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America’s 10 Coolest Small Towns

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL BRANDS THAT ONLY LOCALS KNOW
**Milford, Pa.**
Population: 1,292

Nearest City: New York, 71 miles

A resort town since the Gilded Age, Milford is popular with newcomers interested in its Victorian houses. Sean Strub (a direct-mail and publishing entrepreneur who moved here in 1997) and retired executive Richard Snyder spearheaded the town beautification effort, launched Milford Magazine, and in 2001 bought the 1880s-era Hotel Fauchère. Five years and $6.5 million later, it reopened with heated slate bathroom floors, Frette sheets, and a price point that's right for such a small town, not to mention Budget Travel (401 Broad St., 570/409-1212, hotelfauchere.com, from $275). The 70,000-acre Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is nearby (1nps.gov/dewa); buy picnic supplies at Freta's (223 Broad St., 570/296-7863). Kitchen and bath designer Derek Roberts moved to Milford in 1991. "My mountain bike is well used," he says. "After work, I like to go swimming in a waterfall." He has become such a civic booster that he began organizing Fluvirarchy dance parties—named for the network of waterfalls—at The Emerson House (call the Fauchère for info). "Find me for free-drink tickets," he says. —Drew Limsky

**Waitsburg, Wash.**
Population: 1,212

Nearest City: Walla Walla, 21 miles

Ross Stevenson and Leroy Cuningham settled in Waitsburg six years ago, in search of a quieter lifestyle. With two partners, they opened the Whoopemup Hollow Café in 2005. The Whoop, as it's known, dishes up jambalaya and Coca-Cola rake to wheat farmers and wine snobs alike (120 Main St., 509/337-9000, jambalaya 519). Just across the street, Jim German recently opened Jimgermanbar, which specializes in classic cocktails and small plates (119 Main St., 509/337-6001). His wife, Claire Johnston-German, runs the AMO Art gallery next door.

**Yachats, Ore.**
Population: 517

Nearest City: Eugene, 86 miles

In 2005, Dave Thomas and Deb Gisette left Vermont for Oregon and soon found themselves awestruck by the scenery around Yachats (yuh-katts), "It was just unbelievably beautiful," recalls Thomas. "And the people were possibly the most friendly in the county." Thomas and Gisette put down roots by opening Green Salmon Bakery & Coffee House (200 Hwy. 101, 541/547-3077). Yachats also has cute shops, like Raindogs (162 Beach St., 541/547-3000, rain dogsonline.com), and a deli called Grand Occasions where you can watch the tide roll in while you eat pie made with blackberries, strawberries, or whatever's in season (84 Beach St., 541/547-4409). After staying in a Shamrock Lodgettes beachfront cabin, you may move to Oregon, too (105 Hwy. 101, 800/845-5028, shannonlodge.com, cabins from $59). —Colin Lingle