

The Out Traveler

THE STANDARD OF GAY TRAVEL

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HOTELS WE LOVE

Hotel Fauchère

What do Sarah Bernhardt, FDR, JFK, and the notorious "girl in the red velvet swing," Evelyn Nesbit, have in common? Their larger-than-life personae all colored one hip and happening hotel in Milford, Pa.



Story by Drew Limsky

IN 1852, Louis Fauchère, the master chef of Delmonico's (New York City's first bona fide restaurant), bought a hotel in Milford, Pa.—the town was a fashionable summer resort enclave—and turned it into a cool three-story Italianate building. From its gilded-age heyday all the way into the 20th century, it attracted the well-heeled and famous. Gay hero Sean Strub (founder of *Poz* magazine) bought the dilapidated property in 2001. His painstaking renovation was too painstaking for some townsfolk, who wondered why he delayed the redo for two years. "They didn't understand that I had to let the building breathe," explains Strub, who is also an avid art collector and preservationist. (His partner is best-selling author John Berendt, of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* fame, who also spends time here).

By the time the Hotel Fauchère (570-409-1212; HotelFauchere.com; rooms from \$275) finally re-debuted in July 2006, the historic town of Milford (population 1,200) had emerged as a gay getaway thanks to its location in Pike County, which has the second highest concentration of gay households in the state after Philadelphia. No one would appreciate Strub's aesthetic triumph more than gays from New York City and Philly who go for the galleries as well as outdoor pursuits in the 70,000-acre Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The 16 rooms are tastefully designed in earth tones and feature wall-mounted plasma TVs, beds swathed in Frette linens, and bathrooms boasting heated slate floors—some even have claw-foot bathtubs. Indulge in star chef Michael Gilatz's caramel-glazed rockfish fillet in the romantic Delmonico Room, or sample a sushi pizza made with rice tempura crust and tuna tartare in the hotel's Bar

Louis under a huge Christopher Makos photo of Andy Warhol kissing John Lennon.

The hotel's gay-themed parties on the first and third Saturdays of each month moved from Bar Louis to a bigger venue next door at Emerson House, and the hotel will be involved with the first "Float 2007" on the first Saturday in August: a Hotlanta-style event with gay canoe trips down the Delaware River, a huge outdoor block party, a barbecue, and a tea dance afterward.

