

WESTCHESTER

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(This page) Christopher Makos' photograph of Andy Warhol and John Lennon presides over Hotel Fauchère's tony Bar Louis.

Hotel Fauchère

MILFORD, PA

DISTANCE FROM WHITE PLAINS:
90 MILES

Once a tony destination for wealthy Manhattanites including Andrew Carnegie and D.W. Griffith, Milford is now being re-discovered by artistic types looking for a nearby weekend retreat. At the center of the revitalization is Sean Strub, the editor of *Milford* magazine and restorer of the 1880 Italianate Hotel Fauchère and its 16 gorgeously appointed guest rooms.

BEST ITINERARY: Gifford Pinchot, a native of Milford, was a huge player in America's conservation movement and became chief forester under Theodore Roosevelt, so naturally there's plenty of preserved parkland to explore—70,000 acres to be exact. It's an easy hike through the Delaware Water Gap to Raymondskill Falls, the highest waterfall in the state (only four feet shorter than Niagra). Complete the visit with a trip to the Pinchot Residence, Grey Towers, an 1886 French-style manse designed by Richard Morris Hunt that easily could

double as a Hogwarts. When you get back to town, the downtown strip will be in full swing, with the artsy shops ready for you to peruse their antiques (best bet: Patina Interiors Antiques and Gifts, 320 Broad St., 570-296-1128), crafts (The Gallery at Forest Hall, 101 W Harford St., 570-409-0902, www.galleryforesthall.com), and other impulse items if you're interested in, say, an old carousel horse (The Craft Show, 120 E Harford St., 570-296-5662, www.milfordcraftshow.com). End your downtown excursion with a trip to The Columns (608 Broad St., 570-296-8126, www.pikehistory.org), a roadside museum of historical ephemera famous for housing the bloodstained flag that cradled President Lincoln's head after he was shot at Ford Theatre.

WHERE/WHAT TO EAT: Fine dining in America can trace its roots back to Milford when Louis Fauchère opened an offshoot of his previous place of employment, Delmonico's—the country's first restaurant to serve a menu noted for its quality cuisine—in his namesake hotel. Today, the hotel's Delmonico Room still offers indulgent dishes like sage- and goat-cheese-stuffed

veal chops and roasted guinea hen. (Save room for the bourbon vanilla crème brûlée.) A more casual dining experience lies in the hotel's lower level, where Bar Louis patrons munch on burgers and malanga chips under an enlarged photo of Andy Warhol and John Lennon by Christopher Makos. If you entertain the crazy notion that you should actually leave the hotel, the Dimmick Inn down the street (Harford and Broad Streets, 570-409-1212, www.dimmickinn.com) is a mainstay for steak, chops, and ribs, or the Water Wheel Café, Bakery and Bar (150 Water St., 570-296-2383, www.waterwheelcafe.com) serves a combination of fish, pasta, steak, and Vietnamese cuisine under a working water wheel.

BY THE WAY: Besides Richard Morris Hunt's Grey Towers, other area edifices were designed by McKim, Mead, & White, Calvert Veaux, John Roebling, and Fredrick Law Olmstead, who also designed the town's cemetery.

THE DETAILS: Hotel Fauchère, 401 Broad St., Milford, PA; 570-409-1212, www.hotelfauchere.com. Room rates range from \$275 to \$350 per night and include continental breakfast.