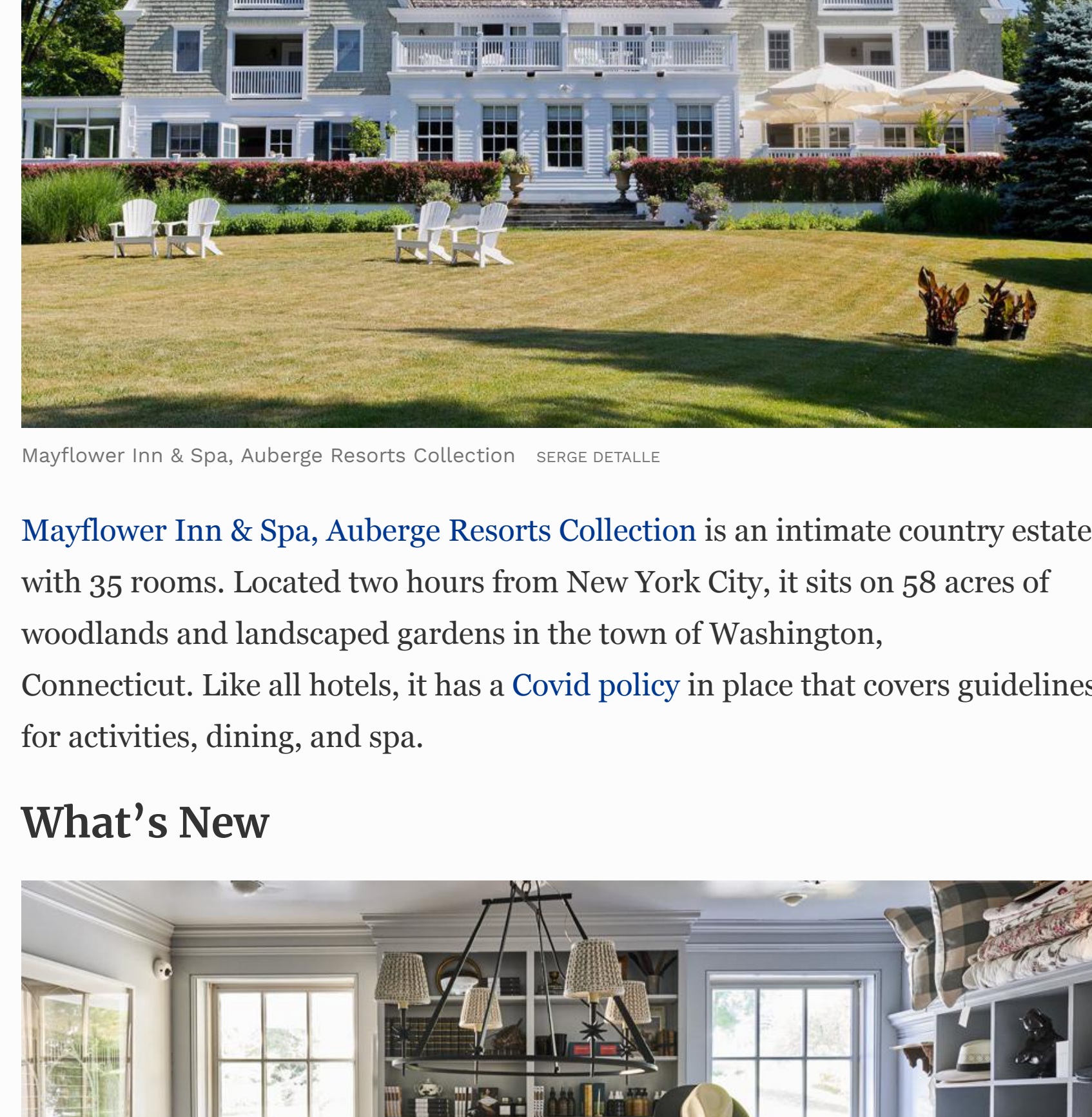


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Need A Relaxing Getaway? This Country Estate May Be Just What You Need

Judy Koutsky Contributor @ Travel



Mayflower Inn & Spa, Auberge Resorts Collection | SERGE DETALLE

Mayflower Inn & Spa, Auberge Resorts Collection is an intimate country estate with 35 rooms. Located two hours from New York City, it sits on 58 acres of woodlands and landscaped gardens in the town of Washington, Connecticut. Like all hotels, it has a Covid policy in place that covers guidelines for activities, dining, and spa.

What's New



The Huntress, a lifestyle pop-up boutique, is a new addition to the property. MAYFLOWER INN & SPA, AUBERGE RESORTS COLLECTION

The resort's newest program is the Friends of the Mayflower, which brings together experts in various fields to give guests a unique and elevated experience. The series of ongoing residencies in the coming months feature guest chef-in-residency dinners, local artist collaborations, and intimate fashion partnerships and events.

In celebration of the hotel's 100th anniversary, the property is debuting a fresh, new look created by New York City interior designer Celerie Kemble. Drawing inspiration from storied English and Scandinavian country houses, Kemble filled the property with faded Gustavian tones while adding vibrant pops of color throughout.

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Also new this year is the 4,200-square-foot Sperry Tent, which is ideal for weddings and private gatherings. The tent is handcrafted out of sailcloth, which breathes during the day and glows at night.

The Origins

The Mayflower has an interesting history. It was originally built as a private school for boys in 1894 and was called the Ridge School. In 1919, the school closed, and a former student converted the grounds into the Mayflower Inn. In 1990, the property was acquired by Washington, CT, residents Adriana and Robert Mnuchin, who restored it and reopened the property in 1992. In 2004, they added an additional 30 acres of land, and two years later they added the 20,000-square-foot spa house, which is one of the most popular features of the resort. In October 2018, Auberge Resorts Collection took over the management of Mayflower Inn & Spa.

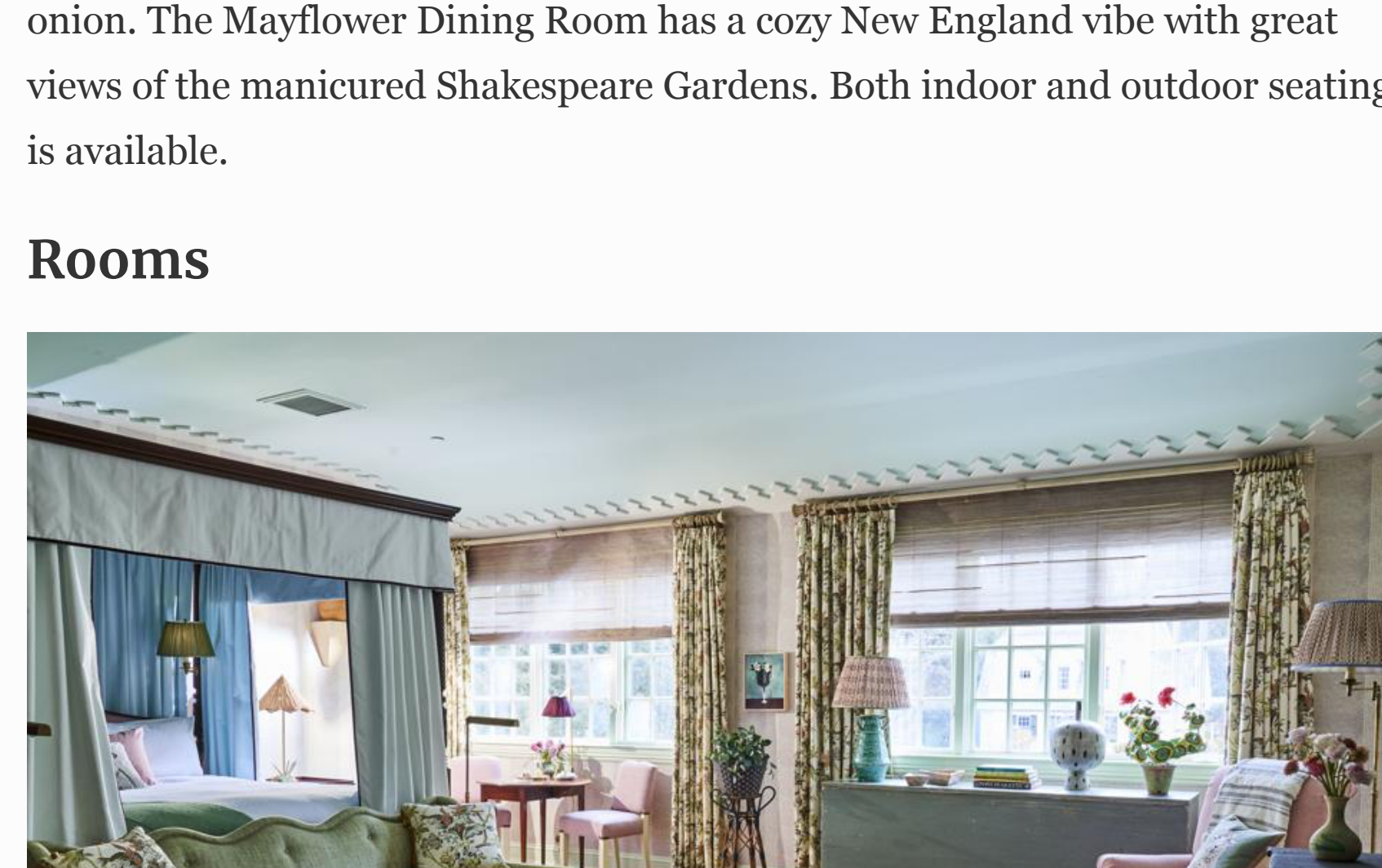
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Activities



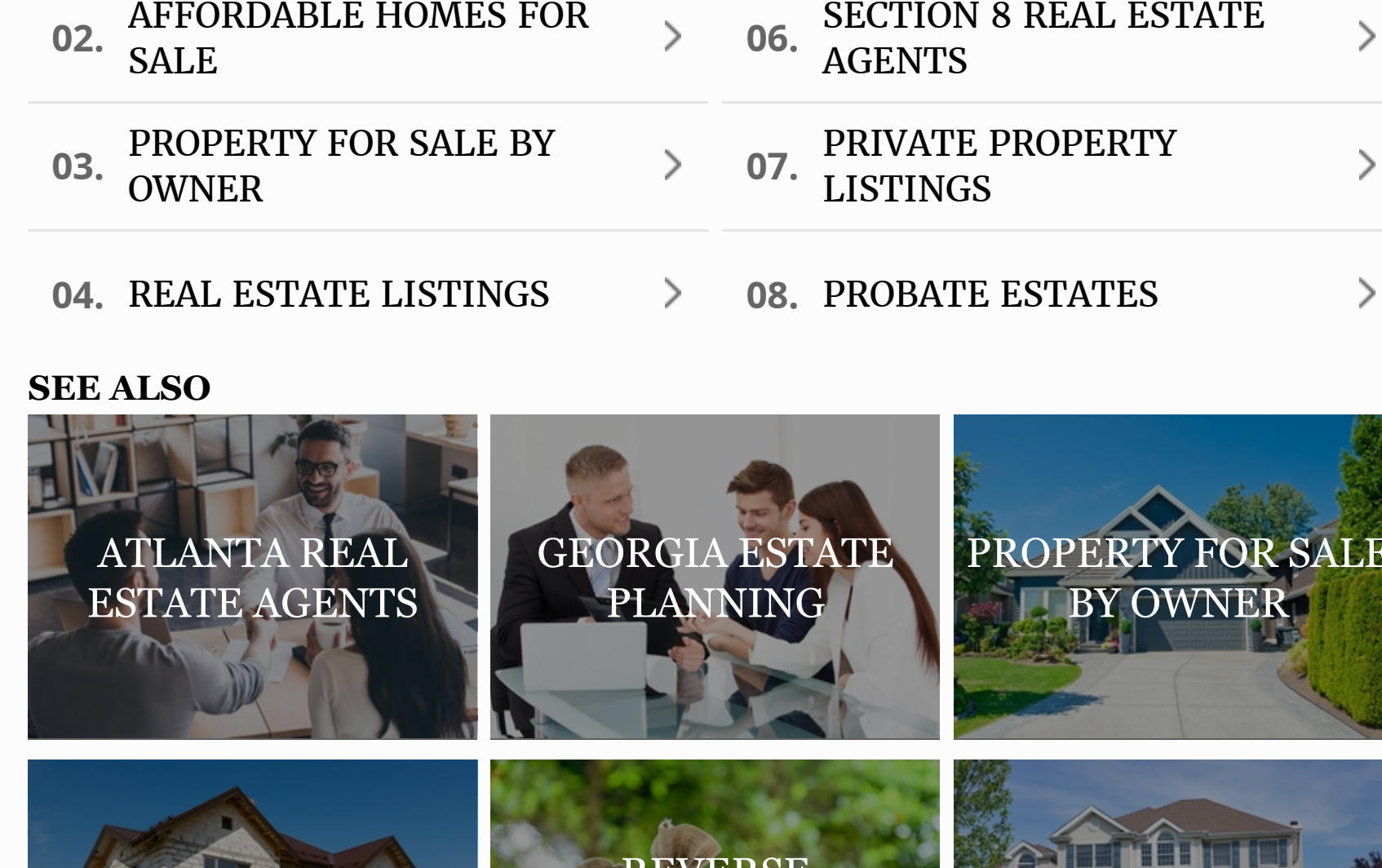
Fly fishing is a popular activity at the resort. MAYFLOWER INN & SPA, AUBERGE RESORTS COLLECTION

The expansive grounds are a large part of the Mayflower experience. Guests have a variety of options on property including fly fishing, archery, tennis, and croquet. Off property, people can book private guided hikes, bike tours, and kayaking. In addition to outdoor adventure activities, the resort offers nightly bonfires, wine tastings, poetry in the Shakespeare garden, cocktail classes with an expert mixologist, personal shopping at The Huntress, a lifestyle pop-up boutique, forest bathing, culinary tours, and yoga and meditation classes. The gardens and labyrinth are a popular place for walks and reflection.

Culinary Fare

The resort's current chef in residence is Victoria Blamey, a native of Santiago, Chile. Starters include a terrine of ham hock, foie gras, cherry, tamarind chutney as well as beef tartare with rhubarb, smoked trout roe, and farm-fresh cheese. Main entrees include striped bass with braised seaweed, anchovy, agretti and braised rabbit leg with green garlic, English peas, and pickled onion. The Mayflower Dining Room has a cozy New England vibe with great views of the manicured Shakespeare Gardens. Both indoor and outdoor seating is available.

Rooms



The rooms make guests feel like they are in the English countryside. MAYFLOWER INN & SPA, AUBERGE RESORTS COLLECTION

The hotel's 35 rooms are spread across four buildings—the Mayflower House, the Speedwell Cottage, the Standish Cottage, and the Allerton Cottage. Four-poster beds, oversized pillows, deep-soaking baths and views of the gardens and woods make guests feel like they are in the English countryside. Some rooms have balconies and fireplaces. The suites have a separate sitting area.

The Spa

The spa includes a variety of treatment options including the signature Mayflower Blend Massage, which is a customized treatment that includes elements of Swedish and Deep Tissue. Depending on the weather, outdoor massages may be an option. The Spa House also offers four fully equipped exercise studios, including a private Pilates studio and an outdoor yoga and meditation garden. A schedule of daily fitness instruction includes yoga, Pilates, kickboxing, and body sculpting classes.

Check out my website.

Judy Koutsky

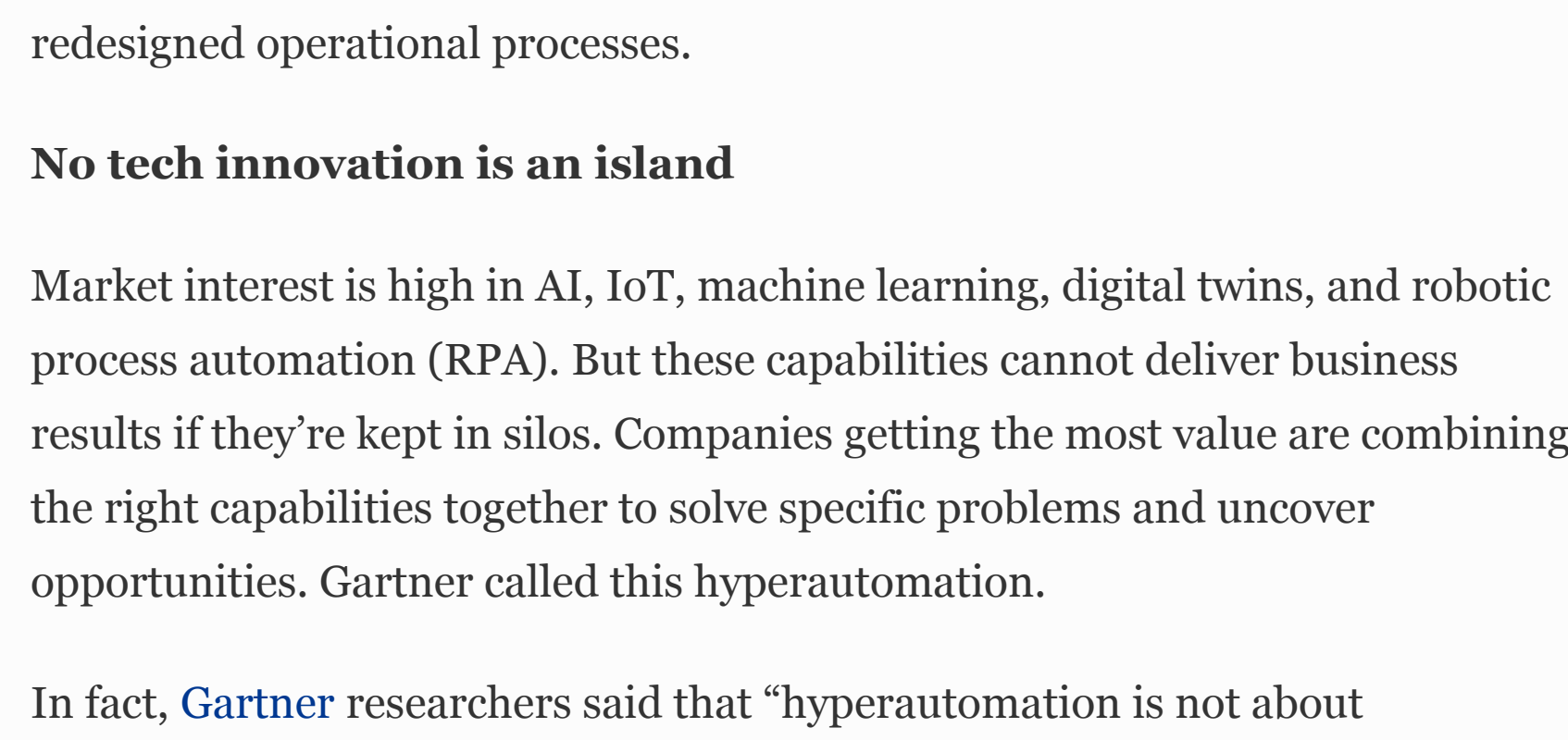
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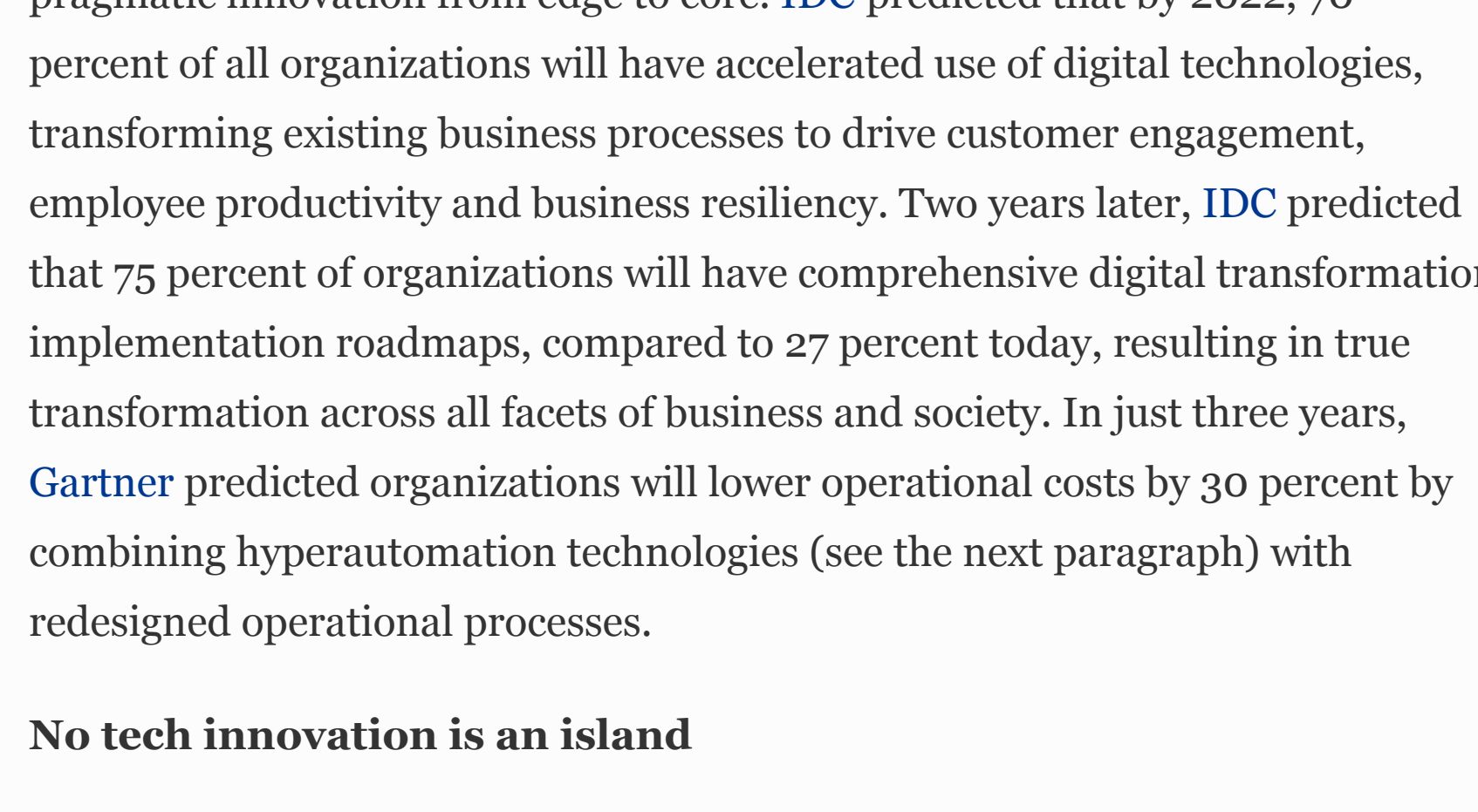
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The Four Most Important Digital Automation Trends Circa 2021

Susan Galer Brand Contributor | SAP BRANDVOICE | Paid Program | Innovation

The pandemic turned decades of accepted business principles upside down. Leaders now know everything has to be digital because it's the only way to future-proof the business. These are some of the most important predictions about digital transformation as we head into a post-pandemic world.



Gartner researchers believe that everything that can and should be automated will be automated. Everything else must be augmented. GARTNER

Pragmatism rules the day

Innovation for its own sake is so early aughts. While the pandemic is a force factor for sweeping digital transformation, make no mistake, this is about pragmatic innovation from edge to core. IDC predicted that by 2022, 70 percent of all organizations will have accelerated use of digital technologies, transforming existing business processes to drive customer engagement, employee productivity and business resiliency. Two years later, IDC predicted that 75 percent of organizations will have comprehensive digital transformation implementation roadmaps, compared to 27 percent today. In just three years, Gartner predicted workers will lower operational costs by 30 percent by combining hyperautomation technologies (see the next paragraph) with redesigned operational processes.

No tech innovation is an island

Market interest is high in AI, IoT, machine learning, digital twin, and robotic process automation (RPA). But these capabilities cannot deliver business results if they're kept in silos. Companies getting the most value are combining the right capabilities together to solve specific problems and uncover opportunities. Gartner called this hyperautomation.

In fact, Gartner researchers said that "hyperautomation is not about technology. It's a process that never ends...a disciplined approach organizations use to rapidly identify, vet, and automate as many business and IT processes as possible...they're not just buying one technology...they're buying multiple technology that [they] need to architect together."

Forrester predicted that "leading CIOs will embrace cloud-first and platform strategies for speed and adaptiveness, eschewing stovepipes for end-to-end solutions." Further out, IDC saw 30 percent of cities using automation from the combination of IoT, AI, and digital twins, to blend the physical and digital and improve the remote management of critical infrastructure and digital services by 2025.

Humans plus machines are the norm

I'm hoping this decade will finally put an end to last century either-or debates pitting humans against machines. The highest performing organizations will understand how to seamlessly embed digital technologies to boost human productivity.

One of the assumptions behind Gartner's latest predictions was that "everything that can and should be automated will be automated. Everything else must be augmented." In their vision, machines will automate 80 percent of processes, serving up information to help people make decisions.

Most analysts agreed these change weren't destined for the far off future. Forrester predicted new forms of automation will support one out of every four remote workers directly or indirectly by the end of this year. These analysts predicted many organizations will invest in conversational AI, machine learning, and hardware advances to help remote workers perform tasks that were "previously done in the office or that held higher labor costs, such as employee self-service, customer service support, and document extraction."

By next year, IDC predicted 65 percent of CIOs will digitally empower and enable frontline workers with data, AI, and security to extend productivity, adaptability, and decision making in the face of rapid changes. Within two years after that, IDC predicted 50 percent of knowledge workers will regularly interact with their own AI-enhanced robot assistant, which will help identify and prioritize tasks, collect information, and automate repetitive work.

Industry leaders coalesce into innovation powerhouses

Some analysts predicted more M&A activity as larger software and other vendors snap up smaller startups in important areas like AI and RPA. That's because technologies need to be on the same cloud-based platform to deliver quality, consistent data, powering valuable business insights.

For example, driven by the goal to embed intelligence in products and services, IDC predicted that one quarter of Global 2000 companies will acquire at least one AI software start-up to ensure ownership of differentiated skills and IP (intellectual property) by 2023.

According to Gartner analysts, business demands for integrated data will make it far more difficult for companies to survive as standalone tech players. They predicted that by 2024, one or more technology mega-vendors will build or acquire targeted hyperautomation technologies rendering 60 percent of the standalone RPA market offerings redundant.

Integration isn't limited to acquisitions. Deeply collaborative business, including business networks, is on the rise, morphing into what IDC researchers called "digital innovation factories." By next year, IDC analysts expected 40 percent of market-leading IT and OT vendors will form strategic partnerships to deliver a holistic solution; this will reduce integration and deployment costs by 20 percent." Further out, these analysts predicted by 2025, driven by volatile global conditions, 75 percent of business leaders will use digital platforms and ecosystem capabilities to adapt their value chains to new markets, industries, and ecosystems.

Resistance to digital transformation is futile

What struck me about so many of these and other predictions was the immediacy. Most are expected to happen within the next few years, if not sooner. Digital native companies were already there, and those that haven't transitioned will get there, hopefully soon enough.

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Susan Galer

I am the Communications Director of SAP Global Communications.

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