

## Sloatsburg Inn named a top global destination by Conde Nast Traveler

Karen Croke, Rockland/Westchester Journal News Published 6:30 p.m. ET Feb. 5, 2019 | Updated 3:28 p.m. ET Feb. 6, 2019

Rockland County is having a moment.

First, Karenderya, a modest family-owned Filipino restaurant in Nyack, was named as one of [Esquire magazine's top 20 best new American restaurants](#).

Now, the Valley Rock Inn & Mountain Club in Sloatsburg has been named among Conde Nast Traveler's 9 Best New Boutique Spa Hotels.

The only U.S. property named, it ranks right up there with the Euphoria Retreat in Greece, and Tanzania's Zuri Zanzibar.



One of the guest houses at the Valley Rock Inn & Mountain Club. The Inn was named among the top 9 new boutique spa hotels in the world by Conde Nast Traveler. (Photo: Frank Becerra Jr./The Journal News)

"Created by tastemaker Michael Bruno — founder of online luxury goods marketplace 1stdibs — this recently-opened retreat sits poised to remake the lower Hudson River Valley as a luxe fitness and wellness destination."

The property has a dozen historic house and barn buildings that form a wall around an interior garden. Guests stay in one of four renovated guesthouses (with a total of 17 bedrooms), and there's an organic market and two restaurants that source organic produce from the Inn's own fields. Popular with locals and guests this winter are its pop-up [Apres Ski Lunches](#), [held outdoors](#).



The chicken pot pie and rose paloma cocktail at the Valley Rock Inn & Mountain Club in Sloatsburg on Saturday, January 12, 2019. (Photo: John Meore/The Journal News)

As for the spa quotient, there's a 75-foot pool, a 7,000-square-foot gym, guide-led hiking, biking and kayaking programs, as well as a roster of wellness and fitness programs, spin classes and boot camp. This summer, massage rooms are planned just beyond the pool.



Owner/Developer Michael Bruno sits at a table with some of the items from the food from the Tuxedo Hudson Company truck, at Valley Rock Inn in Sloatsburg Sept. 21, 2017. (Photo: Frank Becerra Jr./The

The Journal News toured the property with Bruno before it opened back in 2017.

His goal, he said, was to entice tourists — especially New York City dwellers who enjoy hiking and cycling in nearby Harriman park — to think of Sloatsburg as a weekend destination.

“People don’t realize how lush and beautiful it is here,” said Bruno, a Tuxedo Park resident, who got the idea to redevelop the property once he discovered that its location was easily accessible to the state park without having to navigate heavily trafficked Route 17.



Fresh produce and other items in Blue Barn Farm Market at Valley Rock Inn in Sloatsburg. (Photo: Frank Becerra Jr./The Journal News)

“I thought cyclists and hikers might really like this, but there was no ground zero for the cycling world here. Once I realized there was an audience I could market to, it was worth going all in.”



Water flows out a spout at Blue Barn Farm Market at Valley Rock Inn in Sloatsburg Sept. 21, 2017. (Photo: Frank Becerra Jr./The Journal News)

## If you go

**What:** Valley Rock Inn & Mountain Club

**Where:** 27 Mill St., Sloatsburg, [valleyrockinn.com](http://valleyrockinn.com)