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# where to go

## Hotel hotspot USA



### Winvian, Morris, Connecticut

A kooky, colourful adventure as only the Americans know how. The 'Win' in Winvian is Winthrop Smith, one of the founders of Merrill Lynch. His son, Winthrop Smith Jr (a former vice-president of Merrill Lynch), has turned 113 acres of family land in Connecticut, two and a half hours north of NYC, into a Disneyland for grown-ups. Well, at least the prices are grown-up. You pay up to £1,030 a night to stay in one of Winvian's 18 themed cottages, each designed by a different architect. Beaver Lodge, Golf, Music, Woodland, Treehouse and Stone are ingenious and fun to look at, if not always practical (washing in a hollowed-out tree stump is entertaining). Helicopter cottage is the wackiest. A genuine Sixties Sikorsky – perfectly restored and parked right in the middle of your cabin – serves as the bar. Secret Society is the spookiest – it's basically a tomb – while Maritime and Library are more sober and conventional. But who wants to be boring? This is about fun, fun, fun. Food, served in the historic Seth Bird main house, is good and rather sophisticated. It's included in the price, as are all drinks in your room and at the bars dotted around the property – dangerous stuff. Paolo, the maitre d', used to be at Grosvenor House and knows everybody. There are some great touches, too, like the bottles of Pommery pop that are delivered to your cabin with a tray of canapés at cocktail time. Winvian also has an excellent spa (with REN products), where Stanley the masseur kills you with his fingers. You can enjoy around a dozen different sports here but, for Frasier Crane types, 'antiquing' in nearby Litchfield is the way to go. America through and through. **Jeremy Wayne Cottage**, from £745, including food and drinks. Ring 001 860 567 9600 or visit [winvian.com](http://winvian.com).



### Hang out

Wicker basket with tassels, £45, by Louise Sandberg

## Tricks of the rich

A family holiday is not a break without a nanny to amuse the little ones. **Holiday Nanny** has 45 fully qualified nannies ready to join the sunshine fun. Choose from swimming instructors, music and dance teachers and even a figure skating champion. The cost is £425 a week or £795 for two, for 45 hours a week, including 14 hours' babysitting over four nights. Ring 01494 772400 or visit [holidaynanny.org](http://holidaynanny.org).