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Iconic Westchester

Westchester's finest homes and estates, from brick Georgian manor homes to stone mansions smartly clad in Manhattan schist, remain the standard as some of the most coveted properties in the nation.

Windrush is the sobriquet of the 1927 brick English Georgian manor house at 518 Harris Road in Bedford Hills, now on the market for $12,500,000. Much of the masonry, paneling and mantelpieces (there are 10 fireplaces in all) were imported piece by piece from a castle called Cassiobury, in Watford, England, dating back to the 16th century.

The 24-acre, seven-bedroom estate, with frontage on the Beaver Dam River, also features two brick gatehouses, a five-car detached garage, a 20-foot-by-40-foot pool and a stone-and-frame barn with direct access to the Bedford Riding Lanes. "The new slate roof alone cost more than $1 million, and it cost millions more to renovate the entire property, all supervised by a bona fide English home restorer," said Ghy Manning, broker/owner of Vincent and Whittemore in Bedford Village. "Windrush has something few other houses have in New York State — a tangible link with Great Britain and one of its prominent historic houses."

Also in Bedford Hills, a 14,000-square-foot modern colonial, built in 2006 at 117 West Patent Road, has eight bedrooms and an asking price of $6,495,000. Set on 9.33 acres, the home comes with a full elevator, smart-home technology and 20-foot ceilings in the family room, with white shiplap paneling, oversize windows, seven fireplaces, walls of glass and elaborate stonework. The entertaining space includes a billiards room; cinema; a paneled library; mudroom; and a 3,500-bottle climate-controlled wine cellar and tasting room. Outdoors is a full basketball court, 25-by-50-foot pool with a cabana, a detached seven-car garage and a three-hole putting green.

"This is really a new house that expanded an older one, on a wonderful old property on a winding country road surrounded by horse farms in an area where celebrities live for its privacy," said Cecilia Heller, associate broker with Houlihan Lawrence Real Estate. "The advantage is it doesn't need freshening up like some of the older estates here."

Northshire, located at 58 Cat Ridge Road in North Salem, is a 9,064-square-foot, 17-room brick Georgian manor. Renowned architect Mott Schmidt built the mansion in 1934 for an heir to the Woolworth fortune, and the current owners

Photo: Houlihan Lawrence

Photo: Ginnel Real Estate

OPPOSITE: Windrush, 518 Harris Road, Bedford Hills

ABOVE LEFT: 117 West Patent Road, Bedford Hills

ABOVE RIGHT: Northshire, 58 Cat Ridge Road, North Salem

RIGHT: 40-42 Sarles Street, Armonk

Photo: Douglas Elliman

have spent five years carefully restoring the interior and its 26.16-acre grounds, including the original Lord & Burnham greenhouse, which they transformed into an indoor pool. There is also a tennis court and outdoor pool with pool house.

The asking price is $9,800,000. "The price is more than fair for this fully restored estate, on four levels, with a Ludowici-tiled roof and now a gym on the lower level, and an art gallery leading down to it," said Muffin Dowdle, sales agent with Ginnel Real Estate. "The first-floor kitchen was totally renovated to look like the South of France, with luxurious period bathrooms and fixtures brought over from Europe. All the windows are restored — so there is a lot of light and views."

Armonk is mostly one- and two-acre zoning, but 40-42 Sarles Street is a 7,416-square-foot, six-bedroom, ranch-style home anchoring a compound totaling 16.71 acres. The estate, which is on sale for $5,675,000, includes a 50-foot pool, two two-bedroom/two-bathroom guest cottages, a five-bay carriage house with a kitchen and two bathrooms above and a two-stall barn with a kitchen and a bathroom.

"They don't make estates this size these days in Armonk — you have to go much farther north to Bedford for this kind of acreage," said Dodie Mouldovan, associate broker with Douglas Elliman Real Estate. "It was built around 1900, and is now on a highly desirable street of high-end houses, mostly in the $3 million range on two-acre lots. This one would serve beautifully as a family compound — very rare this close to the village."

The six-bedroom, 9,489-square-foot home on 2.96 acres at 11 Sky Meadow Farm in Purchase, listing for $3,650,000, appears at first glance to be an unassuming traditional colonial. But inside is a glamorous interior that looks like a movie star's home — with leather walls in some rooms; Venetian plaster, imported marble, custom-cut French limestone floors and a double-sided stone wood-burning fireplace in the double-height, 25-foot foyer. Highlights include a Hollywood-style media room with a custom glass ceiling with concealed lighting, a drop-down full-size movie screen with overhead projector, a black-granite wet bar with mirrored shelves and remote-controlled black-out shades.

"There is really nothing like it in Purchase, where

Photo: Julia B. Lee Sotheby's International Realty

Photo: Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage | Michele Flood

most of the homes are more traditional, inside and out," said Wendy Alper, sales agent with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty. "This bucks that tradition — it is a glamorous surprise when you walk in the door. It has been reduced in price, and is now priced to sell."

Set on a cul-de-sac in the Flagler Matthews estate area of Rye, 3 Beechwood Circle, listing for $3,395,000, is a 7,882-square-foot Mediterranean-style brick-and-stucco manor on a gated 1.43-acre estate with curved brick walls and Palladian windows, circular driveway, porte cochere and a multitier entertainment terrace, pool, pool house and veranda. The five-bedroom, nine-bathroom home has a sunken living room within the great room, which is flanked by a living room, dining room and a sitting room with a large fireplace — all open to a custom mahogany wet bar.

"It is a celebrity home, and they hand-chose the location, cognizant of the privacy factor — with electronically controlled gates," said Michele Flood, associate broker with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. "It has been totally landscaped to ensure privacy and built for entertaining on the grand scale. The great room was ahead of its time when it was built — and now a very popular feature buyers are looking for."

Even closer to the city is 20 Carriage Trail in Tarrytown, a new-construction Hudson River mansion in Greystone-on-Hudson, a development of 21 home sites. 20 Carriage Trail, with some 9,500 square feet of living space on 2.1 flat acres 328 feet above sea level, is the entry-level model for the development, which offers buyers a choice of optional in-home amenities, including home theater, wine cellar, home gym, library or a study. The list price is $4,998,888.

Photo: Houlihan Lawrence

TOP LEFT: 11 Sky Meadow Farm, Purchase

TOP RIGHT: 3 Beechwood Circle, Rye

ABOVE: 20 Carriage Trail, Tarrytown

"We mine the Manhattan schist for the facade of the garden level of the homes right here," explained Amanda Cernitz, on-site sales agent for Greystone-on-Hudson. "Because of current construction technology, we offer more expansive spaces than in the old Hudson Valley mansions. We are building classic, instantly iconic homes that are windowed and bright. Here you can get quality construction and lots of space for the money, about 13 miles from New York City, yet in so many respects a world away." ■