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When Traveling Resumes: 10 Secluded, Beautiful, Within Driving Distance Retreats



Laurie Werner Contributor

Travel

I cover singular, luxury travel and food experiences around the world



The Cress on Oak Creek restaurant at L'Auberge de Sedona. PHOTO BY DAVE SIEGEL

With traveling curtailed during the COVID-19 pandemic, once the crisis passes, there will be pent up demand to get back on the road. But for those who might not want to jump on a plane immediately, there is a way of inching back—properties within driving distance that are secluded, in a beautiful setting and with separate cottages as all or part of the accommodations for maximum privacy.



The entrance to the spa at Shou Sugi Ban House © FREDRIKA STJARNE 2018

Shou Sugi Ban House Without the summer traffic, this Japanese influenced retreat is a three hour drive east of New York to the Hamptons town of Water Mill but a world away in its soothing tone. The 13 sleek, minimalist guest cabins with custom furniture in light wood, fireplaces and soaking tubs are supremely restful as are the surroundings: acres of gardens including a cherry orchard. The spa treatments are primarily water based and the menu, seasonal and plant based with a pedigree: designed by Noma cofounder Mads Refslund.