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The ARTISAN'S HAND



SPOTLIGHT

Revolutionary Ideas

THE TRISTATE AREA IS DEVELOPING AN INTERESTING OBSESSION WITH ALL THINGS GEORGE

Three trendsetting establishments that opened in the past year play on the name George Washington: George Home, a design studio and retail store in Washington Depot, CT; the Roman & Williams-designed George Washington Bar in the new Frechand Hotel in Manhattan's Flatiron district; and the George Inn, a 32-room boutique hotel opened by cosmetics queen Bobbi Brown and her husband, Steven Plofker, in her hometown of Montclair, NJ. George is clearly having a moment. We wondered what our nation's first president and his beloved wife, Martha, would think of these cool spots called George. —Elena Boves



We know George was not a vain man, but for occasional wig checks? Rustic antique corbels and brackets repurposed into a mirror.



George and Martha traded tobacco for luxuries from abroad. George Home's Chinese blue-and-white ceramics, wood carvings from Indonesia and carved masks from Zaire might appeal today.

GEORGE HOME

At the enchanting George Home, cofounders Bruce Glickman and Wilson Henley imagine the original first couple would see plenty to catch their fancy. georgehome.com.



Rather than yet another bust of George, why not some solid marble bowls and platters. A pretty way to serve up some grits casserole, corn fritters and persimmon pudding? If people want to see a bust of George, there's always Mount Rushmore.



"George would feel right at home sitting on this vintage wood bench," notes Glickman. "These pieces are simple, honest and evoke Americana."

GEORGE HOME PHOTOS BY JOHN GRUEN



At the George Washington Bar, Roman & Williams restored the library's original mahogany millwork and fireplace. The Washingtons, who occasionally had pineapples shipped to their Mount Vernon home, might enjoy a Sweep the Leg, which includes pineapple juice, the Japanese spirit shochu, Thai basil and lime.

GEORGE WASHINGTON BAR

Next stop on George and Martha's century hop is New York City's George Washington Bar where George couldn't help but be flattered; four paintings of him hang on the mahogany-paneled walls of this moody, sexy tavern, originally the library of the George Washington Hotel. gwbarnyc.com



Sexy new touches include this eye-catching, custom-designed Bargello-stitched banquette. After a long day running the country, George might opt for the cozy banquette and a strong whiskey—preferably from Virginia.



This commanding painting of George hangs center stage, while three contemporary ones—all belonging to Stephen Alesch, cofounder of New York design studio Roman & Williams—are grouped on the western wall.

DRINK AND BAR: ERIC MEDSKER; BANQUETTE: ADRIAN GAUT

THE GEORGE INN

Husband-and-wife team Steven Plofker and Bobbi Brown have always loved to travel and stay in hotels with a homey, personalized feel—no cookie cutters for them. They decided to create the hotel of their dreams, transforming a neglected inn in Montclair, NJ, into a boutique hotel that mixes classic bones with an upscale, chic aesthetic. They love talking to guests at the George, hearing their stories, and would surely be entertained by George Washington's tales of the founding of a wee country. thegeorgemontclair.com



When it's time for a well-deserved snooze, the first couple heads over to the George Inn in tony Montclair, NJ, where they get a warm welcome in Bobbi Brown's One Kings Lane-designed foyer.



Then it's off to the library for a little R&R. "The concierge would absolutely remove the British flag pillows so George and Martha wouldn't feel uncomfortable," notes Brown.



Washington's dogs—Drunkard, Taster, Tipler and Topsy—can curl up too alongside Bobbi's pet, Biggie. "We are dog friendly," says Brown. "And now that I know the names of George's dogs, there will be dog beds in the hotel with each of their names on them."



And if the Colonial kids want to join? No problem. The George loves families.

GEORGE INN PHOTOS BY LESLEY UNRUH