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## A Weekend in Newport, Rhode Island: Highlights

By **Alison Wellner**, About.com Guide May 16, 2011  
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Just got back from a quick weekend getaway with Mr. Culinary Travel in Newport, [Rhode Island](#). Although it's not quite prime summer season there yet, it's already very beautiful -- plus, in late spring you get cherry blossoms, which, in my opinion, totally compensates for slightly chilly weather.

We stayed at the new [Forty 1 North](#) hotel, which is readying for its first full summer season. The small hotel has just 28 accommodations, which provide an unusual blend of comfort, cutting edge technology, and understated chic. Add in a stunning harborfront setting and a couple of restaurants worth hitting even if you're not staying overnight, and it easily makes my list of favorite hotels anywhere.

**Highlights:**

- Cocktails at [Christie's](#) at Forty 1 North: the bartenders here know how to do classics the right way - -like, for instance, a properly made gin gimlet. I thought the cocktails here were better than at the hotel's more scenic dockside bar, but that might have been because the dockside bar just opened for the season the very day I arrived, and the bar staff was still in training.
- Truffled risotto, served with perfectly seared scallops at [The Grill](#) -- make a reservation even if you're staying at the hotel, as it's a small dining room that can fill up fast.
- A quick drive away from the hotel: visit [Coastal Extreme Brewery](#), which has revived the old Rhode Island tradition of rum distilling. It's about as hand crafted as you can get, and the rum

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