

KING of POP
ART

PROTECTING
COLLECTIONS

INVESTING
In CROATIA

HOLIDAY
PROPERTIES

PRIVATE AIR

LUXURY HOMES

Volume 2 | Issue 6

An Artisan
Jewel in
Chappaqua





SECURING A SECOND HOME IN THE FINGER LAKES

By: Joseph Reaney

The Finger Lakes has always been popular with New Yorkers. Located just four hours from the Big Apple, it offers a tranquil escape from the busy city. But in recent years, affluent New Yorkers have begun committing to longer than just one weekend away, with the region becoming a fashionable vacation-home destination.

So what is it that makes the Finger Lakes such an appealing spot for a second home? We interviewed three of the area's tourism and relocation experts to find out exactly why everyone in NYC is moving to The Lakes: **Mary St. George**, Lakefront Real Estate Agent for the Finger Lakes region, **WineTrailProperties.com**, **Mike Linehan**, President and CEO of Yates County Chamber of Commerce, **YatesNY.com** and **Jessica A. Robideau**,

Director of Marketing at Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, **FingerLakes.org**

The tourist draws

According to Mike Linehan, much of the appeal for potential homeowners is the same as for weekenders. "The Finger Lakes is desirable to visitors because of the natural draw of the 11 lakes," he says. "Formed over 10,000 years ago, these glacial beauties offer world-class vistas and endless opportunities for recreation."

Mary St. George and Jessica Robideau agree that the area's tourist attractions also appeal to the would-be residents. Mary highlights "the beauty of the landscape, the wineries, the breweries, the distilleries... even the cheese trails," while also citing the wide range of local museums, restaurants and craft fairs.

Meanwhile, Jessica names "the shopping, museums, historical sites, the wineries, waterfalls... and scenic beauty galore."

Although Finger Lakes is a year-round destination, everyone agrees the region has a different personality for each season. Jessica says "the summertime is great for water activities along the lakes, including swimming, boating and kayaking, with state parks open to explore waterfalls and hiking trails. Fall has changing colors and the smell of grapes being harvested and pressed in the air. Spring is the season of abundant festivals, like the Rochester Lilac Festival, and outdoor activities like golf. And winter beckons snowboarders, skiers and snow tubers." Mary summarizes it well when she says: "Water skiing in summer; snow skiing in winter."



The Local Benefits

Mary is also keen to point out the benefits that are only enjoyed by long-term residents. “There is such a variety of homes available on the lakes and in the hills, offering spectacular lake views,” she says. “They are great places for family get-togethers, romantic getaways, and just for plain old fun on the lakes: boating, fishing, water skiing, jet skiing.” She also bangs the drum for the lakeside restaurants, which have a growing reputation. But ultimately, life here comes down to simple pleasures. “Fresh air, hiking, walking, and biking.”

Mike also believes the location is a key factor, saying “we’re within a day’s drive of 60 million Americans and Canadians, [which makes] the location extremely convenient for short getaways”. He also highlights the “abundance of telecommunication infrastructure, so it is easy for someone to move here and still be able to conduct their business”, as well as a “positive quality of life and some of the friendliest people in the world.”

Jessica also believes this region is a great place to live. “The ability to find something to do in any season makes the Finger Lakes an incredible escape to relax and enjoy another world,” she enthuses. “The quality of life here in the Finger Lakes is like that of a big family. Incredibly friendly residents and business owners make the region a home-

away-from-home for any visitor and a place a local resident is glad they call home.”

The Celebrity Residents

It’s for these reasons that an increasing number of affluent Americans are moving to the area – including an impressive roll-call of famous names. “There are numerous celebrities in the area,” reveals Mary. “The Clintons have stayed at a home on Skaneateles Lake that is currently for sale. The founder of Revlon had a gorgeous home on Skaneateles as well, and there is a famous designer with a home on Skaneateles Lake. The CEO of Corning Glass owns a very private and secluded home on Seneca Lake.” As for visitors, “Anne Hathaway spent one week on Keuka Lake last year,” reveals Mary. “Faith Hill and Tim McGraw also spend time in the Finger Lakes.” Jessica also chimes in with an A-list star of her own: one Philip Seymour Hoffman.

But when it comes to specifics about famous residents, all remain tight-lipped. Mike and Mary both believe the reason the Finger Lakes are so popular with this demographic is the privacy the celebrities are afforded.

Choosing your Lake

So for those big-city Americans looking to relocate to the lakes, where is the best place to set up a second home? Jessica says “All of the lakes within the Finger Lakes region

showcase their own feel and personality. Potential second-homeowners will want to explore and experience all our lakes to determine which best fits their interests.” Mary also argues that different lakes will suit different personalities. “When people move here, they choose the lake that favors them. Some like the deeper lakes of Seneca and Cayuga, while some will like Skaneateles Lake for its lakeside business and charm, and because it is geared to the more affluent.”

Yet despite the recognition that each lake offers something different, Mary does profess a personal preference for Keuka Lake – and it’s one shared by Mike. “Keuka Lake is the most interesting,” he says. “It is the only Y-shaped lake in the world, and the only lake that flows both north and south at the same time. It is surrounded by hillside vineyards and wineries; the birthplace of the American wine industry (since 1860).”

Every lake here has a story – which is why they will be popular second-home destinations for years to come.

You can learn more about the Finger Lakes region by visiting the tourism alliance at FingerLakes.org. You can also browse a range of lakeside homes on the Wine Trail Properties website: WineTrailProperties.com