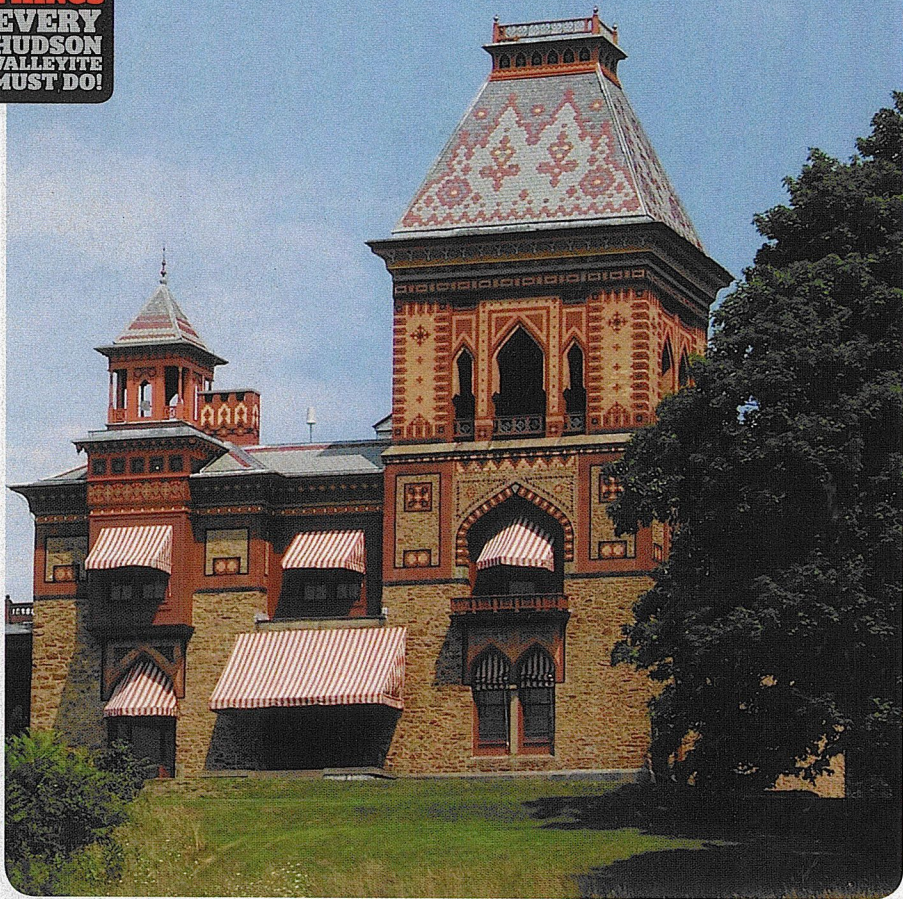


**25**  
**MORE**  
**THINGS**  
**EVERY**  
**HUDSON**  
**VALLEYITE**  
**MUST DO!**



**14**

## Visit Olana

Historic houses — while not exactly a dime a dozen — are certainly not difficult to come by here in the Valley. But Olana, Frederic Edwin Church's Persian-style home near Hudson, is different from those familiar Beaux Arts mansions and 18th-century Dutch stone structures. Church — a prominent member of the Hudson River School of painters — designed the building himself, after a family trip to the Middle East in the late 1860s. With its turrets, arches, and stencilled decoration, it took more than 20 years to build (and cost Church \$90,000, a veritable fortune in those days). Both a state and national historic site, the house is situated atop a high hill, so the building and its 250-acre grounds offer spectacular views of the Hudson and Catskills. Earlier this year, renovations to the mansion's second floor were completed; now visitors can tour the master bedroom (along with other second-floor rooms) for the first time since the 1960s.