

# the e list

An Excruciatingly Opinionated Guide to the Connecticut Shoreline

- SHOP
- CALENDAR
- EAT
- DISCOVER
- TRAVEL
- TOWN GUIDES



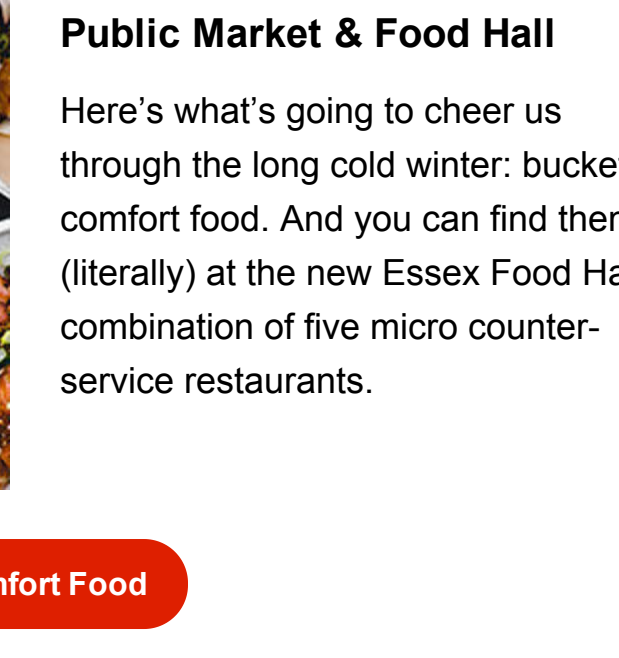
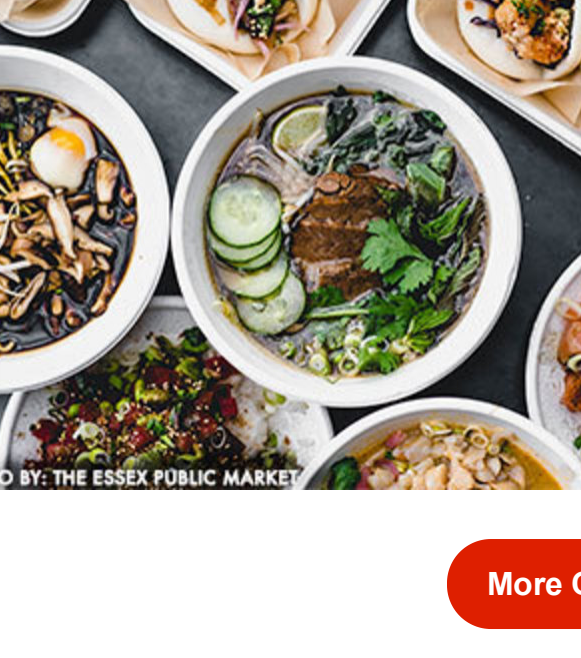
In a desperate attempt to get in the holiday spirit, I ventured forth last week and did a little shopping. As the virus has crept up in Connecticut, I've mostly stayed home, but COVID fatigue has hit me, too. It seems like I haven't seen the inside of a store in months, and it was so fun to actually look at lovely things. The shops I visited lacked the usual holiday bustle (mostly I was the only one), and precautions were in full effect. I checked almost everyone off my list and stashed a few extras in the gift closet. It felt good to support some of my favorite shops and gave me the lift I was after. As more local boutiques have launched e-commerce, you don't have to leave your house to help keep your go-tos in business, but if you're up for it, a couple of hours of browsing was just the retail therapy I needed.

See below for our gift guides.

Love, Erica



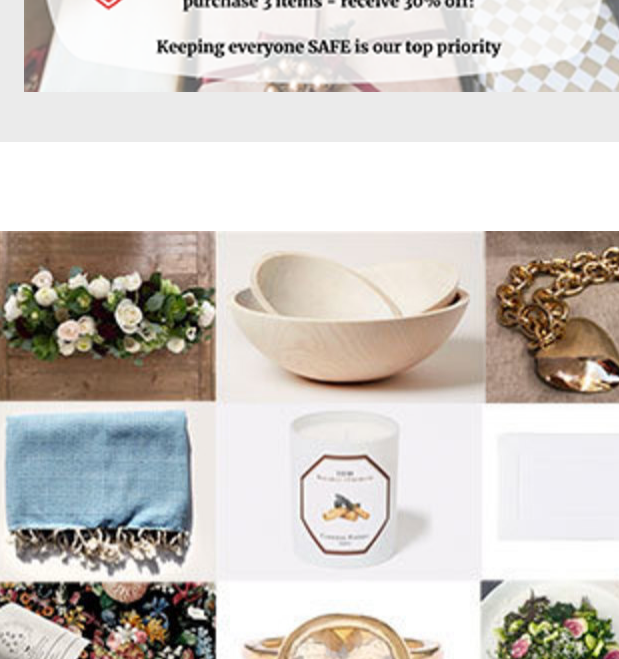
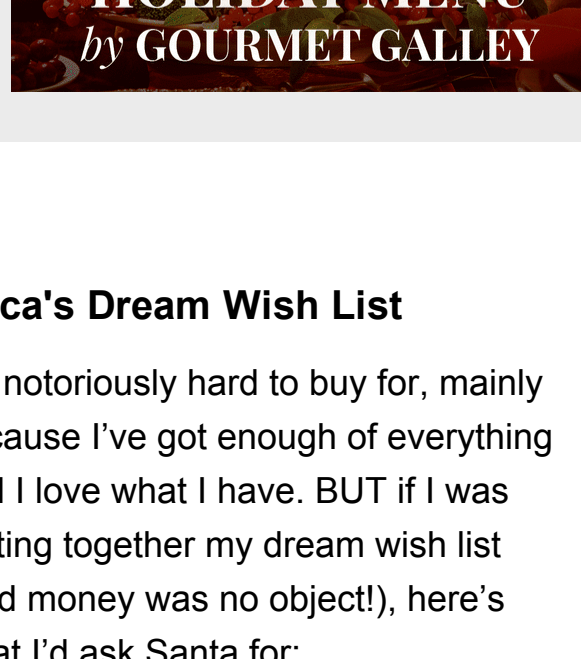
If you received this from a friend and would like your own weekly guide to the best of the Shoreline, [subscribe here](#).



## Span the Globe at The Essex Public Market & Food Hall

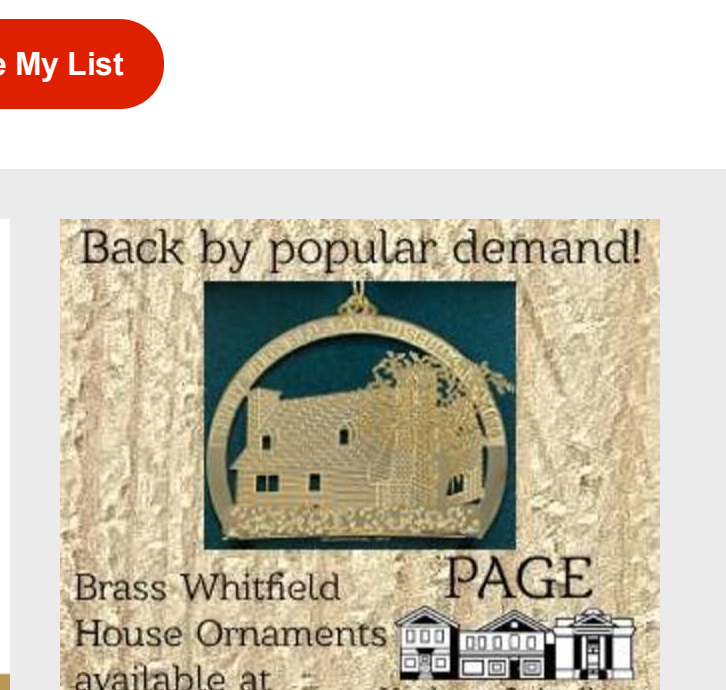
Here's what's going to cheer us through the long cold winter: buckets of comfort food. And you can find them (literally) at the new Essex Food Hall, a combination of five micro counter-service restaurants.

[More Comfort Food](#)

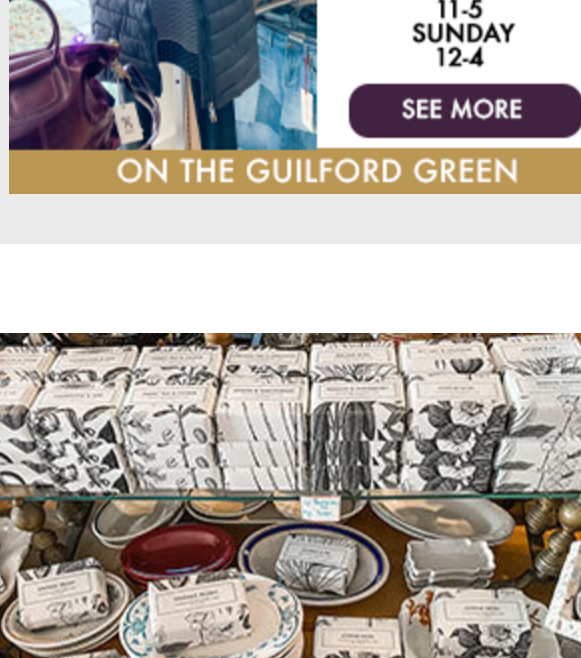


## Erica's Dream Wish List

I'm notoriously hard to buy for, mainly because I've got enough of everything and I love what I have. BUT if I was putting together my dream wish list (and money was no object!), here's what I'd ask Santa for:



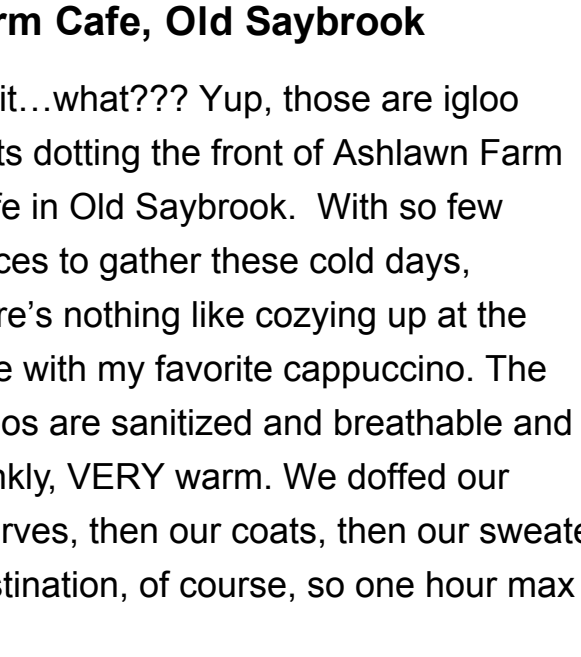
[See My List](#)



## Weekend Kitchen for the Holidays

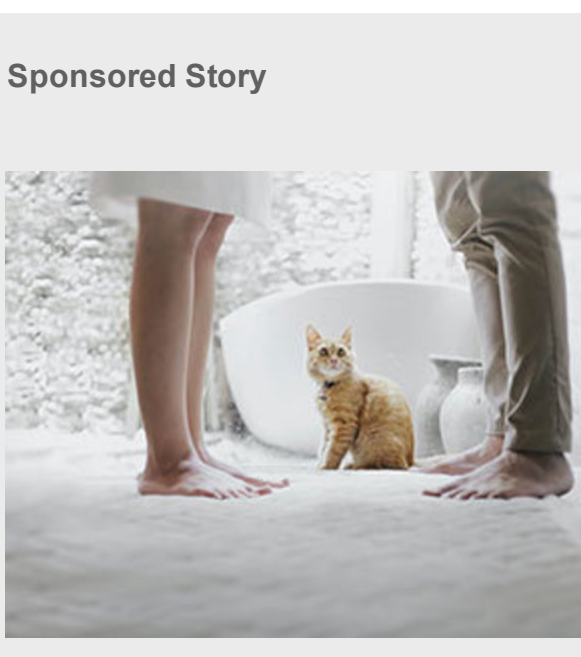
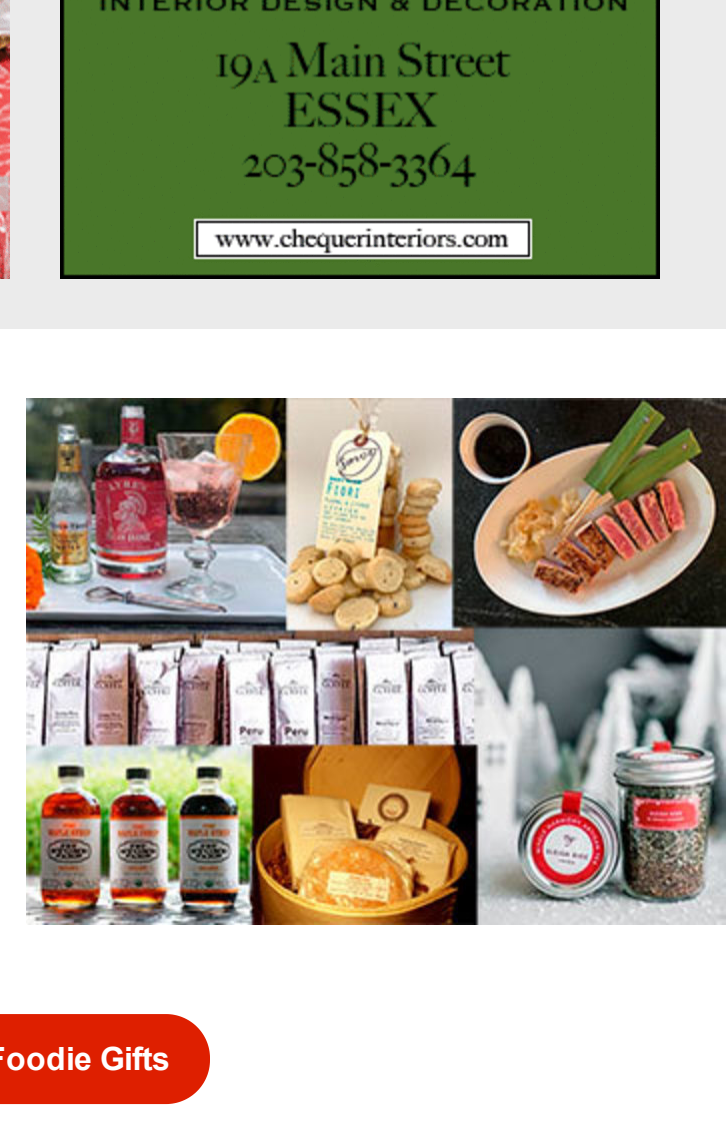
This is always one of my favorite spots for little gifts and stocking stuffers. Owner Nancy Kirkiles-Smith has packed the shop this season with antique silver spoons, gravy boats, and cordial glasses, plus a large stock of her own handmade letter-pressed greeting cards, lots of lovely soaps...

[See More Gifts](#)



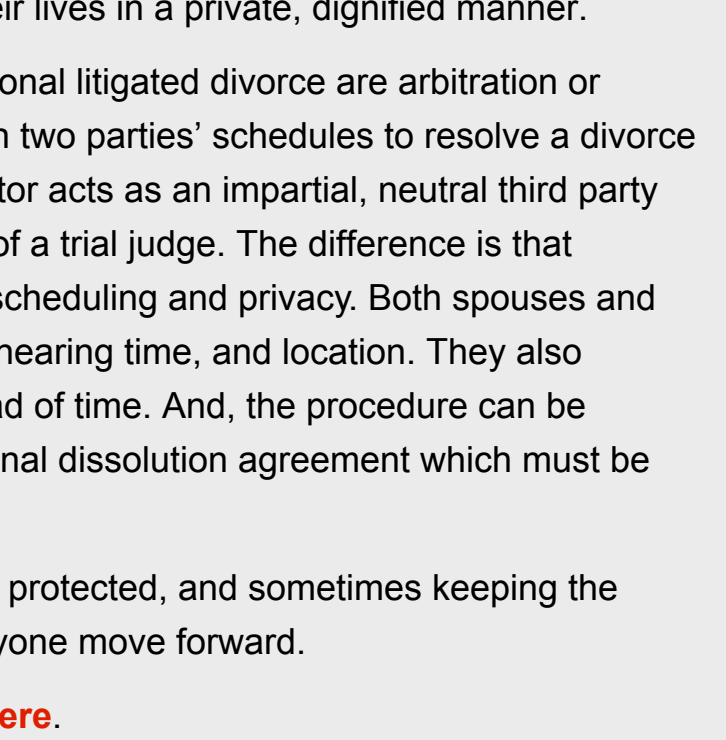
## Spotted: Igloos at the Ashlawn Farm Cafe, Old Saybrook

Wait...what??? Yup, those are igloo tents dotting the front of Ashlawn Farm Cafe in Old Saybrook. With so few places to gather these cold days, there's nothing like cozying up at the cafe with my favorite cappuccino. The igloos are sanitized and breathable and frankly, VERY warm. We doffed our scarves, then our coats, then our sweaters as the sun streamed in. They're a popular destination, of course, so one hour max per igloo.



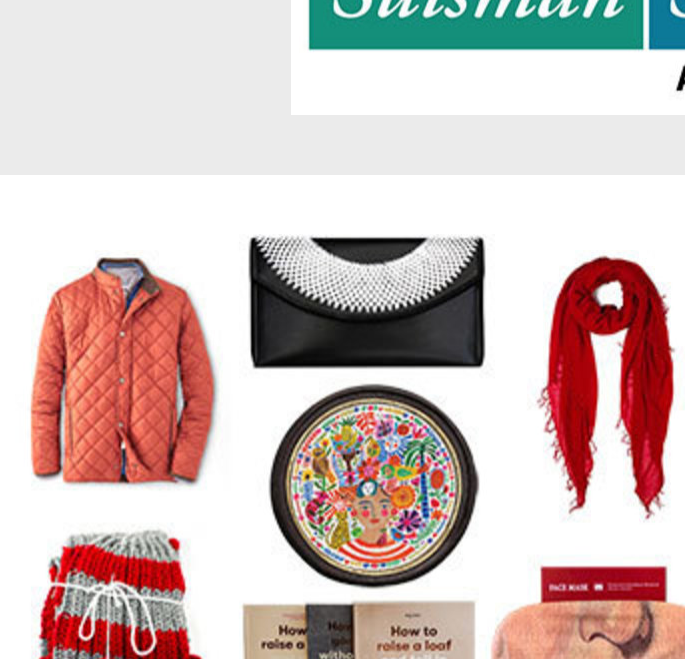
## Foodie Online (& Local) Gift Guide

When it comes to that impossible-to-buy-for friend or family member, consumables are the perfect answer. Here's a list of delights that supports local, too.



[More Foodie Gifts](#)

## Sponsored Story



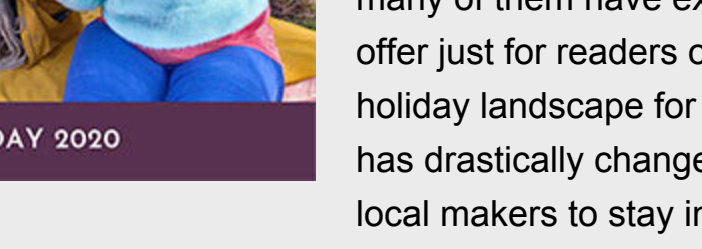
## Divorces Do Not Have to End Up in Court

Divorce is one of the most painful and emotionally charged experiences a couple can go through, and divorce through Connecticut's court system can take months of court appearances and stressful meetings. Most people simply want to move on with their lives in a private, dignified manner.

Two very effective alternatives to traditional litigated divorce are arbitration or mediation. An Arbitrator can work within two parties' schedules to resolve a divorce in just one or two sessions. The Arbitrator acts as an impartial, neutral third party decision-maker, similar to the function of a trial judge. The difference is that couples have much more control over scheduling and privacy. Both spouses and their attorneys agree on the Arbitrator, hearing time, and location. They also approve the rules and procedures ahead of time. And, the procedure can be completely confidential other than the final dissolution agreement which must be filed with the court.

With arbitration, your family's privacy is protected, and sometimes keeping the divorce simple and quiet can help everyone move forward.

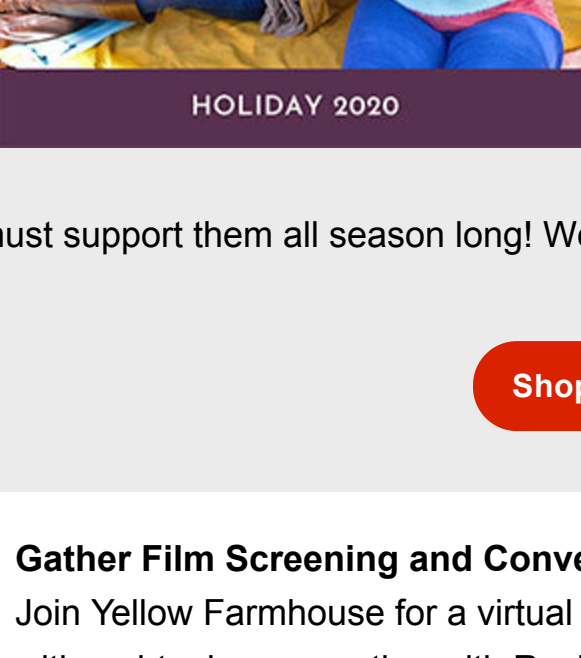
To learn more about arbitration, [click here](#).



## A Roundup of Local Online Gifts

Shop from the comfort of your couch and support these local businesses!

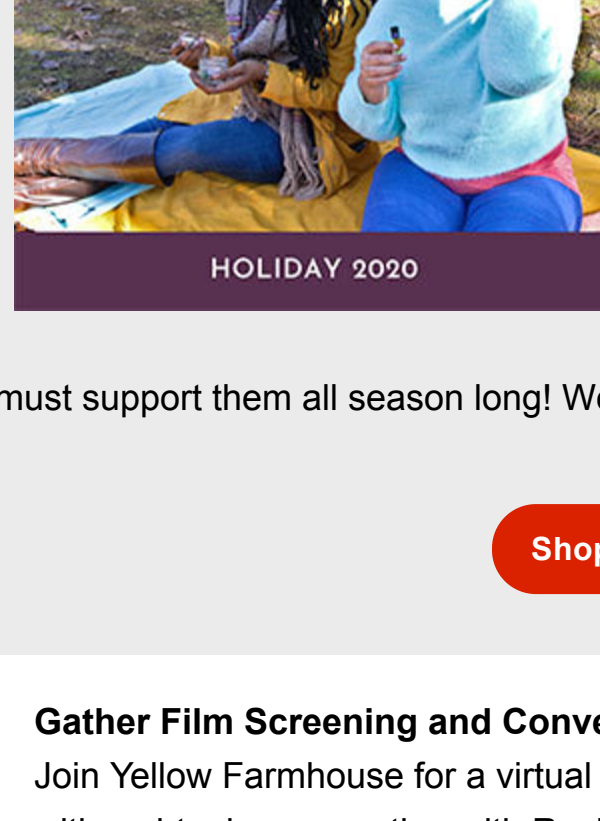
Here are a few of our favorite things.



[See More Gifts](#)

## From The E List Events Calendar

### Featured Event Listing



## Ladymade's 2020 Holiday 'Shop Small in CT' Guide

Join Ladymade in supporting local creative ladies by browsing their 2020 Holiday 'Shop Small in CT' guide. The guide is full of female makers, artisans, and business owners and many of them have extended a special offer just for readers of the guide. The holiday landscape for creative ladies has drastically changed; if we want our local makers to stay in business, we must support them all season long! We must shop small and shop often.

[Shop The Guide](#)

## Gather Film Screening and Conversation, 12/8

Join Virtual Farmhouse for a virtual screening of the new film *Gather* along with a virtual conversation with Rachel Beth Sayet, food educator, anthropologist, and member of the Mohegan Nation. [Read more...](#)

## The Great Restaurant Raffle, thru 12/18

Support local restaurants and win big by entering this raffle for dining gift certificates. [Read more...](#)

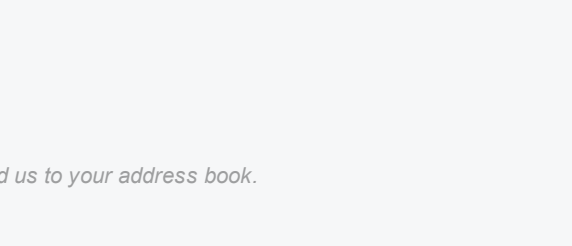
## Holiday Special Wednesdays in Old Saybrook, thru 12/23

A consortium of the best shops in Old Saybrook have organized Wednesday specials through December and a Ladies Night on December 9th. [Read more...](#)

## Wondering what else is happening? Find virtual happenings, safely distant and outdoor activities, plus more on The E List events calendar:

[BROWSE THE CALENDAR](#)

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