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THE WORLD'S MOST STORIED LAKE RETREATS

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Long before beach clubs, the world's most discerning travelers escaped to legendary lakes, where grand estates and cooler air defined the art of summer.

For more than a century, city dwellers survived the ubiquitous summer swelter by escaping to the cooler climes of lake estates, whether their personal private properties or luxurious lakeside resorts. As travel became increasingly de rigueur throughout America's Gilded Age and Europe's Belle Époque, aristocrats and the wealthy bourgeois sought respite at these grand estates, ushering in a "golden age" of lakeside retreats. Today, these grande dames can be found around the world, from a repurposed 15th-century hunting lodge built for royalty to a Rockefeller's secret summer sanctuary to Greta Garbo's "happy place."

Whether centuries old or a newly built marvel, these private lake homes offer secluded surroundings, waterside cabins, and outdoor recreation. Some are lured by more sensory indulgences as spa treatments, fine dining, and internationally lauded wine cellars. Following, a few of our favorites.



Courtesy, The Point

THE POINT RESORT, SARANAC LAKE, NEW YORK

Built as a Great Camp for William Avery Rockefeller II in 1932, The Point Resort offers an intimate stay set on Upper Saranac Lake in New York's Adirondack Mountains. Amid 75 sprawling acres, the 11 rooms are divided among four "log mansions" dripping in fine antiques and collectible art, including 19th-century oil paintings from Rockefeller's personal collection.

The first Relais and Châteaux hotel in North America, The Point treats guests like one extended house party, and embraces its seclusion wholeheartedly. Wi-fi is limited, and the sole television can be found in The Pub. But don't worry about entertaining yourself – there's boating, waterskiing, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and paddle boarding, as well as hiking, croquet, and axe throwing.

Guests typically dine together nightly in the Great Hall, savoring signature dishes and wines pulled from the cellar, while cocktails can be enjoyed aboard the property's classic wooden Elco cruiser or on the terrace.

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