



Cedar Grove, the home of artist Thomas Cole, considered the founder of the famous genre of American landscape painting known as the Hudson River School, is seen in Catskill, NY.



The view from the porch of Cedar Grove, the home of artist Thomas Cole, considered the founder of the famous genre of American landscape painting known as the Hudson River School, is seen in Catskill, NY.

The contrast is part of what's interesting about visiting both attractions. Olana was named for an ancient Persian fortress. The exotic, elaborate mansion that serves as its centerpiece features arches and towers, stonework, bricks and tiles, and colorful inlaid designs and patterns on an

asymmetrical exterior. Works by Church are displayed inside, along with paintings he collected, original furnishings and souvenirs from his world travels, including carpets, folk art, ceramics and costumes.

Church first sketched from the property in 1845 as a student of Cole's. He later bought a

farm there and built a cottage where he lived with his wife. Following an 18-month trip to Europe and the Middle East, Church returned to design Olana with Calvert Vaux (famed for his work on Central Park with Frederick Law Olmsted). The main house was built in the early 1870s. The property includes Church's studio, woods, gardens, orchards and a visitor center.

Nearby attractions

The Hudson Valley offers many options for great food and places to stay overnight. About a two-hour drive from New York City, the area has seen a revival in recent years, with city residents relocating or buying second homes there. The farm-to-table movement has also spurred food-related businesses and projects. Among them, great restaurants like Swoon Kitchenbar in Hudson; the working farm and eateries at Stone Barns Center for Food & Agriculture in Pocantico Hills and Buttermilk Falls, an inn, spa, restaurant and farm in Milton. Other major attractions include the Franklin D Roosevelt National Historic Site in Poughkeepsie, the Dia:Beacon art museum in Beacon and the Storm King Art Center in New Windsor. Many destinations are reachable by bus or train from New York City. — AP



Chairs line the porch of Cedar Grove, the home of artist Thomas Cole, considered the founder of the famous genre of American landscape painting known as the Hudson River School, in Catskill, NY.



The master bedroom in the exotic mansion at Olana, the property where artist Frederic Edwin Church and his wife Isabel lived.



The dining room in Cedar Grove, the home of artist Thomas Cole, considered the founder of the famous genre of American landscape painting known as the Hudson River School.



Cabbage grows in a field at the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture, in Pocantico Hills, NY.



Tenciled designs decorating arches in the Court Hall of the mansion that is the centerpiece of Olana, where Hudson River School artist Frederic Church lived, show the influence of his travels in the Middle East, in Greenport, NY.