



# DUTCHESS TOURISM

HUDSON VALLEY REGION NEW YORK

---

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 2018

Contact: Nancy Lutz  
845-463-5446  
Nancy@DutchessTourism.com

### NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED FOR 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DUTCHESS TOURISM AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY– Dutchess Tourism, Inc. (DTI) is requesting nominations from Dutchess County residents and businesses for their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dutchess Tourism Awards of Distinction. Awards will be presented in the following categories: Arts; Culinary; Family Fun; History; Outdoors; and Hospitality. Nominees should be tourism-related businesses or organizations open to the public with the exception of the Hospitality Award which is for a front-line customer service staff member, who consistently goes above and beyond to help travelers to Dutchess County have an excellent experience. Nominations are due by March 30 and past winners are not eligible. For submission information and a list of past winners, visit [DutchessTourism.com/nominations](http://DutchessTourism.com/nominations).

Three finalists in each category will be announced by April 13 and the winners will be named at The Dutchess Tourism Awards of Distinction Breakfast held at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum's Wallace Center, Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. For more information, sponsorship details or to purchase tickets, visit [DutchessTourism.com/tourism-business-events](http://DutchessTourism.com/tourism-business-events).

According to Dutchess Tourism President & CEO Mary Kay Vrba, "The Awards of Distinction are a way for us to celebrate the excellent work our tourism partners are doing to create a Distinctly Dutchess experience for the millions of visitors that travel to the Hudson Valley every year." She added, "What's especially wonderful, is that this is our fifth year presenting these awards and there is no shortage of worthy candidates. Our sites continue to grow, innovate, and make a significant contribution to our success as a world-class destination."

Tourism has a significant economic impact in Dutchess County, where more than 4.75 million people visit annually and spend an average of \$568 million on lodging, food, shopping, and area attractions. Tourism is New York's fourth largest industry and employs 10,484 people within Dutchess.

###

#### About Dutchess Tourism

Dutchess Tourism, Inc. is the officially designated destination marketing organization for Dutchess County and is accredited by the Destination Marketing Accreditation Program (DMAP) of Destinations International. It is an independent 501c6 non-profit organization that works to bring tourism dollars to area businesses by marketing and promoting the assets of Dutchess County to the nation and the world. The office is located at 3 Neptune Road in the Town of Poughkeepsie with 18 Tourist Information Centers located around Dutchess County. The website is [www.DutchessTourism.com](http://www.DutchessTourism.com) and they can be reached at 845-463-4000. Dutchess County Tourism was founded in 1984 under the umbrella of the Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation, became incorporated as Dutchess Tourism, Inc. in 2014 and is partially funded by monies received from the County of Dutchess.

3 NEPTUNE ROAD, SUITE A11A, POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK 12601-5500  
845/463-4000 • 800/445-3131 • [www.dutchesstourism.com](http://www.dutchesstourism.com)

The programs provided by this agency are partially funded by monies received from the County of Dutchess.