

# Hudson Valley's Best: The inaugural winners

Your picks for the best of the region in our first contest.

BY [PHILLIP PANTUSO](#) | AUG. 11, 2022 | UPDATED: AUG. 11, 2022 12:46 PM




Photo above: Mohonk Mountain House, which won in two categories.

**TIMES UNION** HUDSON VALLEY

winners (and runners-up) for the best of the best in Hudson Valley.



 [Jump to category](#)

- Select -



Provided by Relentless Awareness

#### BEST BREWERY

## Chatham Brewing

[59 Main St., Chatham](#)

The Hudson Valley has seen an explosion of craft breweries in recent years, but Chatham Brewing is an old standby. Founded in 2006 by Tom Crowell and James Cunningham, it was the first brewery in Columbia County's recent resurgence, and its taproom has become a staple on Chatham's quaint Main Street. The brewery focuses on flavorful and higher-alcohol beers, and has won the Matthew Vassar Cup for Best Craft Brewery in the Hudson Valley at TAP New York Craft Beer and Food Festival in 2007, 2012 and 2016.

---

**2ND PLACE:** Hudson Valley Brewing   **3RD PLACE:** Crossroads Brewing Co.

**RUNNERS-UP:** Old Klaverack Brewery; Honey Hollow Brewing Co.

**SEE MORE:** [A craft beer lover's weekend guide to the northern Catskills](#) | [A beer lover's guide to Beacon](#)



Pexels

#### BEST CIDERY

## Angry Orchard Hard Cider

[2241 Albany Post Road, Walden](#)

New York is the country's second-largest apple producer, but it ranks first where it really counts: in the number of hard cider producers. Readers chose Angry Orchard as the best of them all, at least here in the Hudson Valley. It's one of the larger operations, with a huge share of the national hard cider market. On site at its 60-acre orchard near Walden, visitors can try small batch and experimental styles that can't be found elsewhere.

---

**2ND PLACE:** Harvest Spirits   **3RD PLACE:** Bad Seed Hard Cider

**RUNNERS-UP:** Rose Hill Farms; Pennings Farm Cidery

ADVERTISEMENT

---

## BEST BURGER

# Willow at Mirbeau

*[46 W. Market St., Rhinebeck](#)*

You don't necessarily expect a hotel restaurant to win in any food category, but chef Charlie Palmer has made a career of delivering exceptional food in boutique hotels. Willow, his restaurant at Mirbeau Inn & Spa in Rhinebeck, is rightly known for its sumptuous burger: 8 ounces of prime beef topped with melted gruyere, portobello, caramelized onions and truffle aioli, and served on a brioche bun. The restaurant also frequently offers seasonally inspired gourmet burger specials.

---

**2ND PLACE:** Chatham Brewery   **3RD PLACE:** Jackson's Old Chatham House

**RUNNERS-UP:** Gaskins; The Anchor

Provided by Upland Creative Co.

Paul Buckowski / Times Union



# Stewart's Shops

*Multiple locations*

When you've got 350 shops and all of them sell your own brand of ice cream, people are going to think of you when asked about their favorite place for frozen treats. We find it difficult to disagree with the wisdom of the crowd here.

---

**2ND PLACE:** Holy Cow Ice Cream **3RD PLACE:** Bellvale Farms Creamery

**RUNNERS-UP:** The Jolly Cow; Boice Bros. Ice Cream

**SEE MORE:** Explore our [ultimate guide to ice cream in the Hudson Valley](#).



Erin Quinn / For the Times Union

#### BEST PARK

## Mohonk Preserve

*[3197 Route 44-55, Gardiner](#)*

In a region loved for its natural splendor and beauty, Mohonk Preserve stands out. The 8,000-acre preserve on the Shawangunk Ridge has everything for those who love the outdoors: cliffs, forests, ponds and streams, plus more than 70 miles of carriage roads and 40 miles of trails for hiking, cycling, trail running, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and horseback riding. It also is a major destination for rock climbers, with more than 1,000 climbing and bouldering routes.

---

**2ND PLACE:** Minnewaska State Park Preserve **3RD PLACE:** Lake Taghkanic State Park

**RUNNERS-UP:** Walkway Over the Hudson; Poets' Walk Park

**SEE MORE:** Hike the Undercliff/Overcliff loop, the [the crown jewel of Mohonk Preserve](#). | [A beginner's guide to bouldering in the Hudson Valley](#).

halbergman / Getty Images

#### BEST HIKING TRAIL

## Hudson Valley Rail Trail

### Highland

With so many options to choose from, we're not surprised this was one of the most competitive categories. But there's something fitting about the Hudson Valley Rail Trail being

the reader's choice. As part of the [Empire State Trail](#), it's the connector between a contiguous rail trail network spanning Ulster and Dutchess counties. And while the Walkway Over the Hudson stretch gets the most attention, this trail also includes the Black Creek Wetlands and beautiful Tony Williams Park.

---

**2ND PLACE:** Olana State Historic Site **3RD PLACE:** Walkway Over the Hudson

**RUNNERS-UP:** North-South Lake Trails; Escarpment Trail

Brian Lauvray

#### BEST PLACE TO CAMP

## North-South Lake

[County Route 18, Haines Falls](#)

North-South Lake Campground is the largest and most popular campsite in Catskill State Park, and it's not hard to see why. It has two stunning scenic lakes and hiking trails to Alligator Rock, [Kaaterskill Falls](#) and the former Catskill Mountain House. There also are boat rentals and picnic areas with charcoal grills.

---

**2ND PLACE:** Rip Van Winkle Campgrounds **3RD PLACE:** Waubeeka Family Campground

**SEE MORE:** [Beginner's guide to camping in upstate New York](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

#### BEST PLACE TO SKI

## Hunter Mountain

[64 Klein Ave., Hunter](#)

Hunter Mountain Ski Resort is actually three peaks, which — combined with its highly efficient snowmaking capacity — allows for a wide variety of routes. The terrain is evenly split between

 **HUDSON VALLEY**

masters. It also has snow tubing and four terrain parks, and offers a famously welcoming environment.



---

**2ND PLACE:** Windham Mountain **3RD PLACE:** Catamount **RUNNERS-UP:** Belleayre Mountain

**SEE MORE:** [Insider's guide to cross-country skiing in Ulster County](#) | [‘Hunter is the people’s mountain’: Diverse range of skiers flock to Hunter](#)

Provided by Hunter Mountain Resort / Vail Resorts

Provided by DuBois Farms

**BEST FARM**

# DuBois Farms

209 Perkinsville Road, Highland

David and Jolee DuBois purchased the 54-acre DuBois Farm in Ulster County more than two decades ago, saving the property from development. Since then, they've replanted orchards and vineyards; constructed old-timey outbuildings and animal areas; opened a tavern, farm market, events venue and pizzeria/bakery; and cultivated an idyllic setting with pick-your-own all through the summer and fall, plus events. No wonder it's the readers' favorite.

---

**2ND PLACE:** The Chatham Berry Farm **3RD PLACE:** Samascott Orchards

**RUNNERS-UP:** Story Farms; Davenport Farms

Provided by Samascott Orchards

## BEST ORCHARD

# Samascott Orchards

5 Sunset Ave., Kinderhook

In an era of "fairy tale" first-time farmers, family-owned Samascott Orchards has been operating in Columbia County for well over a century now. They're beloved for their pick-your-

 **HUDSON VALLEY**

kale, onions, rhubarb and more.



---

**2ND PLACE:** DuBois Farms **3RD PLACE:** Golden Harvest Farms

**RUNNERS-UP:** Mead Orchards; Boehm Farm

**SEE MORE:** Apple picking 2.0: [Orchards that go beyond the bushel](#)

#### BEST FARMERS MARKET

## Kinderhook Farmers Market

*[Broad/Chatham streets and Albany Avenue, Kinderhook](#)*

This local farmers market offers a wide variety of goods: produce, naturally raised meats, free-range eggs, baked items, flowers, plants, honey, maple syrup, jams, draft beers and crafts. Plus there are family activity areas and live music.

---

**2ND PLACE:** Hudson Farmers Market **3RD PLACE:** Kingston Farmers Market

**RUNNERS-UP:** Saugerties Farmers Market; Coxsackie Farmers Market

ADVERTISEMENT

---

**BEST DRIVE-IN MOVIE THEATER**

## Hyde Park Drive-In Theatre

[4114 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park](#)

Family-owned and operated since 1950, Hyde Park Drive-In screens classic movies and new releases Thursday through Sunday. With more than 12 acres off Route 9, it has space for up to 600 cars, and its concession stand serves up classic movie fare like popcorn, chicken tenders and burgers, plus ice cream novelties.

---

**2ND PLACE:** Hi-Way Drive-In Theatre **3RD PLACE:** Four Bros. Drive-In

**RUNNERS-UP:** Greenville Drive-In; Fair Oaks Drive-In

**SEE MORE:** Explore our [ultimate guide to drive-in theaters in the Hudson Valley](#)

**BEST LOCAL INN OR HOTEL FOR A GETAWAY**

## Mirbeau Inn & Spa Rhinebeck

[46 W Market St., Rhinebeck](#)

Can you feel the tension lifting away and being replaced by a sense of calm? Apparently quite

 **HUDSON VALLEY**

any winner in any category. With an award-winning restaurant, an inn and an entire suite of spa offerings, it's an obvious local getaway.

---

**2ND PLACE:** Mohonk Mountain House **3RD PLACE:** Rocking Horse Ranch

**RUNNERS-UP:** Winter Clove Inn; Red Hook Country Inn

Ruth Peterkin / iStock / Getty Images

#### BEST CATSKILLS LODGE

## Mohonk Mountain House

*1000 Mountain Rest Road, New Paltz*

While it might be arguable that Mohonk Mountain House actually in the Catskills, this eclectic mountaintop Victorian Castle is one of the most iconic and beloved spots in the entire Hudson Valley. This category could have been called “Best (fill in the blank) Lodge,” and we suspect Mohonk would have won no matter what. That’s not to slight the wonderful — and definitely in the Catskills — options in spots two through five.

---

**2ND PLACE:** Scribner’s Catskill Lodge **3RD PLACE:** Hotel Dylan

**RUNNERS-UP:** Winter Clove Inn; Bavarian Manor Country Inn & Restaurant

#### BEST EXCURSION WITH THE FAMILY

## Mohonk Mountain House

 HUDSON VALLEY

We sense a pattern. Mohonk’s 259 rooms are dreamy for an overnight stay with the family, but so are its array of offerings: an indoor pool, tennis courts, a spa, a Barn Museum, a collection of antique carriages, farm equipment and blacksmith demonstrations. You can even get a day pass.

---



---

**2ND PLACE:** Opus 40 **3RD PLACE:** Legoland New York Resort  
**RUNNERS-UP:** Hunter Mountain Scenic Skyride; Bellvale Farms Creamery

Provided by the Chatham Bookstore

**BEST BOOKSTORE**

## The Chatham Bookstore

[27 Main St., Chatham](#)

A runaway winner, though we love all local bookstores equally. But the Chatham Bookstore has been in operation since 1977, giving it a head start on its competition in building a devoted following. Its staff of literature lovers can point you toward your next great read almost before you ask for it, and they're especially committed to representing the voices and experiences of people of color.

---

**2ND PLACE:** Oblong Books **3RD PLACE:** Rough Draft Bar & Books  
**RUNNERS-UP:** The Book Cove; Our Bookshop

---

Provided by Bethel Woods Center for the Arts

**BEST MUSIC VENUE**

## Bethel Woods Center for the Arts

[200 Hurd Road, Bethel](#)

Bethel Woods sits on the site of the 1969 Woodstock festival, and yet that is one of the least compelling facts about it these days, such is the quality and diversity of the programming here. This summer alone, Steely Dan, Josh Groban, Alanis Morissette, Santana, Earth Wind & Fire and the Backstreet Boys have all been on the schedule. What else is there to say?

William Jaeger / For the Times Union

#### BEST VINTAGE OR ANTIQUES SHOP

## Neven & Neven Moderne

[618 Warren St., Hudson](#)

Groovy chairs, splashy paintings and eclectic vintage — and yet the iconic multicolored block sign on Hudson's Warren Street might be the most eye-catching aspect of Neven & Neven Moderne. The Antiques Barn at Water Street Market and the sprawling, 15,000-square-foot Cocksackie Antique Center were close runners-up here.

---

**2ND PLACE:** Water Street Market, New Paltz **3RD PLACE:** Cocksackie Antique Corner

**RUNNERS-UP:** Abeel Street Antiques; Batterby House

**SEE MORE:** Antiques road trips: [Mining Newburgh's vintage riches](#) | [On the hunt for vintage finds in Kingston, Saugerties and Hurley](#) | [4 can't-miss spots for vintage goods in Red Hook](#)

#### BEST BANK OR CREDIT UNION

## Hudson Valley Credit Union

*Multiple locations*

This community-based financial cooperative evolved out of the IBM Poughkeepsie Employees Federal Credit Union. It has long been a trusted fiduciary institution throughout the region, and ran away with this category.

---

**2ND PLACE:** Bank of Greene County **3RD PLACE:** Ulster Savings Bank

**RUNNERS-UP:** Rondout Savings Bank; Trustco Bank

Will Waldron / Times Union

#### BEST HISTORIC SITE TO VISIT

## Olana State Historic Site

[5720 State Route 9G, Hudson](#)

The masterwork of Hudson River School painter Frederic Church, this Persian-inspired mansion is perched high over the Hudson River on 250 acres of naturalistic landscaping originally designed by Church. It narrowly edged out the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential

 **HUDSON VALLEY**



---

**2ND PLACE:** Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

**3RD PLACE:** U.S. Military Academy West Point

**RUNNERS-UP:** Martin Van Buren National Historic Site; Thomas Cole National Historic Site

**SEE MORE:** [To all landscape painters: Olana festival provides the view](#)

Provided by the Hudson Valley Jazz Festival

#### BEST SUMMER FESTIVAL

## Hudson Valley Jazz Festival

*[1 Ridgeway, Warwick](#)*

The Hudson Valley Jazz Festival is fairly unique among music festivals in the region for not being a single-stage event. Rather it spreads to clubs, cafes, restaurants, performing arts centers and parks across the Hudson Valley, exposing a wide audience to well-known jazz artists and regional talent.

Lori Van Buren / Times Union

**BEST FALL EVENT**

# Hudson Valley Garlic Festival

*[Small World Avenue, Saugerties](#)*

The Garlic Festival is more than just a celebration of that most delicious of edible alliums. It's also a cooking showcase, a food truck fest, and an educational opportunity where you can learn about farming and food preparation. Plus, with a craft area and activities for all ages, it's great for the entire family.

**TIMES UNION** HUDSON VALLEY

**2ND PLACE:** Catskill Orchards corn maze **3RD PLACE:** Oktoberfest Delicate Mountain

**RUNNERS-UP:** Warwick Applefest; Rosendale International Pickle Festival



Provided by Mirbeau Inn & Spa Rhinebeck

#### BEST PLACE TO BRING OUT-OF-TOWNERS

## Mirbeau Inn & Spa Rhinebeck

[46 W Market St., Rhinebeck](#)

Mirbeau Inn & Spa also won the category for best local inn or hotel for a getaway, so we suspect this result smacks of voters wanting another excuse to visit the Rhinebeck oasis. Hard to blame them.

---

**2ND PLACE:** Warren Street, Hudson **3RD PLACE:** Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park

**RUNNERS-UP:** Mohonk Mountain House; Minnewaska State Park

#### BEST TOWN NAME THAT ONLY LOCALS KNOW HOW TO PRONOUNCE

## Valatie

[Valatie](#)

va-LAY-sha (n.): The best town name only locals know how to pronounce. When this Columbia County village name was coined by the Dutch in the 17th century, spelling was not standardized. The village's name appeared as Vaaltje, Vallitatje, Voltje, and even Falluchie on English-language documents in the 18th century. But how that evolved into today's pronunciation remains a mystery.

 **TIMES UNION** HUDSON VALLEY



**2ND PLACE:** Coxsackie **3RD PLACE:** Milan **RUNNERS-UP:** Cairo; Claverack

**SEE MORE:** From Copake to Coxsackie, [how to say town and village names like a local.](#)

Lori Van Buren / Times Union

#### BEST TOWN WITH A LOCAL FOOD SCENE

## Rhinebeck

### Rhinebeck

For a small town, Rhinebeck has an impressively diverse food scene. There's upscale New American (Terrapin, The Amsterdam), barbecue (Smoky Rock), contemporary Italian (Market St., Gigi Trattoria) and Irish (Bia), Indian (Cinnamon), Thai (Aroi), Mexican (Gaby's) and Japanese (Osaka, Momiji), plus cheap eats like Aba's Falafel and Village Pizza, the readers' choice for best burger in the Hudson Valley (Willow at Mirbeau) and an outpost of beloved local bakery Bread Alone.

---

**2ND PLACE:** Hudson **3RD PLACE:** New Paltz **RUNNERS-UP:** Kingston; Saugerties





BEST

Rh

[Rhine](#)

Rhine

walkable downtown lined with shops with good schools, nice houses and a tight-knit community.

John Greim / Getty Images

**2ND PLACE:** Kinderhook **3RD PLACE:** Chatham **RUNNERS-UP:** Kingston; Saugerties

[READ MORE](#)





[The ultimate guide to ice cream in the Hudson Valley](#)



[The best of the Capital Region](#)

---

## CREDITS

WRITER

 HUDSON VALLEY



PROJECT MANAGER

Erica Smith • [erica.smith@timesunion.com](mailto:erica.smith@timesunion.com) • [@ericasmith](https://twitter.com/ericasmith)

## DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

Brittany Schell • [brittany.schell@hearst.com](mailto:brittany.schell@hearst.com) • [@brittlynnS](#)

Danielle Rindler • [danielle.rindler@hearst.com](mailto:danielle.rindler@hearst.com) • [@danrindl](#)

Emma Stiefel • [@emma\\_stiefel](#)

Katlyn Alo • [@kat\\_alo](#)

Rahul Mukherjee • [rahul.mukherjee@hearst.com](mailto:rahul.mukherjee@hearst.com) • [@ruhl muk](#)

TO TOP

### ABOUT

<a href="#">Our Company</a>	<a href="#">Terms of Use</a>
<a href="#">General Standards and Practices</a>	<a href="#">Privacy Notice</a>
<a href="#">Newspaper Delivery Safety Procedures</a>	<a href="#">Your California Privacy Rights</a>
<a href="#">Advertising</a>	<a href="#">Jobs at the TU</a>
<a href="#">Interest Based Ads</a>	

### CONTACT

<a href="#">Contact Us</a>	<a href="#">Celebrations</a>
<a href="#">Weather</a>	<a href="#">Obituaries</a>
<a href="#">School Closings</a>	<a href="#">Online Store</a>
<a href="#">Events Calendar</a>	<a href="#">Puzzles Palace</a>

### SERVICES

<a href="#">Subscriber Services</a>	<a href="#">Corporate Subscriptions</a>
<a href="#">Home Delivery</a>	<a href="#">Mobile App</a>
<a href="#">Become a Carrier</a>	<a href="#">Copyright and Reprint</a>
<a href="#">e-Edition</a>	<a href="#">Archives</a>