List Gift & Accessories

Take 25% Off Select Fall Clothing

The E List Shop Hours:

Monday - Friday 11 - 6*

**This Thursday & Friday til 8pm!*

Saturday 10 - 6

Sunday 10 - 4*

*Come see us during **Chester Holiday Market!**

Email us: **shop@theelist.com**

Call us: **860.322.3388**

Shop Online!





Holiday Happenings in Chester

First Friday: December 6th from 5 - 8pm: a festive evening of carols, a tree lighting, and holiday cheer. Events and openings in all the shops & galleries.

Sunday Holiday Markets (our Winter Farmers' Market): Every Sunday until Christmas from 10am til 2pm. Your favorite vendors from the summer market. Shops open, too.

Open Late Thursdays: Most shops are open Thursday nights (including us!) til 8pm through 12/19.

Sponsored Story



Holiday Tips From A La Maid

Holidays can be beyond stressful and at a time where we're expected to be our best selves. A la Maid is here to help with three tips for holiday success from their team of experts:

Plan, Plan, Plan - Make a list of all people to buy for and keep a stock of cards and gift certificates (A La

Maid!) in case you left someone out. Have holiday menus planned ahead. Make a schedule of shopping and cooking times plus a list of guests

Practice Self Care - Do whatever you can to ensure you have enough sleep, a healthy diet, and a little time to decompress.

Delegate! - There's no better time to turn to the professionals for help with food deliveries, gift wrapping, house cleaning. And A la Maid is your partner in care. Call today! 860.664.4121

Learn More About A La Maid

From The E List Events Calendar

Jewelry & Prosecco Event at The Holiday Shop at GAC, 12/5
Sip and Shop at the Guilford Art Center for the holidays at this free public event featuring over 50 American Jewelry Artists. **Read more...**

E.F. Watermelon's 40th Anniversary Celebration, 12/6 - 12/8
Take 40% off select jewelry and "objets d'art" at E.F. Watermelon's 40th Anniversary Celebration! **Read more...**

Holiday Shopping Extravaganza at Chester Meeting House, 12/6
Shop local at this historic space while perusing the wares of hand-picked artisans and enjoy live music and food. **Read more...**

Musical Masterworks Concerts, 12/7 & 12/8
Musical Masterworks welcomes back world-renowned artists for a virtuosic and vividly colorful program at Old Lyme's First Congregational Church. **Read more...**

Magic of Christmas at the Flo Gris, thru 1/5/2020
Celebrate the holidays at the museum with Christmastime Teas, family crafts, 200 painted palettes on Artist Trees, and much more. **Read more...**

Looking for more to do? Find pub crawls, concerts, festive theater, and more on The E List events calendar:

Browse the Calendar

p.s. from Erica

Drinks & Discounts in Guilford on Thursday, 12/12!



Join us for our **Girls' Night Out in Guilford** on **Thursday, December 12th from 5 – 9 pm**! Half-price wine and 20% off in participating shops!

See Participating Shops + Details

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1 North Main Street
Chester, CT
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