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SURF SHACK: Surfer Lakey Peterson's Beachfront Home
SAND AND DELIVER: The 15 Best Beaches for Oceanfront Living

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THE LUXURY COASTAL LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

July/August 2011

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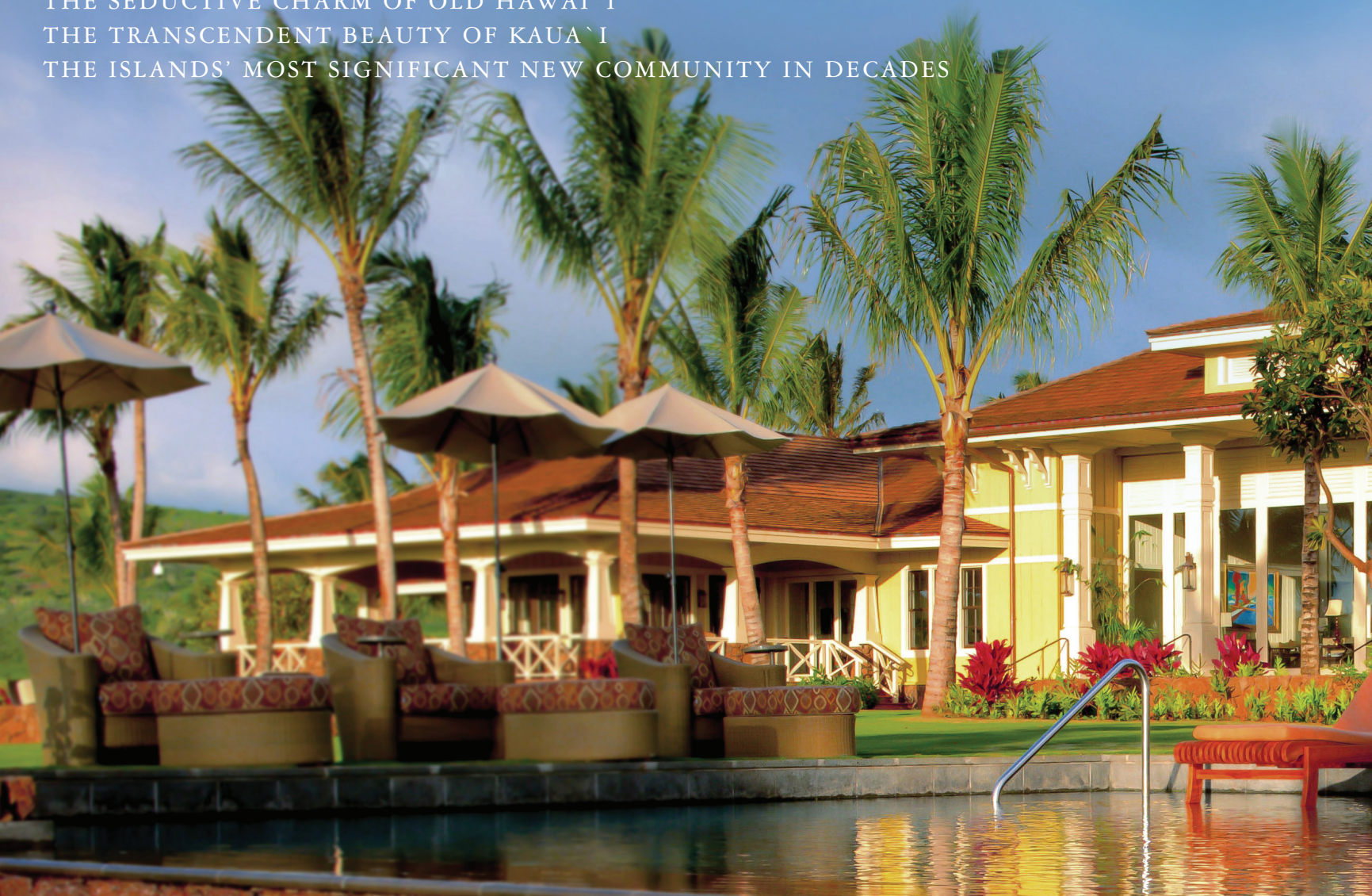




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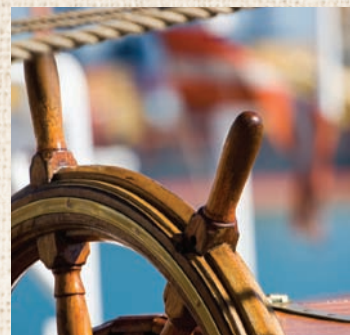
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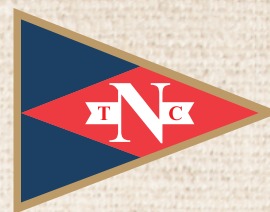
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52 THE BEST BEACHES

Fifteen of the finest beaches for oceanfront living, and a few ownership options to whet your appetite.
By DEBORAH GEIGER

60 HOME SHOW

Ocean Home joins forces with high-end home furnishings giant Frontgate and exclusive residential community MariSol Malibu to create the ultimate picture of luxury oceanfront living. By GERALD BECK

66 DISCOVERY ZONE

We explore the prolific archipelago of the Ecuadorian Coast's Galapagos Islands aboard Adventure Associates' intimate yacht *La Pinta*.
By LINDSAY LAMBERT

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Celeb chef and cookbook author Katie Lee.

ON THE COVER: An estate in Malibu's tony MariSol residential community, photographed by John Hildebrand. *Ocean Home* teamed up with MariSol and luxury home furnishings company Frontgate to stage a photo shoot for Frontgate's June catalog. See "Home Show," page 60, for more details. **THIS PAGE:** Espiritu Del Mar in San Jose Del Cabo, Mexico (villasdelmar.com). "The Best Beaches," page 52.

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Dream House

FOR THIS ISSUE, we were proud to partner with the folks at Frontgate (see page 60 for the whole story), whose catalogs you've no doubt received in the mail, and whose products you've probably coveted at some point. So have we, so when Frontgate approached us about helping their team find the ultimate oceanfront home in which to showcase their new summer collection, we were, well, honored. After all, the relationship between Frontgate's products and our mission here at *Ocean Home*—to bring our readers the latest news, tips, and styles relating to the luxury oceanfront lifestyle—seemed like a natural marriage, so it was especially exciting for us to be involved in the creative process leading up to the release of their June catalog. Our team ventured to sunny Malibu, working closely with Frontgate's staff, talented stylists and photographers, and executives from the luxury living community MariSol Malibu, the location of the spectacular home we chose as the setting for our photo shoot. For Frontgate, the weeklong shoot produced a beautiful display of its summer collection. For us at *Ocean Home*, it meant a chance to live out one of our dreams: to play dress-up with a breathtaking beachfront home. We hope you'll enjoy the finished product, both in the pages of Frontgate's summer catalog and this issue of *Ocean Home*.

In addition, this issue, as in years past, brings you the low-down on the top 15 beaches for oceanfront living (page 52)—just in case you're in the market for an investment property or a new pad on the beach for personal use. Plus, our writers journeyed to the Bahamas (page 20), Curacao (page 44), and beyond to bring you the latest news in luxury travel. I myself am just back from a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Galapagos Islands, which you can read about on page 66. Here's hoping our world travels inspire your own adventures, both at home and abroad. —**Lindsay Lambert, Editor**



CORRECTION

In "The Top 25" (May/June, page 56), listing agent Gerry Conover was incorrectly identified as Garret Conover. On page 66, the property listed in La Jolla, CA, is actually in Malibu.



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Join in on discussions about the magazine, talk with other readers, submit story ideas and travel trends, post images of ocean homes, and share real estate happenings in your part of the world. Also, check out regular blogs from our team of experts on the road and out in the field. And be sure to click on our digital flipbook, where you can read the magazine online and watch exclusive videos about the people, properties, and locations in this issue.



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①

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③

Contributors

① **ALISON SEIFFER** Illustrator Alison Seiffer's work ("Even Exchange," page 50) has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Time*, and *The New York Times*. She won *Adweek's* Creative All-Star award for her work on a Levi's Women's Wear ad campaign. Seiffer lives in Montauk, New York. ② **TOM PLOCH** Works by photographer Tom Ploch ("Boarding House," page 36) have been published in *LUXE*, *Haute Living*, and *Architectural Digest*. Ploch lives in Santa Barbara and shoots architecture and landscapes in the Western U.S., Canada, and Mexico. His work can be seen at thomasplochproductions.com. ③ **ERIC ROTH** Boston-based photographer Roth ("Breathing Room," page 26) has collaborated with designers, architects, craftsmen, and artists for books and magazines worldwide; he also publishes books on his own and exhibits his fine art photography. View Roth's work at ericrothphoto.com.

OceanHome

The Luxury Coastal Lifestyle Magazine

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Opening

Maldivian Mystique

Debuting in April,
Park Hyatt Maldives
Hadahaa is the first Hyatt
hotel in the Maldives.



HYATT HIDEAWAY

Sea and sky meet in the Maldives.
See page 14.



MAJESTIC MEXICO
Playa Viva.

Viva La Playa!

Playa Viva brings sustainable luxury living to the western coast of Mexico. By **Melissa Gillespie**

COMBINING SIMPLE ELEGANCE with natural beauty and a commitment to improving the environment, Playa Viva is a sustainable boutique hotel located on the western coast of Mexico. Nestled between the sparkling waters of the Pacific Ocean and the majestic Sierra Madre Mountains near the village of Juluchuca, Playa Viva is situated on a mile of private beach.

Guests will soon be able to enjoy the rugged, unspoiled beauty of Mexico from the comfort of Playa Viva's new eco casitas. As part of a funding partnership with Con-

servation International's Verde Ventures fund, Playa Viva is adding three new eco casitas. These casitas will retain the current style of open-air cabanas—powered by off-grid solar and utilizing a waste-water-management system.

The new casitas will have 350 square feet of indoor living space, plus an extra 150 square feet in terrace space. Each eco casita has one bedroom and a private bathroom with floor-to-ceiling sliding doors that open up to unobstructed ocean views. The accommodations will be built with sustainably harvested local "bocote" and palm timber, and finished with

granite sinks from Cuernavaca, handmade brass fittings from San Miguel de Allende, copper light fixtures from Santa Clara del Cobre, and other locally sourced fixtures and design elements.

Playa Viva's nearly 200 acres includes an estuary, an Aztec archeological site, a turtle sanctuary, and a coastal forest and mangrove ecosystem, which supports an array of stunning wildlife. The new casitas are scheduled for completion in October 2011. Existing all-inclusive accommodations range from \$195-795 per night. playaviva.com.

Bimini Buildup

Conrad Hotels & Resorts, Hilton Worldwide's global luxury brand, will raise its flag on the island of North Bimini, Bahamas, in 2013. Heralded for its flats fishing and often referred to as the "Gateway to the Bahamas," the island of Bimini offers travelers and boaters a luxury vacation

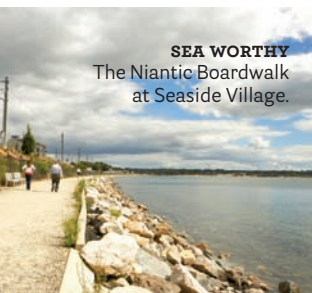


TRUE BLUE
Conrad Bimini Resort & Casino.



experience just 48 miles off the coast of South Florida. The **Conrad Bimini Resort & Casino** will be part of the existing seaside village, Bimini Bay Resort. The planned hotel will offer 250 luxurious guest rooms, 160 residences, several fine restaurants, an elegant marina, a spa, and a casino. biminiresort.com.

Playa Viva rendering, Lewis Architects

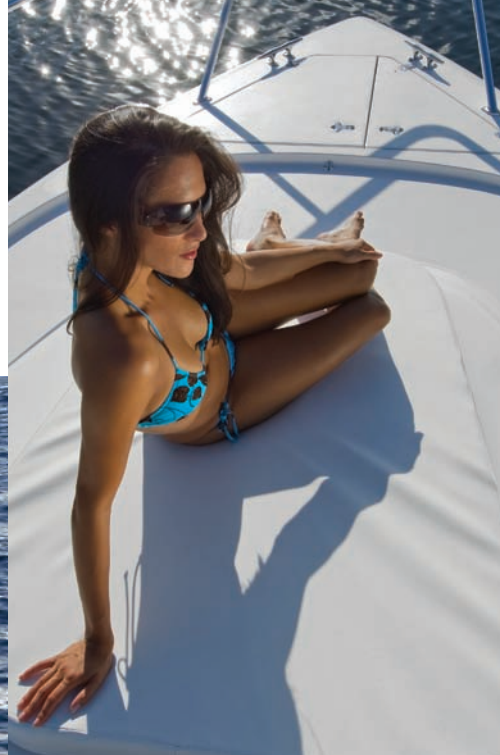


SEA WORTHY
The Niantic Boardwalk at Seaside Village.

NORTHEASTERN CHARM

Seaside Village is a growing community of beautifully crafted townhomes and condominium flats in Niantic, Connecticut. Construction has begun on first-floor master townhome residences, which are available for pre-sale now. The three-bedroom residences include vaulted ceilings, walk-in closets, granite countertops, and hardwood floors. The vibrant community of Niantic is lined with cozy shops, high-quality restaurants, and a community boardwalk, all within walking distance of Seaside Village. Residents enjoy a charming, small-town way of life with every convenience within reach. The development anticipates a fall 2011 opening with prices ranging from \$184,900 to \$415,000. seasideniantic.com.

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Maldivian Escape

Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa is the first Hyatt hotel in the Maldives. Opened in April, the hotel offers 50 villas with private decks. Designed by SCDA Architects of Singapore, the villa interiors include natural timber and stone in a minimalist design.



NEW HORIZONS
Park Hyatt Maldives
Hadahaa.

Fourteen of the 50 villas are elevated over the Indian Ocean with views of the Maldivian horizon. The other 36 villas feature intimate gardens with outdoor baths and rain showers; some have plunge pools. Less than 30 steps from the water, the villas provide complete privacy. The property also features two specialty restaurants, a poolside bar, 24-hour in-villa dining, a fitness center, multiple swimming pools, and a PADI dive center. Activities range from kayaking and snorkeling to cooking lessons, dolphin watching, and guided visits to local artisan villages. parkhyatt.com.

Black Sea Beauty

Thracian Cliffs Golf & Spa is Bulgaria's newest retreat.

PERCHED ABOVE THE BLACK SEA and carefully integrated into the existing environment, Thracian Cliffs Golf & Spa welcomed its first guests in June. The resort offers the ultimate blend of traditional local architecture and luxurious seafront amenities.

Located in Cape Kaliakra, Bulgaria, Thracian Cliffs Golf & Spa contains two villages, separated by a lake but located within walking distance of each other. The Marina Village offers 64 one-, two-, and three-bedroom residences, each with spectacular views of the Black Sea. The Hillside Village features 87 studio, one-, two-, or three-bedroom residences, all with views of the golf course against a Black Sea backdrop. Each residence features individual air-conditioning and heating, a spacious living area, Wi-Fi, a fully equipped kitchenette, and a private balcony.

The 18-hole Gary Player-designed signature golf course dominates the resort, covering 164 hectares of rugged terrain above the sea. The golf course has been sculpted to fit perfectly into this area, and sea views are



ON COURSE
Thracian Cliffs
Golf & Spa.

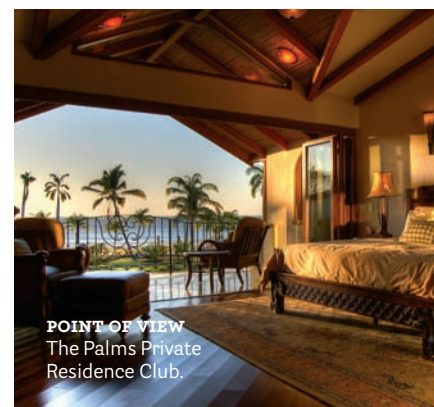
abundant. Multiple tees on every hole promise to challenge players of all levels.

In addition to golf, guests enjoy numerous amenities, including four infinity pools, a full-service spa and fitness center, a kids' club, and multiple restaurants. The Thracian Kids' Club provides entertainment for younger guests with activities ranging from horseback riding and tennis to bird watching and cultural tours. The area is also an ideal destination for the eco-friendly tourist, as most of the Cape is part of the Kaliakra Nature Reserve.

A select number of resort residences are available for ownership with prices starting at \$222,000. thraciancliffs.com.

PRIVACY, PLEASE

The North Pacific area of Costa Rica has become a favorite destination for tourists and retirees and an intriguing market for real estate investors. Now, a new real estate option is available for buyers—**The Palms Private Residence Club**. Situated on Playa Flamingo, one of Costa Rica's most exclusive beaches, owners have an abundance of activities at their fingertips, including scuba diving, snorkeling, fishing, and surfing. The Palms is a private, member-owned residence club designed to offer owners unlimited, flexible usage of the Club's luxurious furnished villas and variety of amenities. The development employed natural Costa Rican materials combined with old-world craftsmanship to create a stunning oasis on the coveted Pacific shores of Costa Rica (see page 22 for more info). Each of the 32 residences offers two-story, two-bedroom villas with 2,300 square feet of space and panoramic Pacific views. Ownership starts at \$129,000. palmscostarica.com.



POINT OF VIEW
The Palms Private
Residence Club.

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EXTREME MAKEOVER

Located between Fort Lauderdale and Boca Raton, Florida, the 172-room **Wyndham Deerfield Beach Resort** completed a total renovation in April. The interiors and exteriors of the beachfront property were completely rejuvenated, bringing floor-to-ceiling ocean views to the hotel's eight floors. Additional room upgrades include granite counters, complimentary wired and wireless Internet, and flat-screen TVs. The sun-soaked lobby boasts modern furniture, an oversized flat-screen TV, a stunning ocean view, and a mother-of-pearl-mosaic wall that echoes the shells dotting the beach. Amenities include a heated outdoor pool, a health and fitness center, valet and concierge services, a business center, and nightly entertainment. Good news for travelers with their four-legged friends: Wyndham Deerfield Beach Resort is also pet-friendly. wyndhamdeerfieldresort.com.



INTO THE BLUE
Wyndham Deerfield
Beach Resort.

Trump Takes Panama

The Trump Hotel Collection has made its way to Latin America with the July debut of **Trump Ocean Club International Hotel & Tower Panama**. Trump Ocean Club is perched above Panama Bay, providing views of the ocean and Pearl Islands. The vision of architect Arias Serna Saravia and developer Newland International Properties Corp., the 70-story tower—the country's tallest—features 369 spacious hotel rooms and suites and two floors of exclusive-brand boutiques and shops. Further distinguishing Trump Panama is a private beach club—accessible by resort catamaran—where guests can play a round at the 18-hole course, socialize at the yacht club, and peruse designer boutiques. The Spa at Trump offers extensive treatments and therapies, as well as a fully equipped gym and a juice bar. The artistry of its design and the tower's majestic stature are sure to make Trump Panama an architectural icon for Central America. trumppanamahotel.com.



CLUB HOPPING
The Quintess Collection.

Complete Collection

The Quintess Collection opens doors to international luxury digs.

TRAVEL TO MORE of the places you've always wanted to go, and experience them with local knowledge and private access via the newly launched destination collection from Club Holdings, LLC. The Quintess Collection, made up of Quintess, DUO by Quintess, and THE TOUR CLUB, which debuted in May, provides access to over 100 luxury homes and experiences in more than 40 destinations worldwide. Members benefit from customized travel planning, exclusive

relationships with private clubs and resorts, and the expertise of destination hosts.

Quintess, the Collection's flagship destination club, gives members access to exceptional homes and caters to larger groups. It offers more than 50 luxury residences in multiple vacation destinations, such as Los Cabos, Napa Valley, and Tuscany. Also available in the collection, DUO by Quintess offers access to residences with an average value of \$2 million, ideal for members who don't always need the largest homes but still want to travel to the world's best destinations. Launched in late 2010, DUO by Quintess has more than 15 luxury residences in more than 10 destinations, including Hawaii and South Beach, Florida. THE TOUR CLUB offers the world's most coveted benefits in the world of golf through a strategic alliance with the PGA Tour. Members can travel to residences at top golf resorts and country clubs, enjoy unprecedented privileges at 35 Tournament Players Clubs, play some of the finest private clubs in America, and get behind-the-scenes access to PGA Tour events.

Membership fees for The Quintess Collection starts at \$59,000, with annual dues of \$17,150 for 21 nights. With Quintess Collection access, members select Quintess or DUO by Quintess as their "home" club and have the flexibility to use nights across all three clubs within the Collection. thequintesscollection.com.



LUXE LIFE
Trump Panama.

form and function are **one** Frank Lloyd Wright



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THE DETAILS: \$8,300,000, Gregory Graham, Graham Real Estate, 242-356-5030, grahamrealestate.com

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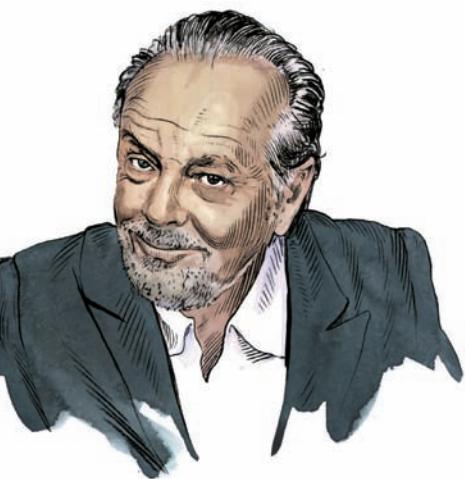
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Market Watch

A SHINING OPPORTUNITY

Jack Nicholson's Malibu estate is now on the market for \$4.25 million. The 2,313-square-foot ranch-style home boasts views of the Pacific and the mountains and includes a tennis court, a putting green, a swimming pool, a spa, and over 50 acres to enjoy the great outdoors.

GONE IN 60 SECONDS

It took closer to three years, but **Nicolas Cage** finally sold his Middleton, Rhode Island, mansion for \$6.2 million after originally putting it on the market for \$15.9 million. The enormous 24,000-square-foot manor has 12 bedrooms and 10 baths and now belongs to a couple from Cape Cod.

LIZ'S LAIR The Miami Beach home where the late **Elizabeth Taylor** used to vacation with her fiancé's family is now available to buy or rent. The six-bedroom, seven-bathroom waterfront property is on the market for \$13.9 million.



BERRY GOOD: Little Whale Cay in the Bahamas' Berry Islands.



Bahamian Bliss

Escape to Little Whale Cay, a private island hideaway with a relaxed rhythm all its own.

IT'S NO WONDER Bahamian pioneer Wallace Groves made Little Whale Cay his home during the 1930s. This little slice of paradise in the Bahamas' Berry Islands is a private hideaway skirted by unspoiled beaches, dramatic rocky outcrop, and idyllic turquoise waters. Just a 15-minute flight from Nassau, Little Whale Cay might as well be worlds away.

As many as 12 guests are accommodated in three elegant homes. Little Whale House, the main house and gathering spot, has two bedrooms, a study, a bar, and a formal dining room. Flamingo House includes four bedrooms, a cozy living room, and a terrace.

Peacock House is quaint, with a king master suite and a spectacular ocean view.

While meandering through the island's bougainvillea- and tree-lined pathways, guests may happen upon a friendly peacock or the resident flock of pink flamingos. Sunny days call for strolls along the main beach, taking a dip in the oceanfront infinity-edge pool, or venturing into the sea in a kayak. The island also offers boats for skiing, sailing, or fishing, as well as a fitness center, tennis court, spa treatments, and a chapel.

Breezy evenings are best spent sipping cocktails on the terrace while watching the sunset. Meals, prepared per guests' request by a private chef with fresh organic fish, vegetables, and fruit, may be enjoyed in the formal dining room, on an outdoor terrace, by the pool, or on the beach. A dedicated staff lives on the island to answer guests' every need. A minimum five-night stay is required; seven nights during the Christmas holiday. littlewhalecay.com. —**Kara Renee**



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BEAUTY AND THE BEACH
Gorgeous grounds at the Palms
Private Residence Club.

Palms Perfection

A private residence club in Costa Rica gives residents a taste of the good life. By **Scott Kauffman**

ONE OF THE most popular phrases associated with Costa Rica is “Pura Vida.” Much like “Aloha” in Hawaiian, “Pura Vida” has multiple meanings, one of which is “pure life” or “good life.”

One real estate setting that epitomizes this Costa Rican catch phrase is the new Palms Private Residence Club, a 34-villa enclave in Costa Rica’s prime northwest Pacific region of Guanacaste, on exclusive Playa Flamingo. What makes the project particularly compelling is that it features one of Costa Rica’s true oceanfront resort-style settings.

Real estate developer/investor Bob Spence discovered the Palms in 2005 and knew it had great potential for a second-home destination, with its rare secluded location, stable political environment, and ease of access via Liberia International Airport.

Of the 34 villas, 32 boast 2,300 square feet of space with two bedrooms, three baths, a

dining room, and a kitchen with a Sub-Zero refrigerator and Viking appliances. A pair of 3,000-square-foot, three-bedroom villas are scheduled to be completed in November.

After completing some \$18 million in infrastructure at the end of 2010, Spence started marketing the Palms just a few months ago as wholly owned units and part of an upscale maintenance-free private residence club. Whole ownership costs start at \$1.2 million per villa; the private residence club is priced at \$129,000 for 1/10th shares and \$149,000 for 1/8th shares.

“What you’re seeing is quality projects like Papagayo and ours doing well,” says Spence. “People still want to go to Costa Rica. When they go there, they’re infatuated with it. So the high-end quality facilities are the ones that are going to get traction. The lower-end ones are the ones that are going to have a tougher time. Just like it is in the U.S.”

Must Sea

SAIA AT B OCEAN Situated at the chic new B Ocean Fort Lauderdale, SAIA is the only sushi restaurant on Fort Lauderdale Beach. Named for its location on the corner of Sunrise Boulevard and A1A, SAIA features communal-style dining, an open-air kitchen, sushi, sake, signature cocktails, and more. Entering the restaurant, which boasts panoramic beach views, patrons are transported to the markets of Thailand, with aromas of the spice trade wafting from its Teppanyaki grill. Diverse seating options add to SAIA’s approachability; innovative high-top seating is ideal for small groups and can be combined for a more communal feel. SAIA’s kitchen staff is led by Chef Subin Chenkorsorn, former assistant sushi chef at The Delano Hotel on Miami Beach. SAIA is open daily for dinner only. B Ocean Fort Lauderdale features 240 all-white guestrooms, a fitness center and spa suite, 8,000 square feet of meeting and event facilities, an infinity-edge pool, and a full-service bistro restaurant and wine bar led by Chef Holli Ugalde, winner of Season 7 of “Hell’s Kitchen.” bocéanfortlauderdale.com.



IN THE RAW
SAIA at B Ocean.



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MAKING WAVES

The Riva *Aquariva* by Gucci.
See page 38.



SUNSHINE ESTATE: Clockwise from top, the rear of the home and the pool; white walls and bright art; a dining nook; tropical landscape; and a floating staircase.

Breathing Room

A family's Captiva Island vacation home showcases their beloved travel memories and affinity for the ocean in a bright and airy space. By **Regina Cole**

"THIS HOUSE IS all about the ocean," says Boston-area interior designer Mark Christofi. "That's why it's here: to serve as a vacation home for a busy family that loves to be by the sea. That made the planning and the building easy."

Not only did Christofi develop the exterior and interior plan for this house on Florida's Captiva Island, but executing it was a rare event: a building project without drama. "When we began work on this house, we had nothing to decide," Christofi says, adding that the homeowners wanted to incorporate memories from their travels, especially to South America; that they prefer contemporary design but love to mix it up with antiques; and that they value quality. "They buy things that are well-made and well-designed; they wanted this house to be like their best pieces," Christofi says.

The result is a house whose stepped terraces, block-like mass, and pyramidal rooflines mimic Mayan architecture. Visitors approach the home via a driveway made of crushed seashells. Its orientation is toward the back of the house, where the Atlantic Ocean laps at the property's edge. But that ocean orientation is not only visual, but technical: lighting on the water side is very low in order to avoid disorientating sea turtles returning to the ocean after laying their eggs.

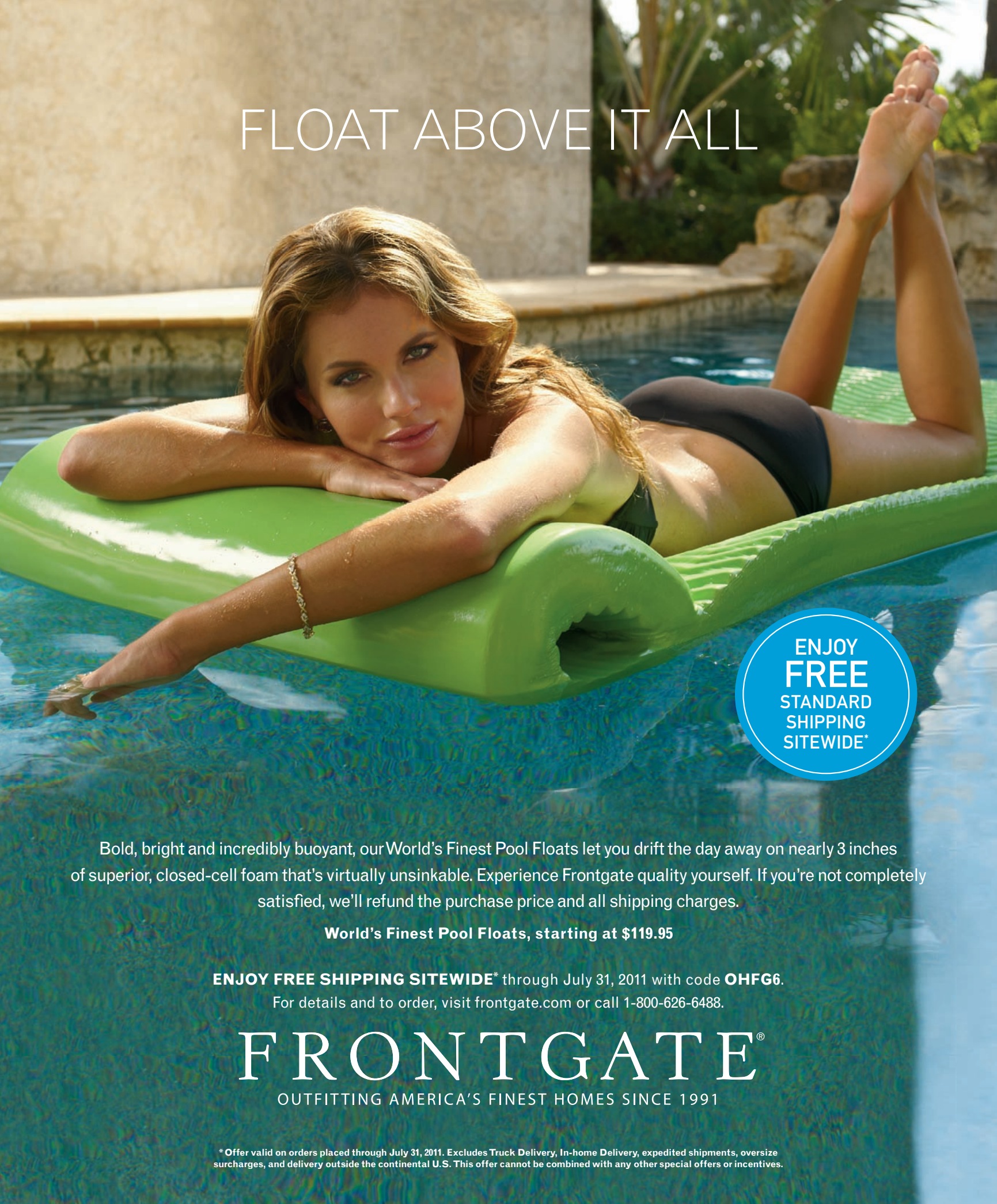
That nature-based sensibility informs every element: The house is entirely built of mahogany, and other materials include marine-grade stainless-steel and limestone. The base of a walnut-topped table looks like a tree trunk.

The interior is bright with white-painted vertical board, a foil for a collection that includes a Nakashima coffee table, Bauhaus chairs, and a custom kitchen island designed to resemble a picnic table. The main building's first floor features an open living room that includes a formal dining area and a media center. The master bedroom and bath occupy the second story. The kitchen and children's rooms are located in the attached sections that encircle the patio and pool.

"The landscaping was created with big trees," Christofi says. "It looks as though the house and the yard have been there for a long time as a hidden bit of old Florida."

According to the homeowners, the best thing about their Captiva house is the sense of space.

"Not in the sense that it's huge, but rather that the interior feels spacious and as though things aren't crowded together. There's room between things, which makes them look better," they say. "That, after all, is one of the things we look for in our vacations—breathing room."



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Hot Tubbing

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SURE, YOUR OCEANFRONT HOME is complete with a pristine swimming pool and a seaview Jacuzzi, but sometimes nothing quite does the trick like a soak in a warm, bubbly bath—the traditional kind, that is. Baths can have therapeutic powers, and ladies and gents alike are known to log extensive hours in the bathroom, that sanctuary of personal care and privacy. With all that time spent soaking away your worries, a stylish, state-of-the-art tub (or shower, if that's more your style) is a must.

One company making waves in the business of bathroom design is The Zuccheti.Kos Group of Italy, which in 2011 turned out new collections at European trade shows. In March, Kos unveiled LOOP, a multifunctional shower cabin, and the Geo 170x70 Freestanding bathtub, both designed by Ludovica and Roberto Palomba. At the same time, Zucchetti debuted Sun, a range of tapware designed by Zuccheti.Kos R&D, and Showers, a series of wall- and ceiling-mounted shower heads designed by the Palombas.

A signature of Zuccheti.Kos is the geometric shapes of their sinks, show-



BATH TIME
The Zuccheti.Kos
Geo 170x70.

ers, and tubs. Freestanding models play a role in the bathroom that's seemingly more aesthetic than functional, bringing a whole new element of enjoyment to the bathing ritual.

One particularly elegant model from the Faraway collection is the Vis-à-Vis freestanding bathtub, whose form, Zuccheti.Kos insiders say, "explores new ergonomics while saving energy and water by geometrically expanding or shrinking to suit the comfort level required." At the very least, it's an envi-

ronmentally friendly tub that happens to be, simply put, beautiful.

But if it's that al fresco Jacuzzi whose effervescence you hope to duplicate indoors, Kos's Minipool, also from the Faraway collection, can't be beat. According to Kos designers, the Minipool was intended to be the centerpiece of what they call the "concept spa": a home bathroom that's "no longer a ritual place, but a space dedicated to a multi-sensory well-being." For clients, that means a tub that integrates function and aesthetics, wherein "typically functional items are transformed into geometric details of great beauty." For instance, "the floor-level overspill doubles the perimeter line of the tub, and the fan generates a ripple that runs all the way across the water for the whole length of the tub: a unique form of wellness for indoor or outdoor living."

Whatever style you choose, you're guaranteed to get one hot tub. *zuccheti.kos.com*. —L.L.

THE GET ZUCCHETTI RAIN SHOWER HEADS



Who can say for sure what it is about rain shower heads that implies luxury? Perhaps the gentle, concentrated pressure they employ, or the sheer quantity of water they disperse compared to standard options. Maybe it's our natural connection to real rain. Whatever lies behind the appeal, Zucchetti offers the evocative shower accessory in an array of styles. We'd love to get soaked under the chic round and rectangular versions designed by Ludovica and Roberto Palomba. The heads are outlined with a vaguely industrial-looking rim, yet they deliver a soft but firm deluge of water that's guaranteed to wash away your cares. *zuccheti.kos.com*.



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THE DISH
Organic Garden
Landscape Salad.



Garden Greens

At L'Escalier, the signature restaurant at The Breakers Palm Beach, Chef Greg Vassos cultivates an Organic Garden Landscape Salad.

WHEN THIS UNIQUE DISH first arrives at the table, it is often greeted by a guest's raised eyebrows. Greg Vassos, chef at The Breakers Palm Beach, relishes this reaction, as his aim in creating the Organic Garden Landscape Salad was no less than to remind diners—and home cooks—of the gardens from where its ingredients came.

"I wanted to create a garden on a plate," said Vassos, which is not a surprise, considering that he spends a good amount of time in the resort's own 2,000-square-foot organic garden. "My mission is for every single guest

to savor a dining experience unlike any other. I want to challenge the palate with new savory ideas, and for the eyes to be wowed."

Wowed they are, and so are cooks who choose to replicate the "garden" at home. With the potato risotto as the base, Vassos experienced much trial and error before deciding to use porcini mushroom dough to represent the "soil" in the dish. After placing the baby vegetables as if they are sprouting up through the earth, the dish is completed with a "garden rake" and microgreens. —*Lisa Rogak*

Organic Garden Landscape Salad

SERVES 4

- 1 c.** Idaho potato, finely diced
- 2½ oz.** heavy cream
- 1½ oz.** grated Parmesan cheese
- 10½ oz.** all-purpose flour
- 3 oz.** confectioner's sugar
- 6½ oz.** ground dried porcini mushrooms
- 1 tsp.** sea salt
- 14 oz.** unsalted butter, softened
- 4** petite carrots, peeled
- 4** petite turnips, peeled
- 4** ears baby corn, peeled and quartered
- 12** asparagus tops, peeled
- 12** morel mushrooms, washed
- 1 tbsp.** unsalted butter
- 2** egg whites
- ½ c.** all-purpose flour
- Microgreens for garnish

Blanch potatoes in boiling salted water for 1 minute. Place in a small pot and add heavy cream. Cook over medium heat to reduce cream and until potatoes are al dente. Stir in Parmesan and set aside. To make the porcini dough, combine flour, sugar, ground mushrooms, and salt in large bowl. Add butter and mix with hands to form a dough. Roll porcini dough into a cylinder, wrap in plastic wrap, and freeze. When dough has frozen, remove from plastic wrap and grate on a box grater over a non-stick cookie sheet. Bake in a preheated 200-degree oven for 20 minutes.

In the meantime, blanch carrot, turnip, corn, asparagus, and morels in salted boiling water until al dente. Drain. Add butter, sprinkle with salt, and set aside. To make the garden rake, mix egg whites and flour in small bowl to form a paste. Spoon paste into a small plastic storage bag. Cut a very fine tip off the corner of the bag and pipe the paste onto a non-stick baking sheet to form a rake. Sprinkle with sea salt and bake at 350 degrees for 5 minutes.

To serve, spoon the potato risotto onto a serving platter, and sprinkle the porcini dough on top to resemble dirt. Arrange vegetables and rake so they are standing up in the soil. Scatter some microgreens on top of the "garden."



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Chair Play

Adirondack styles to outfit your beach-front patio.

Recognizable by their low rise, backward-sloping seats, fan-shaped backs, and wide, flat arm rests (ideal for holding a frozen cocktail or a plate of gourmet picnic fare), Adirondack chairs have long been a quintessential symbol of summertime, especially in relatively rural locations that enjoy four distinct seasons. Lucky you, then, that your ocean-front home enjoys more sunny, balmy, breezy days than most, which means more time spent lazing in the all-American armchairs in the great outdoors. While original versions of the sturdy seats were most often made from wood—making their practicality somewhat limited—nowadays, weather-safe options are on the increase. So don't let the heat, humidity, or sea spray be deterrents when furnishing your patio. With new, low-maintenance versions made from plastic lumber and engineered wood, splintering, fading, rotting, and just plain falling apart are once-annoying issues now relegated to the past. Pull up a chair and stay a while. *Rocky River Rondack Company modern composite Adirondack chair, \$369 (ottoman sold separately), rondackchairs.com. —L.L.*



Editor's Picks

Take a seat in three more Adirondack chairs we loved.

- ① Westminster teak Adirondack chair, MSRP \$954, westminsterteak.com.
- ② Brookstone eucalyptus Adirondack chair, \$199.95, and footrest, \$59.95, brookstone.com.
- ③ Adams Natural Cedar cedar Adirondack chair, \$329, cedarwoodfurniture.com.



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OUT AND ABOUT
An al fresco living room with pergola.

Inside Out

Outdoor Greatroom Company experts weigh in on creating the ultimate al fresco living space. By **Lindsay Gabrielski**

WHETHER IT'S TO ENJOY the spectacular view, soft ocean breezes, or the warm sun on your face, you likely spend the majority of time at your oceanfront home enjoying what lies outside of it. Outdoor living areas are an essential part of creating the perfect oasis; when done right, they can match the comfort and elegance found inside your home. As the foremost innovator of luxury outdoor living areas, we asked insiders at The Outdoor Greatroom Company for expert tips.

Having coined the term "outdoor greatroom," founders Dan and Ron Shimek essentially redefined the limits of outdoor living and say that modern innovation allows virtually "all indoor luxuries to exist in an outdoor setting." From outdoor kitchen setups with a "kegerator," TV, and MP3 docking station to romantic outdoor lighting

schemes and fire pit tables, creating an outdoor greatroom is less limiting than the confines of indoor living.

"Having the ultimate outdoor living area allows you to take advantage of space, weather, and natural beauty like no indoor setting can," says VP of Sales Ross Johnson. In addition, the footprint of a home actually expands when

you add an outdoor greatroom. Clients can easily "enjoy a living room, dining room, or kitchen that is twice the size" of its indoor counterpart, making it likely that you'll never want to entertain indoors again.

Of course, many of us can't be outside all the time given factors like seasonal weather, but on the bright side, Johnson claims fireplaces with zone-specific heating can keep your outdoor greatroom warm enough to extend the time you can enjoy the outdoors by up to 12 weeks. Even on Minnesota's chilly April mornings, Johnson retreats to his outdoor greatroom to enjoy hot coffee and the newspaper, warmed by his gas fire pit and the morning sun. Naturally, certain locations offer challenges for an outdoor greatroom—be it water, snow, or frigid temps—but given that the outdoor greatroom was created in Minnesota, a state that has seen its fair share of winter weather, you can rest assured its products stand up to the elements.

Whether living in a cabin in Minnesota or a mansion in the Florida Keys, few things top a room in which nature serves as your walls, a cool breeze as your air-conditioner, and lush landscape as your artwork. Add in the luxury of watching your favorite TV show while grilling a burger and serving up your favorite brew from the kegerator and, we'd venture to guess, most oceanfront homeowners would be sold on the idea of their own outdoor greatroom. outdoorrooms.com.

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designers the freedom to use fire as a form of artistic expression, making it a hit with luxury hotel brands like Ritz-Carlton and W. You can have the same luxury and freedom at home: in addition to its vast installation options, the stainless-steel design is weatherproof, requires no cleanup, and

is operated by remote control. The system is the environmentally safe and hassle-free way to enhance any outdoor setting. With the flexibility to customize a fire place, pit, or ribbon, you can create an enviable warm and welcoming focal point for your outdoor space. sparkfires.com.

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GIRL POWER
Peterson chilling
out in her country-chic
California cottage.



Boarding House

Inside 16-year-old surfing sensation Lakey Peterson's beachfront home—a California cottage that's equal parts feminine and fierce.

IT'S HARD NOT TO LIKE the ocean when you grow up in Santa Barbara, California. It's even harder not to have a genetic connection with it when your mother, a former Olympic swimmer, competed in a triathlon while eight months pregnant with you. This is the life of Lakey Peterson. And she wouldn't have it any other way.

Of course, Peterson, 16, has had a say in some matters, such as her full-time career as a surfer. She fell in love with the sport at the ripe age of five, and began competing at 11. Any given day, the champion surfer walks from the house she shares with her parents

to where she likes to catch waves. "I love it," Peterson says. "I'll never move."

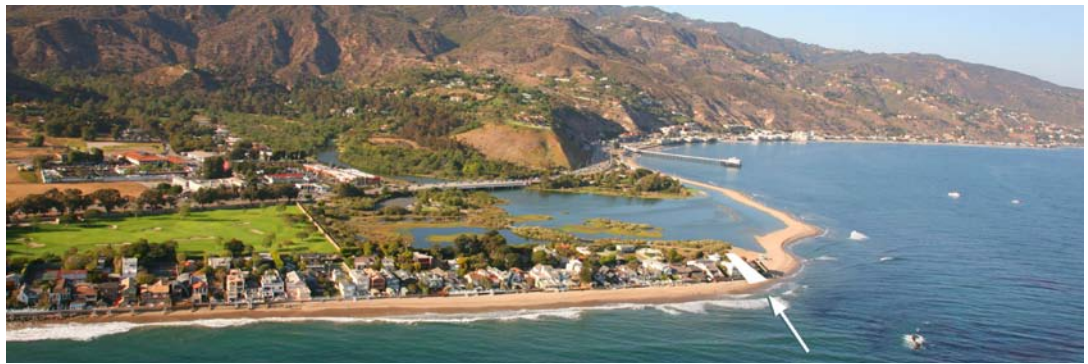
When she's not executing aerial maneuvers on her board (she was actually the first female surfer to complete one on an international level), Peterson relishes time with family and friends at home. "My house is very beachy," she says of her home, which is dotted with photos of sunsets over the ocean and nautical elements. Jars containing beach glass line the shelf in one room, while shells from Bali sit in another. There are even more shells and collectibles from Hawaii, Australia, Mexico, and Brazil. "I look for different things

to add when we travel," Peterson says. "I feel like it's unique—I've traveled a lot and seen some amazing houses...it's very homey."

Indeed. A favorite hangout is the patio with a fireplace and a Moroccan-style tent shading it. But Peterson also likes to escape to her bedroom, a loft tucked toward the back of the house. "My bed is the comfiest thing in the world!" she laughs. Conveniently, the bedroom also has direct access to the outdoors.

Even with Peterson's adoration of getting awesome air, she's also serious about protecting the environment. She's the spokesperson for the Student Conservation Association, which helps youth protect and restore national parks, marine sanctuaries, and more. As Peterson writes on her blog, "We're all in this together, whether everyone realizes it or not." —*Diane M. Byrne*

MALIBU COLONY



MALIBU CALIFORNIA Beautiful Beach Front Estate located in the exclusive 24hr guard gated Malibu Colony. No expense was spared in this custom home designed by Richard Landry, one of the top 100 architects and designers in the world as listed by Architectural Digest. The property is situated in a desirable end of cul-de-sac location, on one of the best sandy sections of Colony Beach and offers one of the largest beach frontages in the neighborhood at 65ft. The 5 bedroom 7 bathroom home will be one of the largest in the Colony at approximately 6,000 sq ft, including detached guesthouse plus 1,200 sq ft rooftop entertainment deck complete with spa, bar, bbq and 360 degree views. Construction completion set for June 2011.

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U-BOAT WORX C EXPLORER 2 Sure, snorkeling and scuba diving are great ways to see cool fish, but what if there were a way to dive deeper and stay underwater longer—for instance, aboard your own submarine? It's not science fiction; it's fact: U-Boat Worx has been manufacturing small submarines for personal and resort use for the past six years. The *C Explorer 2* is one such model the Dutch company offers. It can take a trained pilot and a passenger down to a few different depths, depending on your desires. For example, you can have a sub that's capable of diving to 300 feet, even 1,000 feet. While underwater, the submarine can travel at three knots, a leisurely pace that lets you enjoy spectacular sights through the acrylic dome. It can also travel on the water's surface, at a slightly faster pace of four knots. The *C Explorer 2*, like all U-Boat Worx submarines, is built to the classification standards of Germanischer Lloyd, one of the most prestigious authorities on marine vessels. The subs are further tested under the organization's authority to ensure safety. As each *C Explorer 2* is custom built, pricing is available upon request. Various options are also available, like HD cameras and LED lighting. uboworx.com. —**Diane M. Byrne**

Yacht Watch

Up your high-seas style with the **Riva Aquariva by Gucci**. Boaters no doubt recognize the Riva name, synonymous with stylish runabouts since the 1950s. The Italian boatbuilder has partnered with Gucci's creative director, Frida Giannini, to celebrate Gucci's 90th anniversary with this limited-edition series. It features Gucci leathers and fabrics on the seating, the sunpad, the dash, and more. While "Gucci White" paint adorns the hull, the boat is still built of mahogany, with 20 coats of varnish lending the high-gloss look. Twin 380-horsepower Yanmar engines permit a top speed of 41 knots and a 150-mile range at cruising speed. Available on a made-to-order basis through Riva's dealer network. riva-yacht.com. —**D.B.**



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Nautical Chart Coasters

Nautical charts on authentic marble tiles make for a beautiful memento of your favorite seaside destination. Over 100 charts available as coasters, trivets, clocks or tables. \$45-\$290 Our elegant beach home furnishings and coastal artist gallery can be found at **Outer Banks Trading Group, 919.249.6121, www.obxtradinggroup.com**

Sea Glass Jewelry

Jewelry designer Danielle Renee has taken "Sea Glass Jewelry" to a new level using only genuine, quality sea glass and transforming each piece into a stunning work of wearable art. Please visit her gallery online.

Sea Glass Jewelry by Danielle Renee, www.jewelrybydaniellerenee.com



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Discover what amateur astronomers have known for years—OBERWERK binoculars provide stunning clarity and sharpness, at surprisingly affordable prices. There are 30 models available, from smaller binoculars for bird-watching and sporting events, to giant tripod-mounted, long-range observation binoculars for the homeowner with a view. For a free catalog call toll-free or visit our online store. **Oberwerk, 866.244.2460, www.bigbinoculars.com**



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Artisan Shari Curtiss of Beach Grass Cottage creates the elegant and distinctive seashell mirror you've been searching for. Each shell mirror is custom hand designed by Shari to your specifications with uniqueness, luxury, and elegance in mind, and each piece is a one-of-a-kind original that bears her signature. Beach Grass Cottage also features gorgeous handmade sea glass décor, seashell photo frames, shell wreaths, home accessories, and much more.

Beach Grass Cottage, www.artfire.com/users/beachgrasscottage.com



Designer Robes

Tisseron Bathrobes offers colors, weights from tropical to plush, unmatched anywhere in the world. This elegant designer collection of luxury organic cotton terry for women and men is too beautiful to wear just indoors, but outside too... on your boat, pool side, at the cottage, wherever! The perfect gift for any occasion, the ultimate comfort accessory, available only at the online boutique. **Tisseron Bathrobes, 877.589.7623, www.tisseronbathrobes.com**



Hand-Crafted Vintage Giftware

Kramer & Dey, purveyors of hand-crafted nautical giftware, offer these sepia-tone vintage sailboat photos set against a hand-painted tortoiseshell background. Narrow grosgrain ribbon, anchored by antiqued brass upholstery tacks, surround each image, adding an elegant, understated touch. A sailing yacht and a pair of masthead sloops are shown, a cutter sloop and schooner are also available. Available individually or as a set of four, each finished piece 12" x 16". **Kramer & Dey**, www.krameranddey.com



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The Isola Bella Ocean Collection is inspired by the colors and shapes in the Caribbean sea. Each glass pendant is one-of-a-kind and comes with an 18" hand dyed leather cord necklace. Handcrafted in the USA. Price is \$68. each. **Isola Bella Ocean Collection**, www.isolabellashop.com

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Destination

Going Dutch

Curacao offers a unique mix with its sultry Caribbean appeal and the colorful history of its Dutch heritage.



BARE ESSENTIALS

The Kura Hulanda Spa & Casino's Eco Pool. See page 44.



DOUBLE DUTCH: From left, Jaipur restaurant at Kura Hulanda Spa & Casino; Lodge Kura Hulanda & Beach Club; the Lodge dive shop; the village square in Willemstad.

Island Outpost

A low-key island in the southern Caribbean, Curacao lures travelers with its historic charm and adventure options. By **Lisa Rogak**

WHEN IT COMES TO Caribbean islands and their draws, Curacao remains a mystery to many. Seasoned luxury travelers flock to neighboring Aruba and Bonaire for distinct reasons: Aruba provides a big dose of beach, nightlife, and restaurants, while Bonaire attracts scuba and snorkel aficionados.

But Curacao? Well, let's just say that many otherwise savvy travelers draw a blank. In fact, tourism reps in this island nation, which comprises 171 square miles and a population of just over 140,000, admit to struggling with developing a concise and compelling marketing hook.

What they fail to realize, however, is that this lack of definition is specifically what brings discerning travelers to Curacao in the first place: It's quieter and more authentic, and its Dutch heritage is everywhere you look, particularly in the city center, which is resplendent with colorful architecture.

Despite its small size, Curacao provides visitors with a wide variety of choices. Of course, there are beaches all over the island, but Willemstad,

Curacao's capital, should serve as the focal point of any visit. Wander through the old market, where Venezuelan vendors display fresh fruits and vegetables at their stands and fishermen sell fish caught just hours before. Willemstad is also a UNESCO World Heritage site, and as such, it's filled with rich history—and not just from Holland. Mikvé Israel Emanuel Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in continuous use in the Western Hemisphere,

is just a few blocks from the harbor. Willemstad is a true multicultural experience, as is the nation as a whole: in fact, four official languages—Dutch, Spanish, English, and Papiamentu, a variation of the Creole dialect—are spoken throughout the country.

Curacao is increasingly attracting those who want something different that also hasn't been overrun. The bonus: The island is surrounded by coral reefs, and its geographic construct allows for its 40 prime dive regions to be accessible either by wading from shore or via a small motorboat, since the point at which the sea floor drops is often located only a hundred yards from the beach.

THE ESSENTIALS CURACAO

① WHERE TO STAY The luxurious oceanfront rooms at **Lodge Kura Hulanda & Beach Club** provide drop-dead gorgeous views of the sea while the **Kura Hulanda Spa & Casino**, located in the heart of downtown Willemstad, puts guests within walking distance of the harbor and the shopping district. *kurahulanda.com*; **Lodge:** Playa Kalki 1, Westpunt; **Hotel:** Langestraat 8 (Otrobanda) Willemstad; 877-264-3106.

② WHERE TO EAT **Landhuis Misje** serves traditional Caribbean comfort food with a modern twist. Located in a former plantation home, it's consistently one of the highest-rated restaurants here. *landhuismisje.com*; **Westpunt**; (5999) 869-4462. The **Sculpture Garden** was recently awarded the AAA Four Diamond Award for its contemporary gourmet cuisine, the best part is al fresco dining under the stars. *kurahulanda.com*;

Langestraat 8 (Otrobanda), Willemstad; 877-264-3106.

③ WHAT TO DO **National Christoffelpark** is home to Mount Christoffel, the highest point on the island. *christoffelpark.org*; (5999) 864-0363. **Museum Kura Hulanda** provides a look at cultures that have called Curacao home over the centuries. *kurahulanda.com*; **Langestraat 8 (Otrobanda), Willemstad; 877-264-3106.**



Embrace The Hawaiian Lifestyle As It Was ... And Still Is **MOLOKAI SEA RANCH**

Molokai Sea Ranch is a secluded island paradise set on six private acres of fee-simple land plus an approximately six-acre nature reserve easement. It boasts 725 feet of frontage on Papohaku Beach, one of the longest sandy beaches in the Hawaiian Islands. Probably Molokai's finest estate, The Sea Ranch was designed for extended family but can also be enjoyed as a corporate retreat. Almost 10,000 square feet of living space, The Ranch includes four separate structures: a main home and guest house each with a barn and three-car garage. It offers lovely accommodations for up to 18 guests and features a pool, two hot tubs, spacious lanais, and private outdoor showers. Featuring gracious Hawaiian living on Molokai, the Friendly Isle. Offered Turnkey.



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PRIVATE DRIVE
The Fairmont
Royal Pavilion.

Barbadian Belle

Fairmont Royal Pavilion blends Caribbean charm and English cool for a sophisticated but laid-back escape.

SHROUDED IN tropical foliage and bathed in pastel pink, the Fairmont Royal Pavilion has long been a high-profile escape thanks to its on-the-beach location, private setting, and top-shelf service. The resort recently underwent a series of upgrades, giving guests yet more reason to check in and chill out.

The makeover yielded 24 new Beachfront Junior Suites, each of which affords direct beach access and has a private terrace overlooking the sea. The new suites' interiors are subtle and elegant, with dark, hardwood floors and a neutral color palette. Dual closets provide always-welcome storage space yet are tucked discreetly out of view behind sliding, shutter-style doors—a nice touch. A true value-add, guests in the new suites are treated to a VIP welcome at the airport.

The renovation also included upgrades to the resort's existing 48 Oceanfront Deluxe rooms, which now feature Fairmont Elite pillowtop beds and glass-enclosed balconies. Villa accommodations are also available and can be configured to comprise up to three bedrooms; villa rooms are spacious and private,

but as they're located in the resort's tropical gardens, they lack the direct beach access that is one of Royal Pavilion's most attractive assets.

With its proximity to the beach, Royal Pavilion is superbly located for on-the-water activities. Non-motorized options, like snorkeling, kayaking, windsurfing, and sailing, are complimentary, although more involved activities and motorized water sports—scuba diving and deep-sea fishing, for instance—can be arranged upon request.

There's no spa facility at Royal Pavilion, but body scrubs, facials, and alternative therapies are offered in guests' rooms. And for those who prefer to reserve beach time for resting rather than running, a fitness room is open 24/7 and is equipped with cardio machines and a selection of free weights.

Excellent dining rounds out what's guaranteed to be an unforgettable stay. Specifically, The Palms, the resort's signature restaurant, has become a sought-after experience among resort guests and other visitors to Barbados, with good reason. The beachfront restaurant's soaring ceilings and open, arched walls create a billowy, breezy setting in which guests dine on Caribbean cuisine to the tune of the gently crashing surf. A more casual daytime option and an ideal place to refuel between dips in the pool, Café Taboras offers open-air seaside dining. We loved the laid-back elegance of its Afternoon Tea service—the perfect way to honor this Caribbean gem's English heritage. *fairmont.com/royalpavilion. —L.L.*

The Agenda

Oistins Head to the southern coast of Barbados to this small fishing village, where on Friday nights an outdoor street fair draws the masses with its endless stalls serving authentic—and ultracasual—Caribbean cuisine (think fried flying fish, macaroni pie, hush puppies, and plenty more), plus live entertainment. www.barbados.org/oistins.htm.

Andromeda Botanical Gardens The six-acre garden is home to orchids, palms, ferns, hibiscus, bougainvillea, begonias, and cacti. A stream divides the land and forms a system of pools and plunging waterfalls. andromeda.cavehill.uwi.edu.

Bathsheba For a taste of nature, check out Barbados's "soup bowl," but bring a swimsuit, not a spoon. On the east coast of the island, the fishing village of Bathsheba is a photographers' favorite and is home to one of the island's most breathtaking beaches. Its soupy nickname was inspired by its foaming surf. barbados.org/bathsheb.htm.



WILLIAM RAVEIS

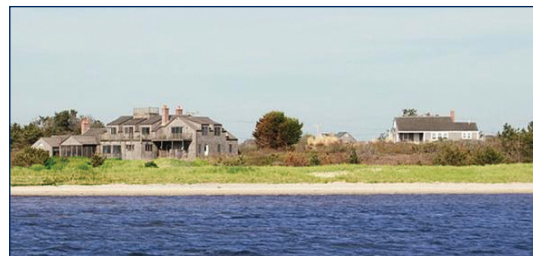
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By **Lindsay Lambert**

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①



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Blue Diamond

Cape Cod MASSACHUSETTS

PRESENTING EUROPEAN INFLUENCE with sophistication and elegance. Oceanfront terraces accompany this meticulous home. Its timeless elegance and ceaseless vision together with state-of-the-art amenities make this palatial masterpiece awe-inspiring.

This home overflows with regal appointments and is majestically situated on approximately 400 feet of private beach. Overlooking Lewis Bay and Nantucket Sound, view the boats and yachts while ferries pass to and from Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.

This residence features an open floor plan designed by an award-winning architect. The interior can be best described as "barefoot elegance" with top-of-the-line interior travertine marble flooring with complete radiant heat beneath. Every room has spectacular views. The home boasts craftsmanship, outstanding quality and blends a distinguished array of hand-chosen materials and unique features.

Enjoy "Smart" technology with an integrated automated audio-video system and a 21st-century lighting system by Vantage. Virtually everything in the home can be operated from anywhere via a hand-held screen, telephone or Internet. Amenities and details are too numerous to mention. The home is conveniently located only minutes from the airport and marina. This property is positioned southwest to capture perfect sunrises and exquisite sunsets. Enjoy this one-of-a-kind location—"a true gem."

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An Even Exchange

You can't avoid fluctuations in global currencies, but you *can* avoid the heavy fees and trickery designed to evaporate your riches. By **Paul Rubio**

OUTSIDE OF PLANE DELAYS and unforeseen inclement weather, one of the biggest frustrations of traveling overseas is the conundrum of money loss via bad exchange rates. Simply put: nobody likes to see his or her money devalued. It doesn't seem like the U.S. dollar will triumph over the euro or the pound anytime soon, but you can save 3-10 percent of your dollar value by adhering to a few essential tips on your international travels.

Charge away. A number of credit cards have upped the incentives for charging purchases abroad. The American Express Platinum Card has removed its 3 percent foreign transaction fee, charging purchases at the official market rate. Several Chase credit cards have followed suit, including the British Airways Visa Signature Card and the Chase Continental Presidential Plus Mastercard. Using these "no transaction fee" credit cards is the best way to save money; you even earn points on your purchases (and you can track your spending).

Cash reserves. It's always a smart idea to carry cash if traveling somewhere remote. If you need ready money, don't bother exchanging currency before your trip. Arrival areas of all major international airports have ATMs, and official bank ATM exchange rates via debit card withdrawal are superior to the rates of exchange counters (e.g. Bank of America charges only a 1 percent currency fee on cash withdrawals abroad).

Get with the times. American Express Travelers Cheques are as dated as \$40 barrels of oil. True, the cheques

come with extra security if lost or stolen, but fewer and fewer places accept them. On average, your dollar is devalued 5-10 percent by using travelers cheques because foreign banks offer inferior exchange rates upon conversion. If you are adamant about using travelers cheques, buy them online from American Express in the correct foreign currency before your departure (instead of U.S. dollars).

Airport exchange. If you are one of those people who physically enjoys

changing currency as a travel rite of passage, first verify the official market exchange rates online or on your smartphone. Exchange rate calculators in airports prey on tourists who are unaware of the real market rate and often fool them with a "no commission" policy. There may be no commission, per se, but these exchange rates are vastly different than market rates, resulting in large differentials against your favor. When in doubt, check XE Universal Currency Converter (www.xe.com/ucc).





“Prana” a view with a house



*Man O’ War Cay
Abaco, Bahamas*

Imagine relaxing in your infinity pool overlooking the crystal gin colored waters, as the day progresses the hues go from green to turquoise to blue. Every location of this property has a captivating 360 degree view. 3.08 acres of land, two beautiful beaches, a main residence, 3 guest cottages, dock with boatlift. Abaco offers premier fishing, boating, diving and relaxing. Listing #MWH1159



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The Best Beaches

FIFTEEN OF THE FINEST BEACHES FOR OCEANFRONT LIVING,
AND A FEW OWNERSHIP OPTIONS TO HELP WHET YOUR APPETITE.

By **DEBORAH GEIGER**

“The sea, once it casts its spell, holds one in its net of wonder forever,” said underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau more than five decades ago. And nothing could be truer today; we are still intrigued by the breathtaking cerulean waves on the horizon, as well as the coastal regions that represent some of the most beautiful real estate in the world. From the Northeast U.S. to the dreamiest hideaways in the Caribbean, consider the following properties for oceanfront living an investment of a lifetime.





JOLLY HARBOUR, ANTIGUA

LC



CASTRIES, ST. LUCIA

THE LANDINGS AT ST. LUCIA As the Caribbean's most mountainous island, St. Lucia offers over 19,000 lush acres of tropical rainforest, 29 miles of trails, botanical gardens, scuba diving, snorkeling, hiking, and horseback riding, as well as turtle, dolphin, and whale watching, so it's no surprise that expats flock here seeking the tranquility and magic the island provides. The Landings at St. Lucia, a 19-acre resort/condominium development located on Rodney Bay, is one of the newest properties available on the island. It features 122 one-, two-, and three-bedroom villa suites with striking views from each home; top-of-the-line appliances in the kitchen and bathrooms; spacious living, dining, and powder rooms; and bedrooms with large balconies and landscaped terraces—many with heated jetted plunge pools. The Piton Mountains and adjacent Pigeon Island offer endless possibilities. LANDINGS.ROCKRESORTS.COM

PORTO MAJO, ST. MAARTEN

SM



THE VILLAS AT PORTO MAHO St. Maarten offers some of the most spectacular beaches, wildlife, shopping, and dining in the world and remains a top destination for snorkeling, scuba diving, and deep-sea fishing. Here, the Villas at Porto Maho, an exclusive new waterfront residential community, offers just 10 first-class villas with floor-to-ceiling windows, expansive terraces, outdoor hot tubs, and views

of the Caribbean and nearby Anguilla. The four-, five-, and six-bedroom villas boast a minimum 18,000 square feet of living space and include use of the property's common media room and parking. When you're not hiking, horseback riding, or enjoying nature, you'll enjoy the presence of international banks and duty-free shopping—plus beaches almost everywhere you look. PORTOHAHO.COM/THE_VILLAS/

HI

HONOLULU, HAWAII

Honolulu's rich lifestyle, landscape, and cultures unite to make this city spectacular. Rife with world-class institutions and round-the-clock dining and entertainment options, the area has historically been desirable for natives and expats alike. If it's living in high style on the beach that you're after, consider the ultraluxe Kahula Beachfront Estate on prestigious Kahala Avenue. The home features 125 feet of beach frontage and more than 62,000 square feet divided among three dwellings: a main beachfront residence of six bedrooms plus staff quarters, and two separate guest houses. In-town shopping and dining options are a short distance away, but best of all, the property is minutes away from the Waialae Country Club, home of the PGA Sony Open Tournament, where you never know who you'll bump into. CHOI-REALTY.COM/1014183



Photograph, previous spread, by Michael Utech/iStock

MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA

THE PALMYRA Indigenous Taino inhabitants called this Greater Antilles vacation hotspot “Xaymaca,” or “land of wood and water.” We’d like to add sun, sand, and a host of unforgettable qualities to that mix. In addition to the picturesque beaches we’ve been dreaming about, Jamaica has some of the most unique natural wonders in the world: Green Grotto caves feature glistening blue water and streams of sunlight; a large interconnected limestone cave system astounds; and Luminous Lagoon is one of just three places in the world with nighttime boat rides that allow passengers to experience bioluminescence—microorganisms that cast a gorgeous glow beneath the water’s surface. One of Jamaica’s only luxury residential communities, The Palmyra, located on 16 acres of pristine waterfront land in Montego Bay, offers furnished luxury condominiums and villas with on-site dining; a private, palm-tree-lined beach for swimming; a modern fitness center; golf privileges at nearby Rose Hall; and a clubhouse with a ballroom and multiple meeting spaces. The land of wood and water, indeed. THEPALMYRA.COM

JM



MX

LA PAZ, MEXICO

LAS COLINAS CONDOS The dreamy seascape where John Steinbeck set his beloved novella *The Pearl*, La Paz truly is the prototype of a beach paradise: colorful local cuisine, incredible sea life, and a passionate culture with one of the highest standards of living in Mexico. Crystal blue waves practically beg participation in ocean activities like swimming, kayaking, snorkeling, playing with sea lions, and even scuba diving with hammerhead sharks, giant manta rays, dolphins, and whales. From fascinating ancient cave paintings drawn by Neolithic hunter-gatherers to modern museums and cultural institutions, La Paz is the perfect backdrop for living in style. CostaBaja, a luxury development situated on 550 acres of protected coastal lands, offers a master-planned luxury community with condo and hotel portions, plus a Gary Player Signature golf course, village marina, and an area with shopping, galleries, and restaurants. Adding to the splendor? Incredible water views and a 24/7 resort lifestyle. COSTABAJA.COM

NARRAGANSETT, RHODE ISLAND

SURFSIDE Named for the Narragansett tribe of Rhode Island, this tranquil sea-side community offers a rich history and a dazzling, upscale ambiance complete with some of the best beaches the Northeast has to offer. The newly designed Surfside luxury waterfront development is located directly across from Narragansett Town Beach, offering proximity to water sports, seasonal outdoor yoga, fly-fishing, kayaking, and canoeing. Condominiums feature panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean to the east, as well as Lake Canonchet to the west; first-class finishes include granite, marble, tile, hardwood floors, and premium-grade appliances throughout, as well as polished chrome features, rainfall showerheads, and period lighting features. The property offers everything a New England coastal retreat should. LIVEATSURFSIDE.COM



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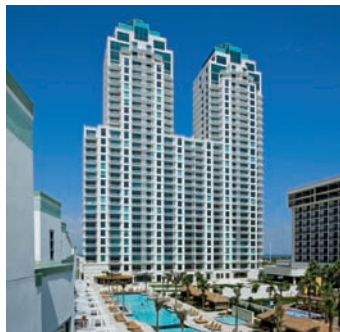
SAN JOSE DEL CABO, MEXICO

ESPÍRITU DEL MAR San Jose Del Cabo features the colorful local culture, festive population, and outdoor cafés and restaurants of the most quintessential Baja Sur beach town. Nearby Cabo San Lucas features shopping, restaurants, and a lively outdoor marina scene. Activities include driving along the Pacific Coast highway to Todos Santos, featuring art galleries and local cafes. In the midst of tradition comes luxury: a new community, Espíritu Del Mar, is a collection of private luxury residences set above the Sea of Cortez. Amenities at Espíritu Del Mar include a private beach club; a fitness club; a 50-foot catamaran; an on-site spa; a golf course and tennis club; and seven restaurants. The development combines natural environmental features, including ancient cordon cacti and desert arroyos, with California-style homes. Espíritu features 28 acres of community parks and gardens, plus more than three miles of walking trails to Mirador de la Cruz and brilliant Sea of Cortez beaches. VILLASDELMAR.COM

Espritu Del Mar photograph by Rigoberto Moreno

TX

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS



SAPPHIRE SOUTH PADRE South Padre Island is one of Texas's best-kept secrets. A few miles north of Mexico, this 34-mile stretch—the longest barrier island in the world—features incredible warm-water beaches and a wide range of year-round activities, including boating, fishing, and bird-watching. Bordered by the Gulf of Mexico on the east and Laguna Madre Bay on the west, shopping and culture abound here, and with it, luxu-

ry. One of the newest offerings on the skyline includes the Sapphire, a sumptuous condominium on the waterfront, offering residents a private movie theater, a state-of-the-art fitness center, two terraces for every residence with ocean and bay views, a private wine room, and a full-service day spa. Even better? An amazing 300-foot-long swimming pool, private bungalows, and an outdoor cabana bar. **SAPPHIRE** SOUTHPADRE.COM



AG

JOLLY HARBOUR, ANTIGUA

This glorious West Indies Island hideaway may attract big-leaguers like Giorgio Armani and Sir Richard Branson, but don't let your lack of fashion expertise (or interest) hold you back. Stunning beaches; a variety of water sports including sailing, scuba diving, and snorkeling; plus exploring the outdoors or nearby St. John's, the capital city of Antigua and Barbuda, offer a universe of potential in this culturally significant and nature-rich hub. Looking to make the jump? Waterfront estate Palm Point features an amenity-packed six-bedroom home, a swimming pool and Jacuzzi, over 100 feet of mooring space, a helicopter landing area, and proximity to all international airports. Your method of air travel is truly up to you.

REMAX-ANTIGUA.COM

SOUTHAMPTON, NEW YORK

Forget everything you've heard about the Hamptons; it's still one of the country's most desirable beach towns. Named after the British Earl of Southampton—and the earliest English settlement in the state of New York—Southampton is home to both townies and newbies, locals and high-profile business and movie industry executives. The area is celebrated year-round for its proximity to Manhattan, its dazzling beauty, and fall colors, but most of all, for its beaches. Activities in the summer include spending time enjoying the town's 11 beaches, which comprise seven miles of extraordinary oceanfront. Additional outdoor activities including biking, hiking, camping, and visiting local farms and wineries. Looking for your next "beach shack"? We love the Ward Bennett-designed oceanfront mansion, a premier example of contemporary architecture featuring six bedrooms and bathrooms, an oceanside swimming pool, and a tennis court, along with ocean, bay, and dune views. **CORCORAN.COM (LISTING 34073)**

NY



PLAYA AZUL, COSTA RICA

CR



KALIA LIVING Biodiversity superstar Costa Rica boasts more than coffee beans, like brilliant plant and animal life; lush forests; volcanoes; mountains; and some of the most species-rich oceans and beaches in the world. San José, the capital, serves as a diverse and lively epicenter with shops, restaurants, museums, and major transportation hubs, but if

you want luxury and natural wonder, you won't find it there. Instead, Kalia, a luxury master-planned eco-friendly community, offers high style in this magnificent country. Luna, Tierra, Mariposa, and Breeze homes feature stylish, modern amenities, most with ocean views from every room and breathtaking vistas of nearby lush mountains. KALIALIVING.COM



BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

FL

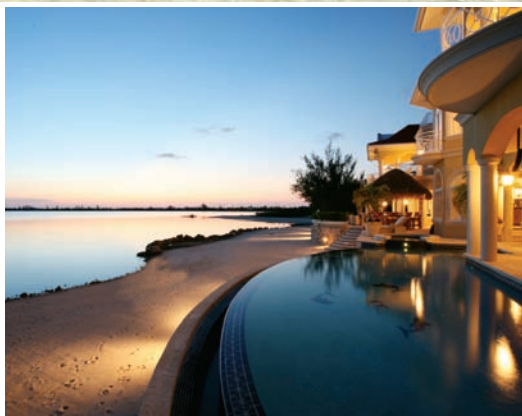
ONE THOUSAND OCEAN You heard it here first: Boca's back. And it's better than ever, now boasting everything big-city, including top restaurants, entertainment, universities, and cultural venues, not to mention its nature and beaches, scuba diving, sailing, surfing, and jet skiing. Nearby Big Cypress National Park and the Everglades make for perfect weekend adventures. One Thousand Ocean, a newly-developed condominium on Boca's sunny skyline, offers alluring amenities, including floor-to-ceiling windows showcasing views of the city, the ocean, or both; a gourmet kitchen; a full-service fitness center; a spa treatment suite with a hot soaking tub; and steam and sauna rooms. Common amenities include an oceanfront pool and sun deck, private cabanas, and a full-time concierge. ONETHOUSANDOCEAN.COM

WA

ANACORTES, WASHINGTON

SAN JUAN PASSAGE Anacortes, the breathtaking waterfront town on the north shore of Washington's Fidalgo Island, has it all: natural splendor; a friendly, small-town setting; and proximity to stunning national parks, the Cascade Mountain range, and some of the freshest year-round produce in the world. Water activities include boating, kayaking, fly-fishing, crabbing, and whale watching, while land lubbers enjoy hiking, biking, and art galleries and local antique shops. Living in high style in Anacortes has become an option, too: San Juan Passage, developed on one of the region's most spectacular waterfront parcels, offers a variety of luxurious homes and styles, including the Seacoast Classic, Harborside, and Water's Edge homes. Also included? Sunrise views of the snow-capped North Cascades, sunset vistas across Guemes Channel to the San Juan Islands, and perhaps a glimpse or two of local eagles, herons, and even orcas. Now that's priceless. SANJUANPASSAGE.COM



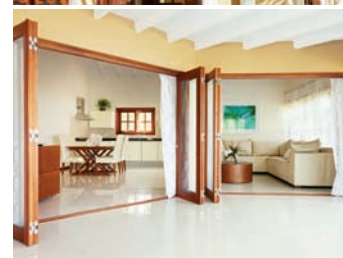
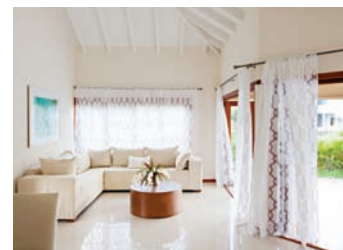


GRAND CAYMAN, CAYMAN ISLANDS

CASA COYABA Christopher Columbus nicknamed the Cayman Islands “Los Tortugas” after the many beautiful sea turtles he saw there in 1503—still true, only now you can scuba dive and snorkel with them as well. Comprised of three islands, including Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac, and Little Cayman, the Caymans offer an abundance of both plant and animal life, plus many outdoor activities. A multitude of cultural venues and world-class nightlife and restaurant options rival that of mainland United States. Long an offshore banking paradise for bankers and those who love them, the Caymans have achieved celebrity status in recent years with glossy developments and high-profile events, including *Food & Wine*’s annual Cayman Cookout, hosted by chef Eric Ripert. Ready to make the move? We love the sumptuously appointed Casa Coyaba Beachfront Estate featuring an astounding 19,000 square feet of furnished indoor and outdoor living space, including 39 rooms, 210 feet of beachfront property, a tennis court, and a 40-foot infinity-edge heated pool with spa. Home amenities include an on-site gym, a theater, two gourmet kitchens, and an executive office suite. It’s a sought-after footprint on Grand Cayman’s stunning southern coastline, offering premier year-round ocean views. SIRCAYMANISLANDS.COM

VREDENBURG, CURACAO

ZENCITY Curacao is not just a liquor anymore; it’s the luxury hideaway of tomorrow. World-class beaches offer temperate waters for diving and snorkeling, while horse-back riding, hiking, biking, rock climbing, and Jeep safaris can keep one occupied for a lifetime. Historic capital city Willemstad boasts UNESCO recognition, as well as an abundance of shops and restaurants. Festivals and fairs abound, too: Curacao’s North Sea Jazz Festival draws top jazz and R&B acts each year, not to mention the parades during Carnival! ZenCity, a newly developed property inspired by “Dutch Caribbean charm” and located in nearby Vredenburg, offers 36 villas and apartments built around a natural lake. The ABC islands have never been so easy. ZENCITY.NL/ENGLISH



Home Show

OCEAN HOME JOINS FORCES WITH HIGH-END HOME FURNISHINGS GIANT
FRONTGATE AND EXCLUSIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY MARISOL MALIBU
TO CREATE THE ULTIMATE PICTURE OF LUXURY OCEANFRONT LIVING.

BY GERALD BECK | PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN HILDEBRAND





EARLIER THIS YEAR, *Ocean Home* joined forces with luxury home goods retailer Frontgate in the company's search for an over-the-top oceanfront home that would serve as a backdrop against which to showcase products in Frontgate's special June catalog, which is shipped to upwards of 3 million customers each year. Of all the magnificent coastal abodes that *Ocean Home* features and is readily exposed to, it was our charge to find one that stood out among them and that kept with the level of grace and style we are accustomed to presenting within our pages every issue. Not to mention, it had to be voluminous enough—inside and out—to accommodate Frontgate's new collection of sensational home goods.

During our far-reaching search, we were introduced to an exclusive new development in Malibu comprising a mere 17 oceanfront estates. Conceived six years ago by Richard Morris and Ronald Coleman, both seasoned real estate veterans, MariSol Malibu is a new one-of-a-kind luxury community perched atop the Pacific Coast Highway, with jaw-dropping views from every direction. Each of MariSol's plots boasts generous acreage with sufficient room to accommodate the four- and five-bedroom estates that are built to order. The impeccable interiors of the showcase estate we photographed had an intimate quality yet were expansive enough to confidently host a party of 400 to 500 guests. It's no wonder Frontgate chose MariSol from our list of qualified entrants for this annual photo shoot.

FRONTGATE

Founded in 1991 by Paul Tarvin with the vision of marketing a broad range of functional, high-quality products for the home and garden, Frontgate is the leading brand in the Cornerstone family of luxury catalogs catering to discerning homeowners. A significant percentage of the company's cherished clientele own coastal property, which they use both primarily and secondarily, making MariSol the perfect canvas for their exciting new outdoor summer collection.

MARISOL MALIBU

In the late 1800s, long before Malibu became the celebrity mecca it is chiefly known as today, Frederick Rindge settled in a remote stretch of bluffs and beach called Rancho Malibu, a Spanish land grant stretching an expansive 25 miles from Santa Monica to the San Buenaventura River. On this picturesque land, Rindge fulfilled his dream and raised his family before his untimely death at the age of 48. By the 1930s, Malibu fever took hold and the precious land was divided into 30-foot lots and sold to stars of Hollywood's fledgling movie industry seeking their own piece of heaven.

Today in Malibu, with limited land availability and soaring real estate costs, there remains a pristine 80-acre plot of Rindge's earthly paradise. Here, on a private blufftop of immaculately restored native coastal lands fronting the Pacific, Rindge's dream and legacy has been lovingly restored.

The stewards of Rindge's legacy and the visionaries responsible for MariSol are Richard Morris and Ronald Coleman, both California natives and veterans of the luxury real estate industry. Knowing that MariSol represented a coda in their collective illustrious careers, they both endeavored from the start to cut no corners, to be ecologically responsible, and, most importantly, to do whatever it took to preserve Rindge's vision. To help ensure this, Morris and Coleman harvested seeds from the site's prominent native species and carefully nurtured them into more than 20,000 plants, thus revegetating the site into a kaleidoscope of color, texture, and fragrance. Native trees from nearby coastal locations were carefully relocated to MariSol's bluff, and now the community thrives with more than 2,000 coastal-friendly native trees, effectively recreating the landscape as it existed when Rindge resided here.

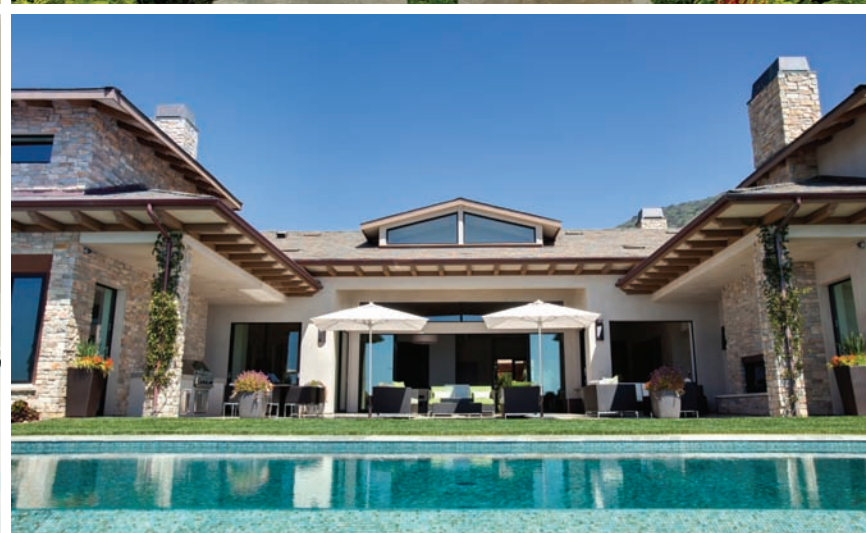
Carefully spaced throughout MariSol's 80 acres is a limited collection of 17 private estate sites; 13 one-acre blufftop lots; three two-plus-acre flat and grand estate sites elevated above the beachfront land; and a stunning 57-acre hillside retreat dramatically overlooking all of MariSol and 10 miles of rugged coastline. Each site has been carefully planned to accommodate spacious single-story estates where the expansive ocean frontage affords the same breathtaking oceanview corridors as a double-story home. Perhaps of most importance to the new homeowner is that unlike any other property in Malibu, homebuilding in MariSol is free of coastal development permits and city restrictions. This dramatically minimizes any potential interference and significantly streamlines the development of individual homesites.

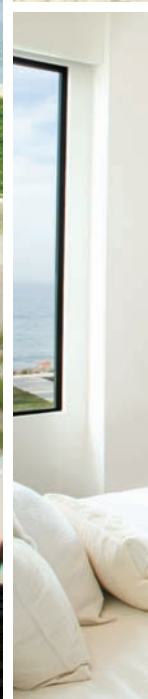
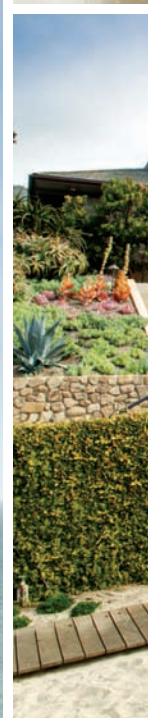
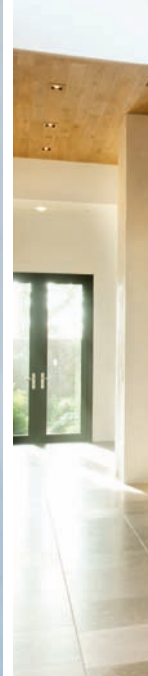
PERFECT PALACE

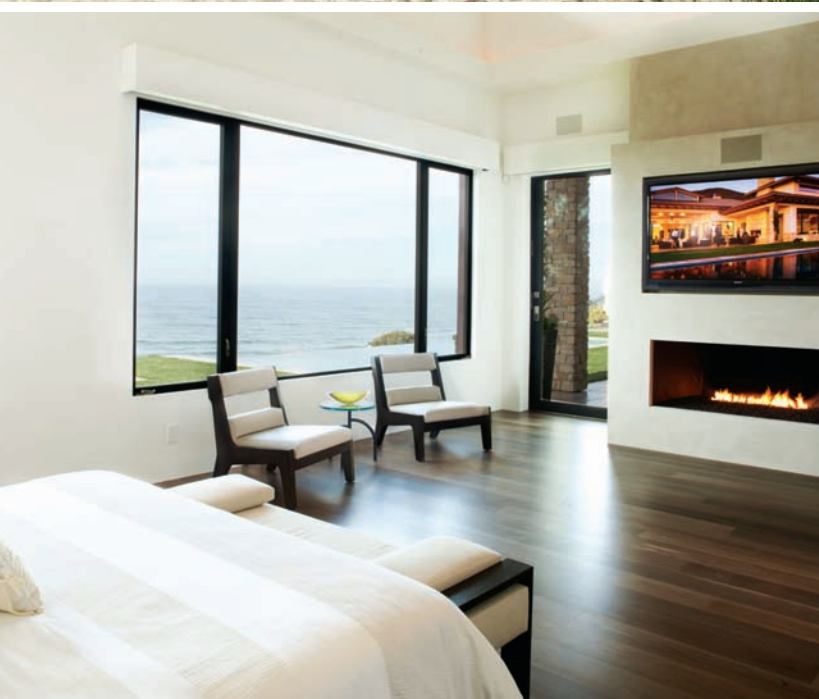
Opposite, clockwise from top left, the kitchen, with oversized island and dual refrigerators; a breezy, manicured walkway; the pool and patio; a minimalist bath with a garden view; a bedroom, complete with a fireplace and ocean views; and a patch of private beach.

THE SHOWCASE ESTATE

In order to properly display the true potential of MariSol and its vaunted location, Morris and Coleman knew they had to enlist the services of an architectural visionary to design the







Showcase Estate. They commissioned celebrated West Coast designer Barry Berkus, A.I.A, recognized for decades as one of the country's most influential and innovative residential architects and the design force behind communities like Bighorn in Palm Desert and Silverleaf in Scottsdale, to name a few.

Incorporating Berkus's dramatic and contemporary design aesthetic, as well as his penchant for sustainable design principles and materials, the estate presents an exceptionally healthy and eco-friendly living environment. With nearly 10,000 square feet of single-story indoor-outdoor living space, the home features a 60-foot-wide greatroom with 14-foot-high ceilings, a fully equipped wet bar, twin master bedrooms with towering

VIEW TO A THRILL

Opposite, furnishings from Frontgate's summer collection casually and elegantly complement the Showcase Estate's clean style. This page, from top, a living/dining area; tidy gardens surround the rear of the house; a crisply decorated bedroom overlooks the Pacific through large picture windows.

oak ceilings, two spacious additional bedrooms with mountain views, and a state-of-the-art theater. An open chef's kitchen makes entertaining a breeze in the breakfast room and the refrigerated wine cellar. Outside, beautifully landscaped grounds feature an infinity-edge lap pool, three patios, a state-of-the-art barbeque and outdoor dining pavilion, an ironwood deck on a 4,000-square-foot blufftop "beach," a water wall of rock quarried from the site set in a magical fern-and-oak garden, and a driveway of cobblestone hand-hewn from native rock. The estate is centrally

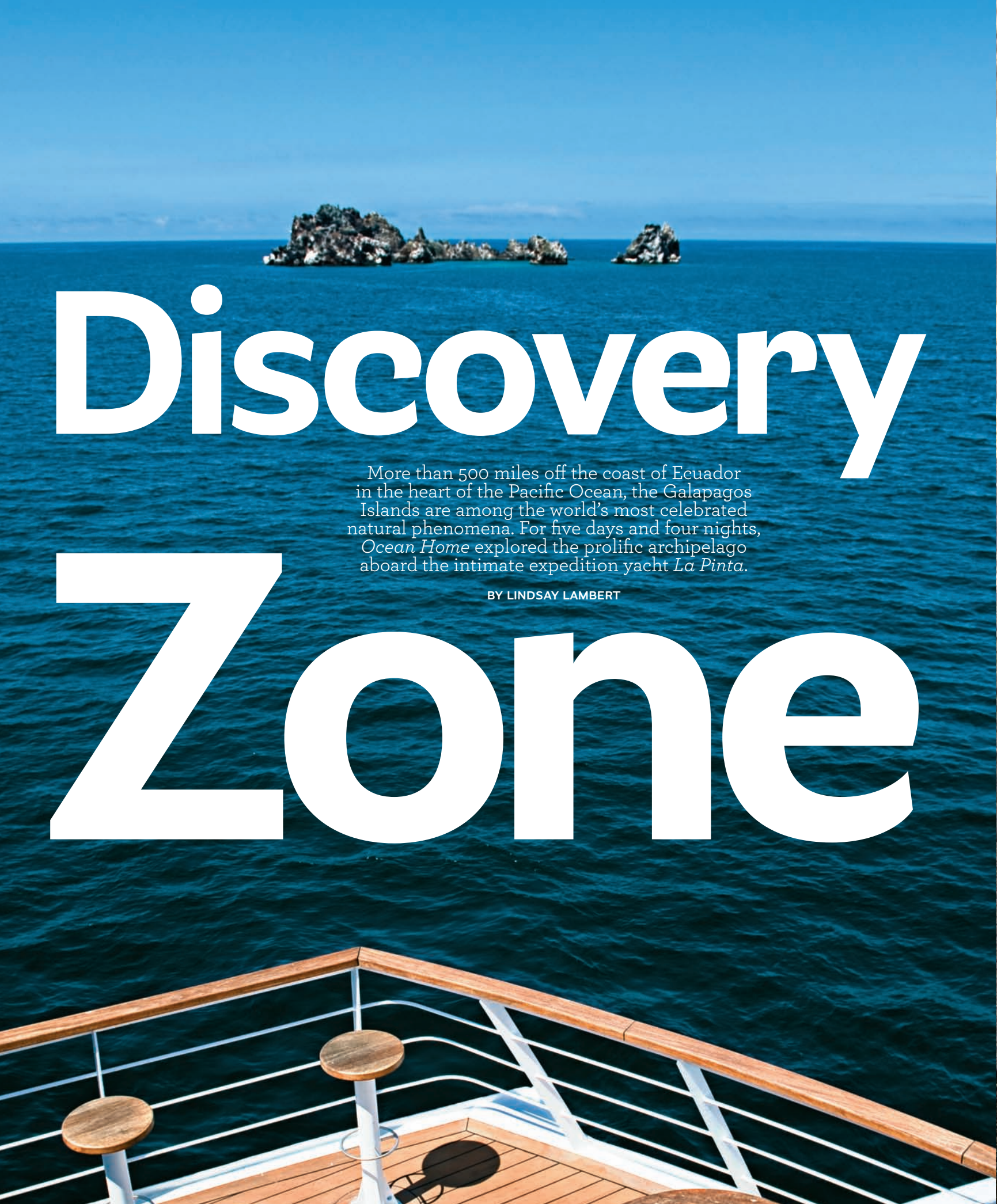
controlled by a Crestron smart system, and 10 strategically placed video cameras provide optimum security. Window coverings throughout the home are electronically controlled Lutron blackout and sunshades.

In every exceptional detail, from its rare Brazilian slate roof tiles, exquisite French limestone floors, its riftsawn oak ceilings and floors to the impeccably designed landscaping, the MariSol Estate is an entertainer's delight.

THE FRONTGATE CONNECTION

Every June, in spectacular fashion, Frontgate unveils its summer collection. Company insiders meticulously research a number of previously vetted homes across the country for possible sites for every photo shoot. It was almost a year ago that *Ocean Home* and Frontgate joined forces in an effort to find the perfect coastal abode to showcase those wares.

Creative Director Ted Hutcheson and his crew spent five days painstakingly adorning the Showcase Estate with accessories that seamlessly blended in with the home's aesthetic qualities. We arrived on the last day of the shoot, before our own session, and bore witness to Frontgate's new wicker line of modern chaise lounges, perfectly garnishing the central veranda and outdoor sitting areas. A massive, understated firepit from Frontgate acted not only as a focal point but also as an elegant conversation piece—just like the home itself. *For more on MariSol Malibu, visit marisolmalibu.com or call 310-589-8848. For Frontgate, visit frontgate.com or call 888-263-9850.*



Discovery Zone

More than 500 miles off the coast of Ecuador in the heart of the Pacific Ocean, the Galapagos Islands are among the world's most celebrated natural phenomena. For five days and four nights, *Ocean Home* explored the prolific archipelago aboard the intimate expedition yacht *La Pinta*.

BY LINDSAY LAMBERT





SOME 600 MILES OFF THE COAST of South America in the heart of the Pacific, the Galapagos Islands are among the world's most studied geographical sites. The archipelago has played a pivotal role in scientific research, having birthed myriad plant and animal species over millions of years with little to no human interference to impede their natural processes. Most famously, the Galapagos inspired Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. Today, thanks still to their abundant and diverse wildlife, the islands remain among the planet's key destinations for research and discovery, and at the top of countless world travelers' wish lists—including our own. That is, until recently, when we made the once-in-a-lifetime journey firsthand.

With so much to see and do in the Galapagos—there are 13 larger islands and 17 smaller ones—planning a visit here can feel overwhelming. In terms of logistics, multiple options exist. For instance, travelers can visit the islands on an entirely boat-based itinerary or spend some of their days and nights on land. Many Galapagos itineraries include pre- and post-tour stays in continental South American cities (see “Capital Connection” for information about Quito, where we began and ended our journey). Such decisions can be perplexing and

are made easier with a little expert advice. For help in arranging our trip, we turned to Adventure Associates, a tour and cruise operator specializing in South America.

For clients traveling to the Galapagos, Adventure Associates offers three-, four-, and seven-night options aboard four flagship vessels—the yachts *La Pinta* and the *Isabela II* and the expedition vessels *Santa Cruz* and *M/V Explorer*—and itineraries on its fleet of smaller motorized yachts and sailboats. Guests who want to take up temporary residence on the islands can do so with a three-, four-, or seven-night stay at Finch Bay Eco Hotel on Santa Cruz island, exploring their immediate surroundings in depth and making day trips and excursions to nearby islands.

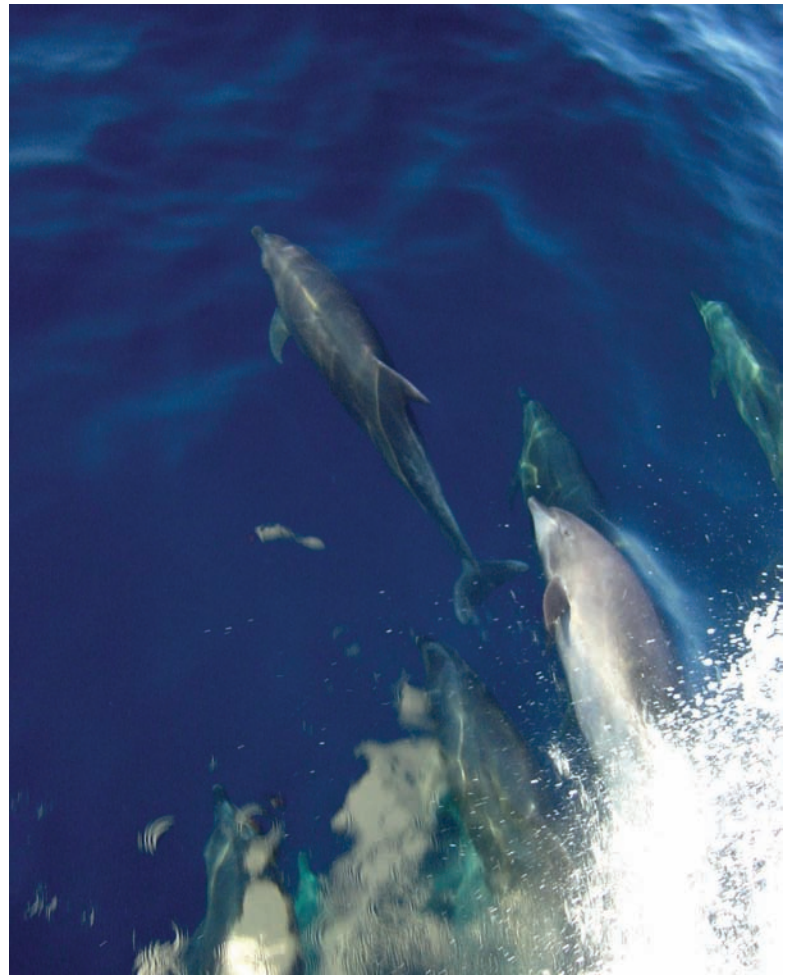
Each vessel in the fleet bears a unique set of characteristics, so there's something for everyone. All of the fleet's flagship vessels were designed with relatively limited capacity to ensure small group sizes and intimate educational opportunities on land. As each ship is staffed with a team of expert guides and naturalists who are endless sources of information (and often humor, we would learn), we thought the smaller the better when it came to picking our ship. So, we set out on a five-day, four-night journey aboard the fleet's most intimate ship, the 48-passenger *La Pinta*, eager to see firsthand the wonders that exist within these mysterious islands.

For Adventure Associates' Galapagos guests, the island adventure officially begins upon arrival at the archipelago's capital, Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on San Cristobal Island, as it did for us, or at Baltra, depending on the itinerary. Once on the ground, guests are greeted at the airport by members of their respective ships' staffs and are subsequently escorted to a nearby shuttle bus for a quick transfer to the embarkation port.

Upon descending onto San Cristobal, through the small, foggy window on our flight we could see turquoise waters and green growth—a sure sign of island life—but the reality of our whereabouts didn't sink in until we arrived at our embarkation point.

LIFE AQUATIC

Opposite, clockwise from top left, the bow of *La Pinta* is among the ship's best vantage points; a pod of dolphins on the move in the Pacific; *La Pinta's* upper-deck Jacuzzi, a popular post-excursion spot; and scores of brightly colored fish, a common sight in the waters of the Galapagos archipelago.



A close-up photograph of two Swallow Tail Gulls. The bird in the foreground is in sharp focus, showing its dark grey head, white neck, and a distinctive red ring around its eye. Its beak is dark with a white tip. The bird in the background is slightly out of focus, showing similar features. The background is dark and textured, possibly a rocky surface.

Swallow Tail Gulls.
Opposite: A balcony
with ocean views at
Finch Bay Eco Hotel,
one of the only
hotels in the island
chain. A stay at Finch
Bay provides an
unparalleled taste
of life in the fiercely
protected islands.





There, on a jetty packed with eager tour participants, a lone, lethargic seal stretched out beneath a bench (unaware of or uncaring about his audience), an unexpected preview of the incredible things to come.

From the embarkation jetty, it was a short dinghy (or *panga*, as the ships' crew call them) ride to our awaiting flotilla. After one windswept ride and a very careful exit from our *panga*, we arrived onboard *La Pinta*, our floating home for the next five days. Although we weren't quite expecting from *La Pinta* the level of luxury one would find aboard, say, the *Queen Mary*, we were pleasantly surprised by the vessel's neat-as-a-pin public spaces, its spacious cabins (relatively speaking), and its generally bright and cheerful ambience. In fact, increasingly throughout the expedition, returning from hours-long excursions to our double cabin—complete with central air-conditioning, an iPod docking station, a vanity with electrical outlets, and our own private bathroom stocked with eco-conscious toiletries—felt downright luxurious.

In addition to guest quarters, *La Pinta* offers a surprising amount of space in which guests can enjoy their aquatic surroundings. The ship's upper level contains a large function space, which, during our stay, was dedicated to nightly educational lectures, itinerary updates, and pre-dinner cocktails, served from its bar by an always-amiable attendant. At any other time, that same room, which is encased by oversized windows, is an ideal place to sit back and take in panoramic views of the ocean and nearby islands. Additional on-board amenities include a cozy library stocked with books and complimentary tea fixings; a small fitness room; and a spacious, open upper deck. There, a handful of chaises and a Jacuzzi await—the perfect spots for al fresco observation or exchanging tales of the day's adventures with fellow passengers.

Although *La Pinta* provides a cushy home base for exploration, its creature comforts pale in comparison to the almost incomprehensible beauty and wildlife of the Galapagos Islands. Each day from

their floating base, *La Pinta* guests embark on a selection of land- and water-based excursions that are either deemed suitable for the entire group or rated in terms of difficulty (alternate options are available to guests who prefer lower-impact activities)—think swimming in the Pacific; hiking over black lava fields; snorkeling among playful sea lions; peering at masses of tropical fish on a glass-bottom-boat ride; tandem kayaking along rock cliffs; and exploring the history of this remarkable place at the Charles Darwin Research Station. However you choose to explore the Galapagos Islands, that it's an eye-opening, perspective-altering experience is for certain. After all, as Darwin said himself of his beloved archipelago, it is “a little world within itself.” *adventure-associates.com*.

NATURAL SELECTION

A stretch of beach (top left), a swimming pool (top right), a common area/game room (bottom right), a boardwalk (bottom left), and a dining room (center row, middle), all at Finch Bay Eco Hotel. Remaining images, clockwise from top, a pair of Galapagos penguins; a marine iguana; a *panga* excursion; and a giant tortoise.

Below: The yacht *La Pinta*.

THE DETAILS GALAPAGOS

Average Temps: 74°–84° F. **Total Islands:** 30. **Largest:** Isabela.

Inhabited: Santa Cruz, San Cristobal, Isabela, and Floreana.

Airports: Baltra and San Cristobal. **Property Of:** Ecuador.





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KING OF THE HILL
Ecuador's capital, Quito.



Capital Connection

Quito, Ecuador's hilly hub city, brims with culture, cuisine, and history.

Most travelers who visit the Galapagos divide their itinerary between the islands and continental Ecuador—specifically, the cities of Quito, its capital; Guayaquil, a coastal hub of business and industry; and Cuenca, an historical city in the highlands. We spent the duration of our abbreviated stopover in Quito, arguably the richest of the cities from an arts-and-culture standpoint.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Quito is a veritable living timeline. Our base for the first leg of our journey, the **Hilton Colon Quito**, is just a 10-minute walk from Quito's colonial **Old Town**, a part of the city that's rife with ornate churches and cathedrals, political points of interest, and elegant shops and restaurants. Here, must-see sites include **La Compañía de Jesús Church**, an architectural phenomenon whose 17th-century Jesuit builders spared no expense. Its intricate Baroque façade and gold-leaf-laden interior are nothing short of spectacular. Another essential stop is the **Plaza de la Independencia**, home to the President's Palace, the Archbishop's

Palace, and town hall. It's frequently abuzz with work-day foot traffic and, at times of political tension, impassioned Ecuadorians.

One of South America's most iconic and imposing religious complexes, the church and monastery known as **San Francisco** comprises seven cloisters and a museum of colonial art. It's also within easy walking distance of the **Museo de la Ciudad** (City Museum) and the **Centro Cultural Metropolitano** (Metropolitan Cultural Center). We were most awestruck by the sheer size and gothic details (animal-shaped gargoyles included) of **La Catedral de Quito**, which looms over the city from a hilltop.

It's easy to get swept away by Quito's historical offerings, but allow time to explore its contemporary ones, as well. On the return leg of our journey, we enjoyed the modern **Le Parc Boutique Hotel**. From there, check out Quito's New Town, and the Mariscal, a commercial artery where locals linger at sidewalk cafés, often sipping on cold beer and sampling *au courant* cuisine. Visit quito.com.ec for more travel-planning tips.

The Quintessential Oceanfront Experience



Situated where the ocean meets the Inlet, a waterfront palette with sea grapes and sand dunes provides the backdrop to this seaside haven in prestigious Sailfish Point.

Through its exquisite front entry greets extraordinary details in architecture complimented by sophisticated design elements. The custom staircase was designed and inspired with details of the sea while embracing the marble floors and highlighting the towering ceilings. The well thought out floor plan includes the extensive use of windows in order to encompass the maximum oceanfront views from all the primary living spaces with each area intelligently positioned to take in the glorious sunrises and turquoise shades of the Atlantic Ocean.

Entertaining is effortless with the oceanfront lounge offering full cocktail preparation and visually flowing to the exterior verandas adorned by an infinity edge pool and adjoining private boardwalk to the beach. From there you can dip your toes in the surf or enjoy

endless miles of white sandy beaches.

The exclusive gated community of Sailfish Point offers a secluded retreat with deep-water full-service inland marina, a private 18-hole signature Jack Nicklaus golf course, beach club, spa and fitness center, oceanfront clubhouse, and Har-tru tennis courts. Only 15 minutes to our local private airport, an hour to Palm Beach International Airport and 75 miles by sea to the Bahamas, Sailfish Point is easily accessible by sea, land or air. The nearby Gulfstream provides onshore breezes and a temperate climate coveted by both winter and year-round residents.

Come home to this spectacular residence whether for the winter, between your travels or a never ending stay. Climate controlled parking for 4 to 5 cars, motor court, abundant storage with space designed for a walk-in wine cellar all come together to complete this beautifully appointed residence immersed in South Florida's finest location. **\$6,250,000 | SailfishPointStuartFL.com**



Debra Duvall and Margaret Harte

Water Pointe Realty Group

3727 S.East Ocean Blvd. Suite 100, Stuart, Florida 34996

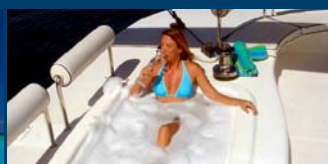
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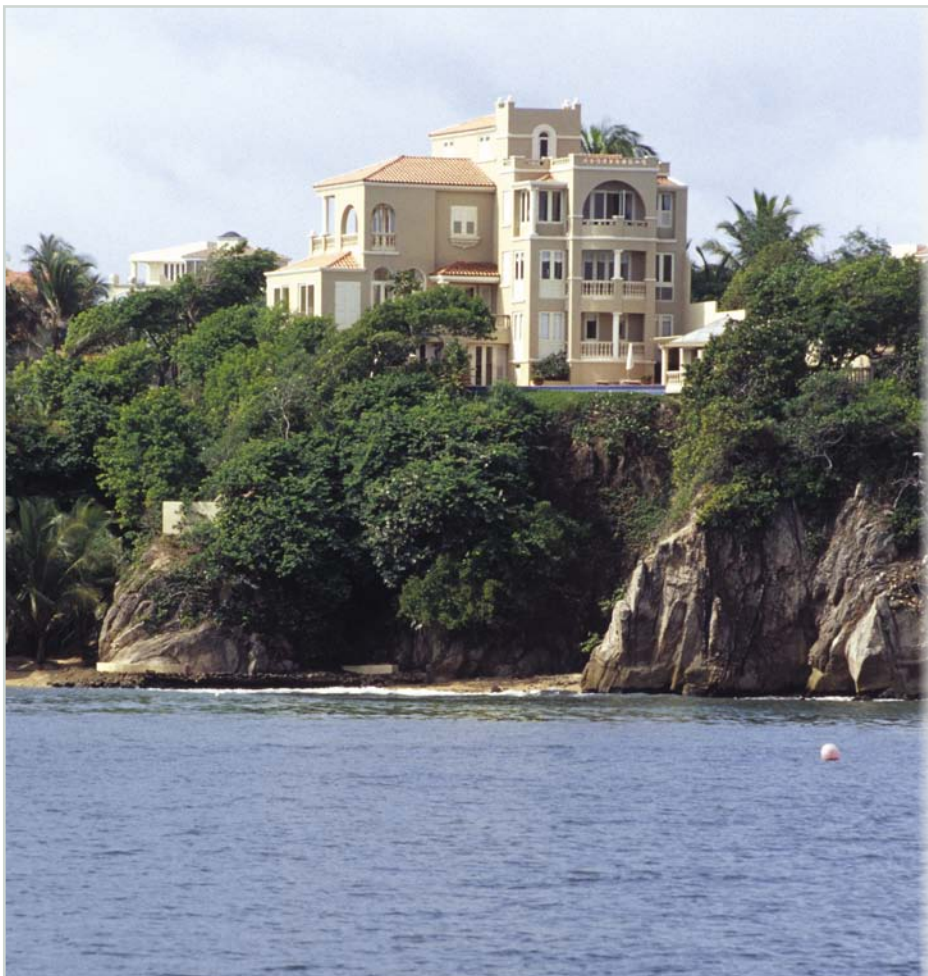


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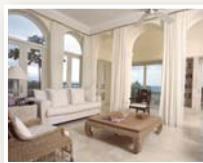
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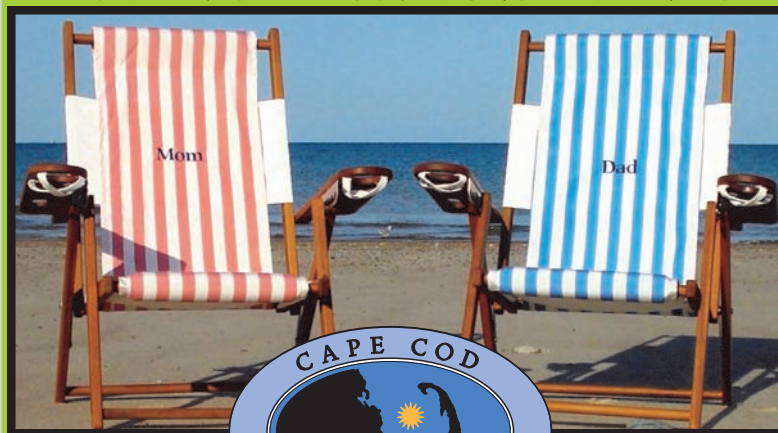
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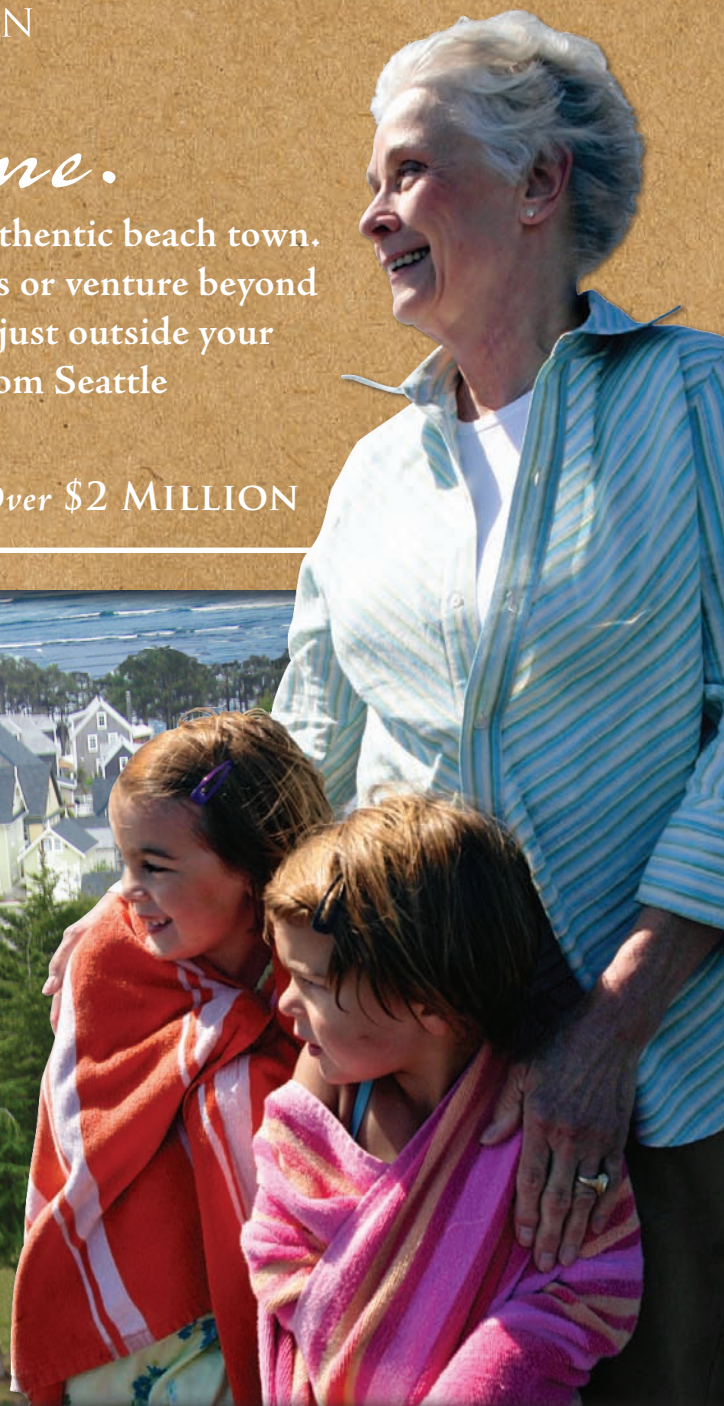
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MAKING WAVES
Katie Lee.

Shore Thing

Despite growing up in hilly West Virginia, for star chef Katie Lee, the beach is where the heart is.

AS A BEST-SELLING cookbook author, lifestyle guru, and newly minted novelist—be sure to check out her new book, called “Groundswell”—Katie Lee keeps her plate full. Here, she opens up to *Ocean Home* about relaxing at her beach-front home in the Hamptons, taking spills on her surfboard, and keeping a close-knit circle of friends well fed. —L.L.

You grew up in West Virginia, a.k.a. The Mountain State. When looking for a home to purchase, what drew you to the seaside in

Sagaponack? When I was growing up, we spent all year looking forward to our one-week vacation at the beach. I would spend

months dreaming of feeling the sand beneath my toes, splashing in the waves, and smelling the salt air. We always went with my grandparents, and my grandpa and I were total beach bums. I love West Virginia, the mountains are breathtaking, and it will always be “home,” but the beach is where my heart is. The Hamptons are the perfect balance for me, because we have undeveloped farm land and that country feel, paired with some of the most beautiful beaches in the world.

What’s your favorite part of the house and why? The heart of my home is the kitchen. There are so many great farm stands in the area and so much fresh seafood, so I am always cooking. I joke that my house has a revolving door because friends are always dropping by, especially in the summer. Everyone always gravitates to the kitchen. I guess they know they will be well fed!

How does living by the ocean influence your cooking/recipe writing? When I first moved to the Hamptons, I realized I didn’t know enough about cooking seafood. I got a job as a fishmonger at a local seafood market and learned so much. I have a few friends who are excellent fishermen, so there are many summer days that they will drop off their fresh catch and come back for dinner. Just down the beach from me, there is a great spot for crabbing, and I love to do a

big crab boil for a bunch of friends. I keep everything very casual and laid back.

Your new book talks about your newfound love of surfing. What inspired you to learn? I decided to try surfing one day when I needed to “get out of my own head,” so to speak, and try something completely out of character. I have never been very athletic, or coordinated for that matter, so I expected it to be a disaster. Though I took my fair share of falls, and often felt like a pair of jeans going through a spin cycle in the washing machine, I loved it. Being in the ocean makes me feel so close to nature, and it is very spiritual for me. And it’s just so FUN!

You’ve been known to describe your personal style with your “three C’s: casual, comfortable, and with a touch of couture.” How does this apply to your home in Sagaponack? My furniture and decorating style is much like that of my wardrobe. Beach living isn’t meant to be fancy, but that doesn’t mean it can’t be stylish. My decor is easy and eclectic, kind of bohemian, with a couple of stand-out antiques and artwork.

What’s your favorite time to be on or in the ocean, and why? I like to be in the ocean anytime the waves are good, and I like to be on the beach in the evening. The light is pure magic as the sun sets.

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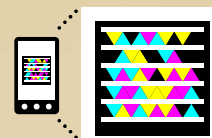
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