

MARTHA STEWART

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#### WINTER IDYLL

Despite its name, the Suicide Six ski area, minutes from Woodstock's village center, is for beginners as well as advanced students. *Opposite* The elegant Woodstock Inn & Resort traces its roots to 1892.

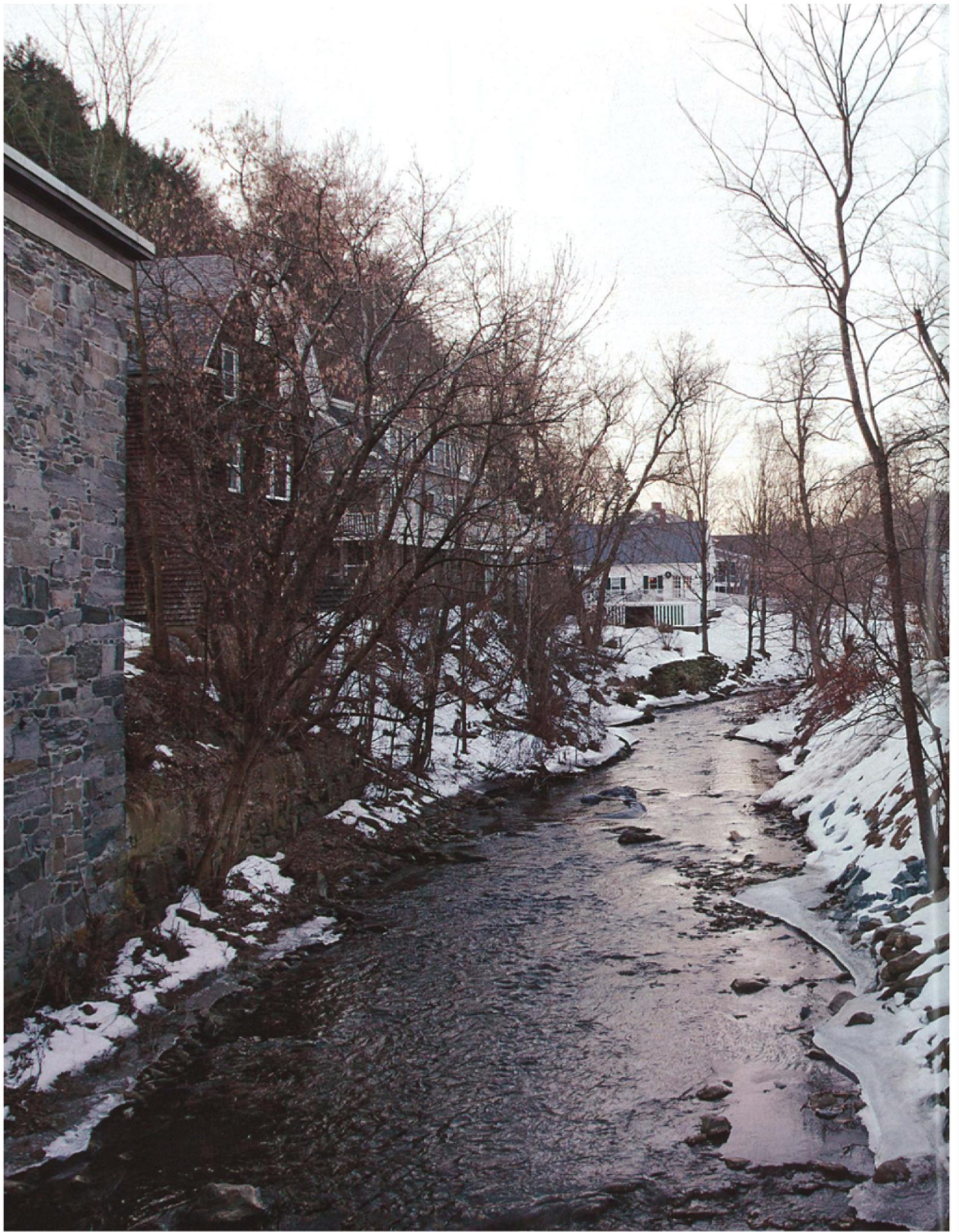
# A WARM WELCOME

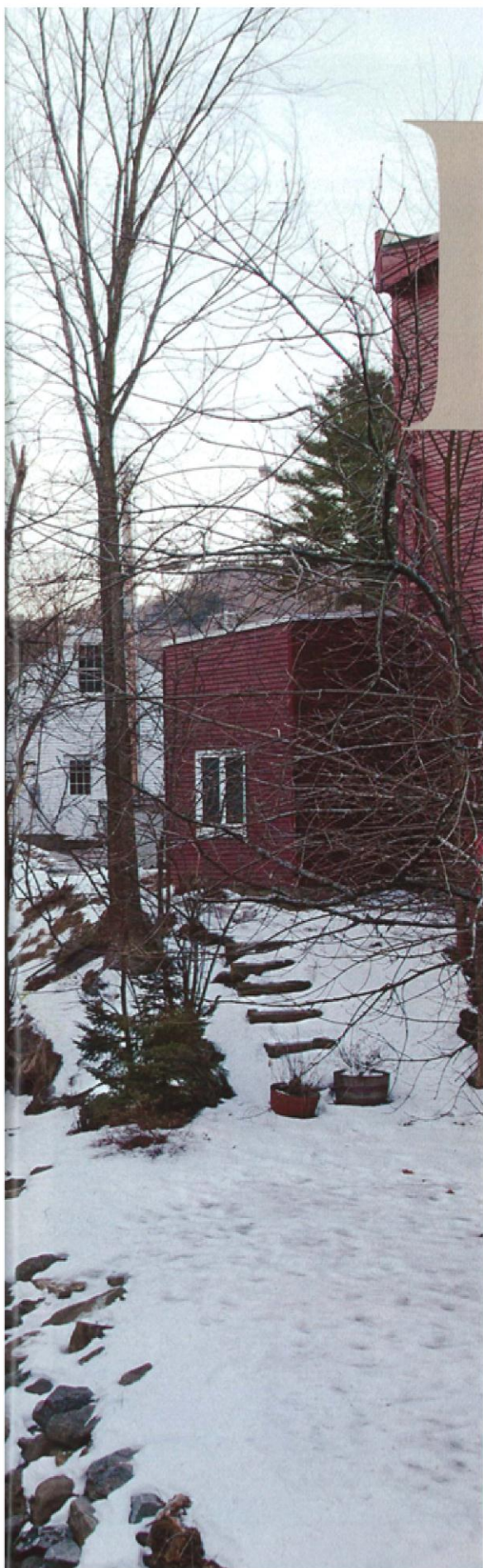
WOODSTOCK, VERMONT, is a picture-book

New England village with something for the outdoorsman, the antiquer, the shopper, the foodie—even the layabout. Think of it as a one-town-fits-all destination.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY Peter Frank Edwards | WRITTEN BY Fan Winston

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OME TO 900 residents and measuring just one square mile, Woodstock, Vermont, may seem too, well, dinky, to explore for more than a day—especially when compared with its brawnier, flashier ski-resort neighbors (Stowe, Killington, Stratton). But its off-the-

radar, off-the-beaten-path smallness is exactly why you should pay this village a visit.

There are no chain stores in Woodstock, no traffic to speak of (a moot point anyway, since you can and will walk everywhere). There aren't even exposed power lines: Financier Laurance Rockefeller and his wife, Mary, paid to have the electrical and telephone wires run underground.

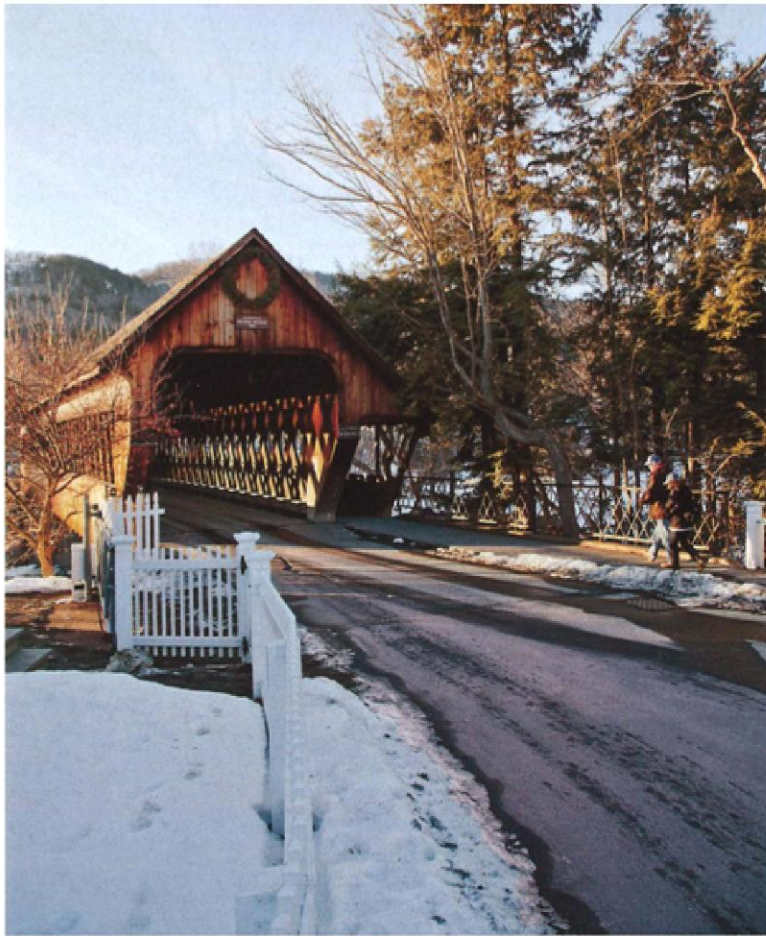
The couple's connection to the town was strong: Mary was a descendant of the Billings family, one of Woodstock's most prominent clans. In the late 1960s, she and Laurance bought and rebuilt the Woodstock Inn. Today, the upscale hotel, which anchors the village green, is a wonderful and inviting place to retreat after a long day of ice-skating or skiing. It's one of those rare country inns that interpret *traditional* just right (no doilies, minimal chintz).

For snow-sport enthusiasts, Suicide Six is the closest ski area and boasts slopes for all skill levels. (The inn offers a free shuttle.) Outdoorsy but ski-averse visitors may want to hike through pristine Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, which is full of sugar maples, ancient hemlock trees, covered bridges, and old stone walls. (Mary's grandfather Frederick Billings was a notable conservationist.) Abutting it is the Billings Farm & Museum, where you can tour a restored late-1800s farmhouse, meet its many resident animals, and get a behind-the-milk-carton peek at how a dairy farm works. No trip to Vermont is complete, of course, without a sampling of its cheese and maple syrup, and Sugarbush Farm, just outside the village, is a great place to buy both.

People may come to Woodstock for its natural beauty, but they fall in love with it for everything else. Its antiques stores, galleries, boutiques, and restaurants are all impressive—and, given the town's modest size, much, much better than they have any right to be. The area is also home to several renowned artisans, among them woodworker Charles Shackleton, glassblower Simon Pearce, and pewterers Fred and Judi Danforth. It's not surprising they chose this breathtaking region to put down roots. You'll see—you'll want to stay longer, too.

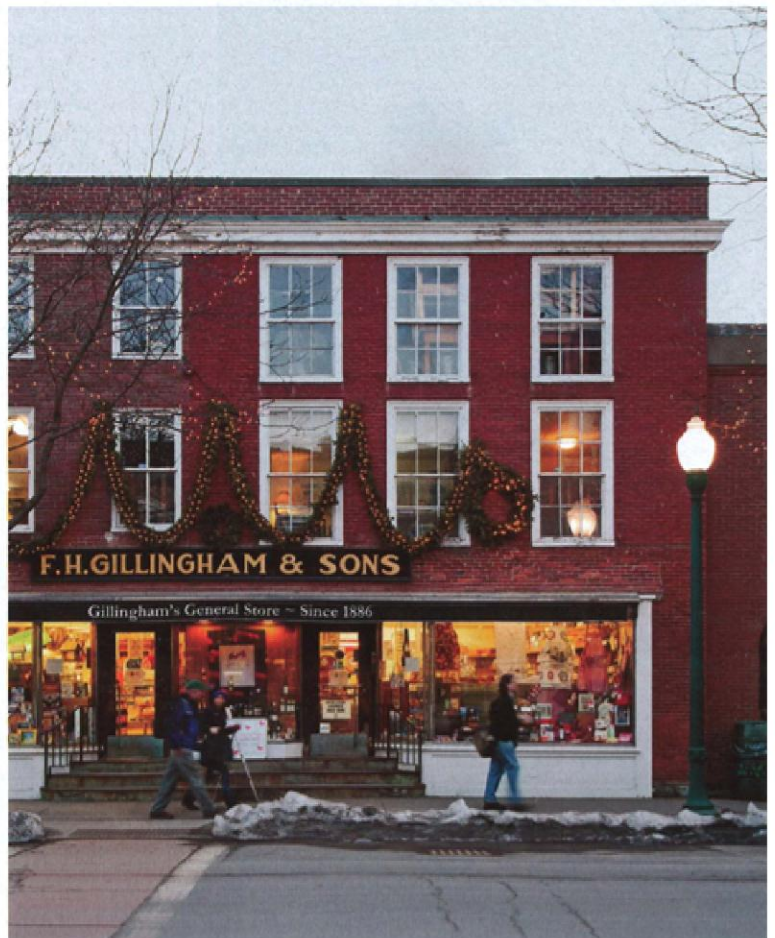
## A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

Left The view of Kedron Brook from Central Street (Woodstock's main road) could not be more beautiful. The stream is flanked by historical homes as it winds its way through the village.



**SCENES FROM  
A SMALL TOWN**

*Clockwise from above* The peg-constructed Middle Covered Bridge leads to the village green. A wreath decorated with an ice skate adorns a front door. Get everything you need at the general store, founded in 1886. The lobby of the Woodstock Inn & Resort's spa.



**MANE ATTRACTION**

Take a break from the slopes and head to Billings Farm & Museum, where you can meet these two handsome horses, among other working animals.



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#### SUNDAY BESTS

From left Just south of the Village Green sits the aptly named Our Lady of the Snows Church. Breakfast at the Quechee Diner tastes as good as it looks.

### *you'll also like . . .*

Here are four more small-sized laid-back, well-rounded ski towns that will appeal to every member (skiing or otherwise) of your travel party.

**WHERE** Taos, New Mexico

**WHY** Two words: perfect weather. Taos gets an average of 300 days of sunshine a year, and if you go in spring, chances are high that you'll find yourself skiing in a light jacket under bright blue skies.

**WHERE** Lake Placid, New York

**WHY** Host to the 1932 and 1980 Olympic winter games, this old-school Adirondack village is a paradise for cold-weather sports enthusiasts, with skating, skiing, sledding, and more.

Adrenaline fiends should check out the Olympic bobsled track, where they can experience the rush of barreling down a ribbon of ice at up to 90 miles per hour.

**WHERE** Bend, Oregon

**WHY** Just like nearby Portland, this Oregon ski burg has a booming restaurant scene.

After a day of swooshing down a mountain, you can unwind with a delicious, locally sourced meal. Follow it up with a trip to one of the nine (and counting!) breweries in town.

**WHERE** Truckee, California

**WHY** The crowds go to Lake Tahoe. Insiders know that less than 13 miles northwest is this quieter, historical logging-turned-ski town with pristine slopes to please diehard ski bums and charming stores and restaurants to satisfy the less adventurous.

**BACK TO BASICS**  
 Everything you need to know about the village's goings-on can be found on this community blackboard.

# WOODSTOCK *Town* CRIER

-COURTESY OF THE WOODSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY-

26 Elm St is open 1-5 Tues-Sat, Sunday 11-3:00 Shop  
 Special Exhibits for 2011 "200 years of Art + Fashion"  
 "From Big Bethel to Appomattox- Woodstock and the Civil War"

VOLUNTEERS Needed for INFO Booth 457-3555



Shelton Books  
 book talk & discussions  
 Healthy people - Healthy Planet - 457-2996

Winter Farmers Market  
 Masonic Lodge  
 Sat Jan 28 - 10-1pm

Farmers Roast Beef Supper  
 Eastland Cong Church  
 Sat. 1/28 - 3/17

Thompson Senior Ctr  
 Signup for classes  
 457-3217

Peter Weikel Woodstock, Vermont  
 Farmers Market Sat 2/14 - 11:30-12:30

Panangles  
 The Flurry  
 Snow Sculpture Contest  
 Feb 18, 19 & 20th

Woodstock Top 5  
 Ultimate Destination  
 for 2011  
 75th Anniversary  
 Mondays - March 7:50  
 Tues - Thursdays  
 Friday Fridays - 9-10:30

Let it SNOW!!

New Classes  
 Rude Canyon Kids  
 Art Studio - Adults  
 Fire Safety Class  
 Feb 8 - 9:30am  
 Fire Station  
 RSVP 457-3555

Farmers Tour  
 Seeks members  
 855-835-1596



FOR OUR COMPLETE GUIDE, go to [marthastewart.com/woodstock](http://marthastewart.com/woodstock).