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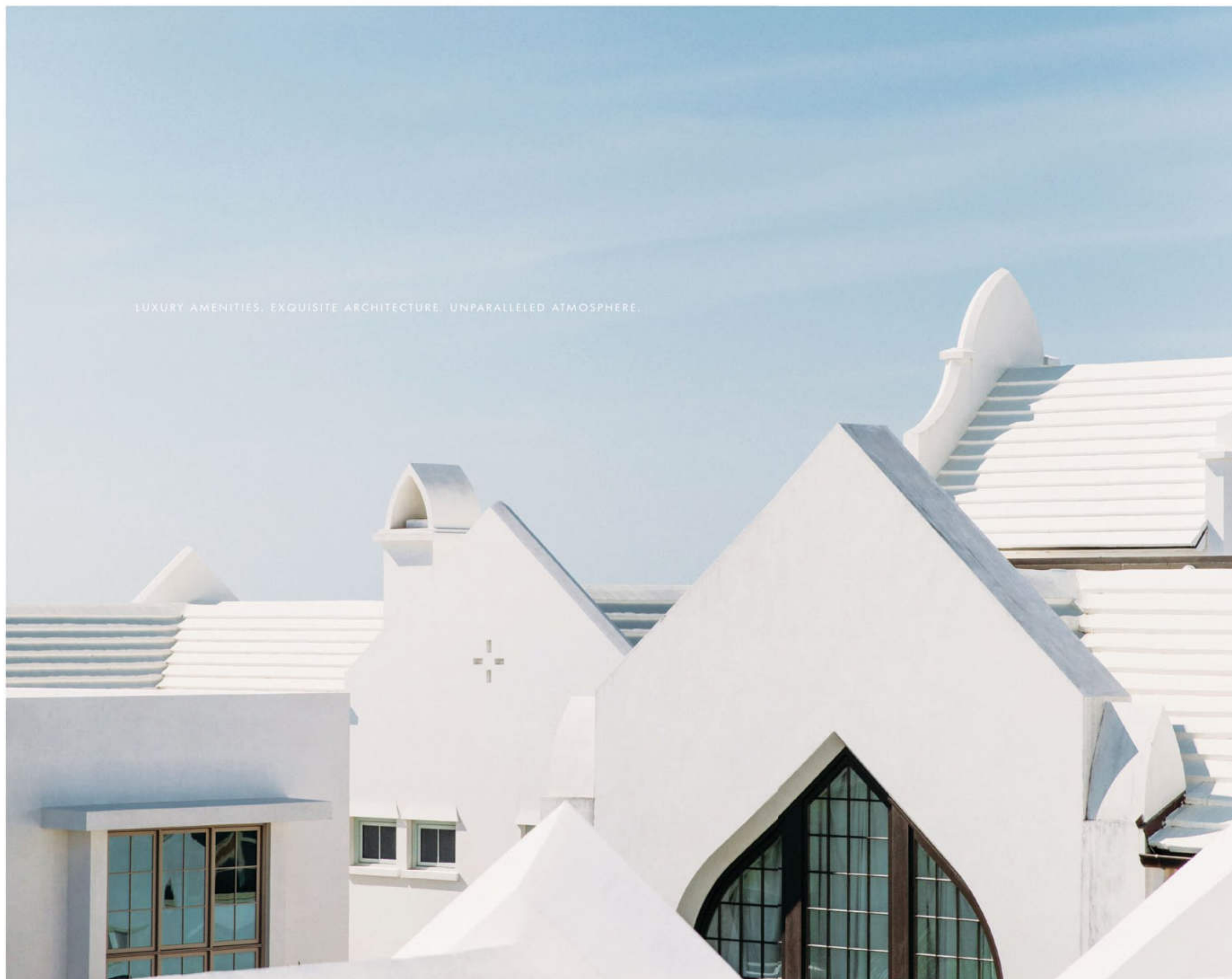
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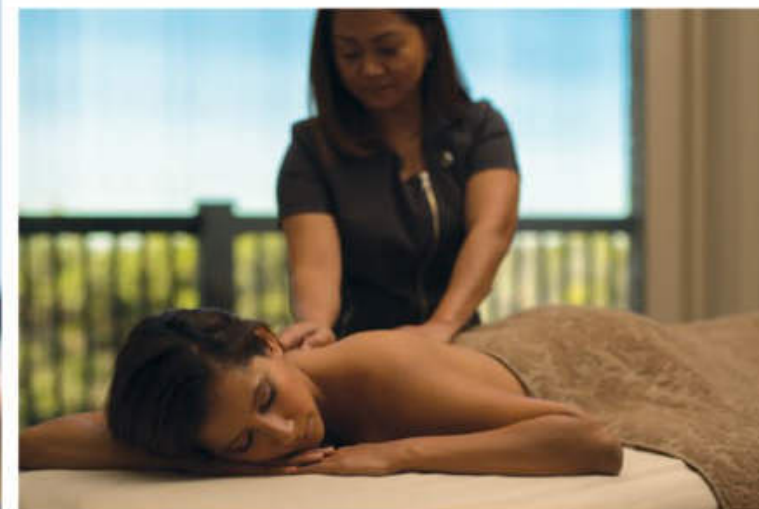
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FROM OUR FOUNDER



“Do you work for 30A?”

I turned around to see a gentleman I guessed to be about 50-years-old. “I saw your hat,” he said, pointing to the 30A logo on my cap.

It had been raining on and off all day. The storms had now cleared out, just in time to open the gates for Digital Graffiti at Alys Beach. My hair is wildly uncontrollable on a good day, and it was a wet, matted mess by this point, so slapping on a cap was my best damage control option.

“Oh! Yes, I do,” I replied. “How are you?”

“I’m great,” he said, while also introducing his wife, Melanie. “I have something I want to share with you.”

Andy proceeded to tell me that he grew up in Huntsville, Alabama. After school, he went to work in the auto industry. In fact, he and Melanie were hired by the same company on the very same day.

They worked there for 24 years, when suddenly, one day, their boss told them they had to transfer to work in a parts depot in Minneapolis, or they’d lose their jobs.

“We were still six years shy of getting our retirement benefits, so we didn’t have much choice,” said Andy. So, they reluctantly moved to Minneapolis, leaving behind the only life they’d ever known. “It was the hardest six years of our lives.”

Andy told me that after every challenging day at work, he would come home and watch the many videos and stories that we shared on 30A.com. “He would,” nodded Melanie in agreement. “He would watch 30A every day.”

“You guys really gave me hope; something to look forward to,” he said, with a hint of tears forming in his eyes. Or perhaps they were forming in my eyes. “30A truly helped me hold on, when sometimes I really didn’t know how I was going to make it.”

But Andy did make it. In fact, he and Melanie retired on the same day, exactly 30 years after starting together. Now they own a home here at the beach.

Dolphins. Paddle boarding. Photo shoots. Beach bars. My job is already pretty darn rewarding. But when I hear stories like the one Andy and Melanie shared with me, it reminds me of our company’s true purpose: To bring the beach – to bring happiness – to people who can’t always be here with us.

We’ve all been through a lot of stress in recent months, and there’s no doubt still more to come. Flotsam and jetsam is a beautifully maddening inevitability of life. Throughout it all though, our 30A family will be here to serve as a perpetual beacon of love, optimism, inclusion and happiness.

I sincerely hope the stories and photos in our new magazine will shine a little happiness into your life, wherever you are.

Beach Happy, my friends!

Mike Ragsdale

Mike Ragsdale
Founder and CEO
The 30A Company

Photo by: Sean Murphy



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SAGE

Welcome to the Premiere Issue of Beach Happy

About five weeks before this issue was set to go to print, I found myself stuck at my kitchen island, mid pandemic, staring across an endless array of magazines from my past. There were travel magazines, destination wedding magazines, health and wellness titles, a college and career periodical, and a few random others, I'd almost forgotten about. As I perused the pages, looking over various articles I'd either written or edited, my mindset began to switch from trying to conjure up ideas for witty lines or catchy titles to instead thinking about how long I'd actually been playing this magazine game, and how damn lucky I must be to still be in it. Twenty-three years after my first publishing job, I'm still doing what I love.

I try not to reminisce a whole lot, unless it's about my children, family vacations, time spent with friends, or flashbacks from my own childhood memories. As for work related endeavors - be it accomplishments or failures - I try not to look in that proverbial rearview mirror too much. Choosing instead to focus on the road ahead, navigating the next tricky curve or steep hill, always believing each will lead to those long fast straights where you can really open up and ride life to the fullest. Still, gazing back into those pages, I couldn't help but think about how much has changed since I entered this business, in my twenties, way back in 1997. I think it's safe to say that those of us who have spent the past twenty years in any form of print media, have done so in a time when more changes occurred in our industry than probably ever in the history of media.

One thing that remains unchanged, however, is that for any publication, be it print, digital or both, to succeed it must have



substance and be appealing to its intended readership. That element is what I, and everyone involved with *Beach Happy*, strive to be the most cognizant of. In the end, whether you grab your copy of *Beach Happy* at a bookseller in Birmingham, NYC or LA, a grocery newsstand in Atlanta, Houston, or Charlotte, one of the hundreds of free copy locations along the Gulf Coast, or through a digital subscription to your inbox; we know we can only be as good as the stories that compel you, the interviews that move you, the information that aids you, and the photos that draw you into our pages and transport you to our places. Our job is to entice your senses and heighten your desire for the sand, sun, emerald waters and lifestyle that *Beach Happy* magazine is really all about. We're not here to simply bring you to the beach, but moreover to bring the beach to you, wherever you may be.

We hope you love this premiere issue as much as our team loved putting it together for you, and I for one would love to hear your thoughts and ideas for future stories, interviews, and anything we can do to make your *Beach Happy* experience the best it can be.

See you on the sand!

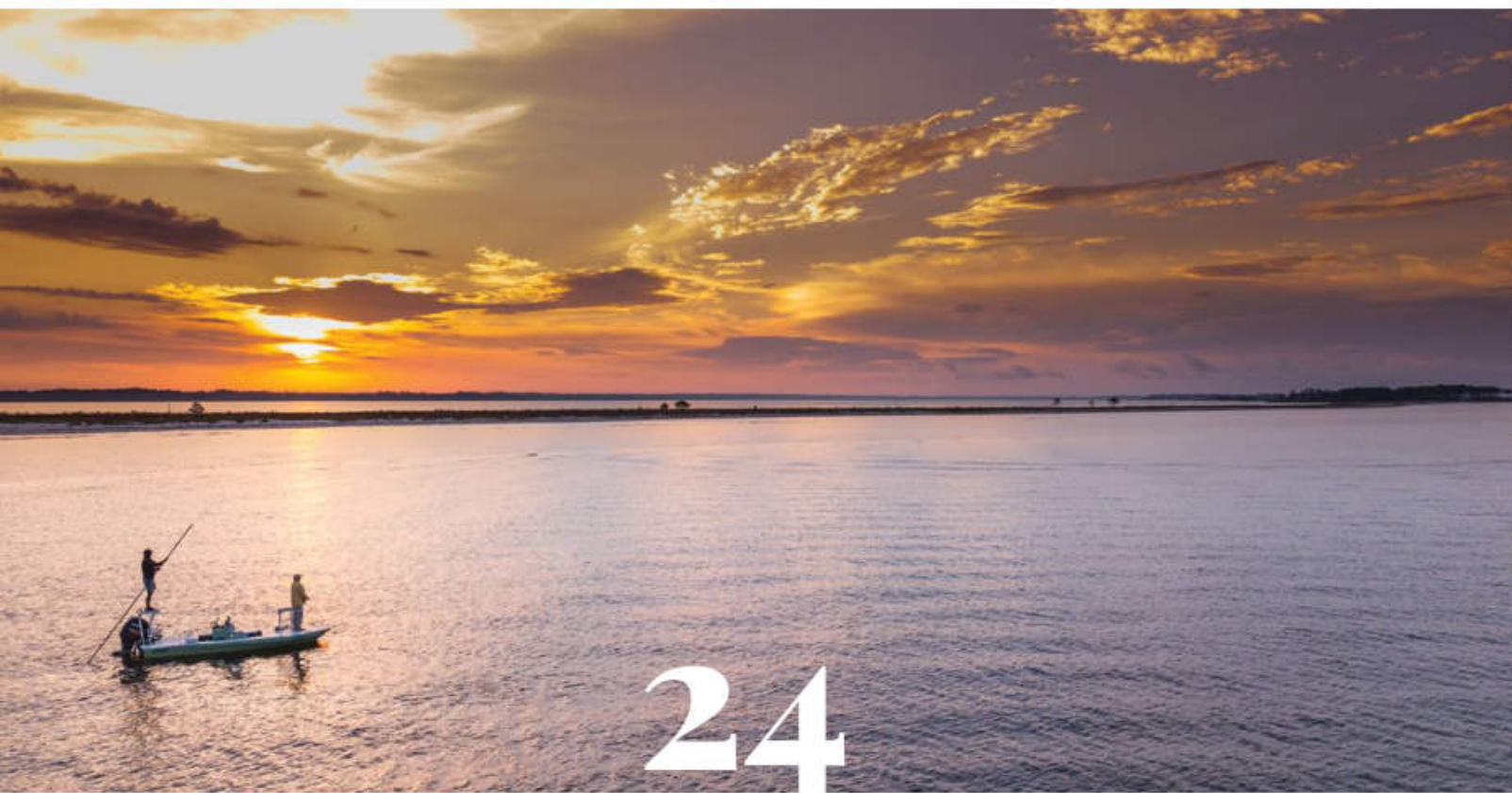
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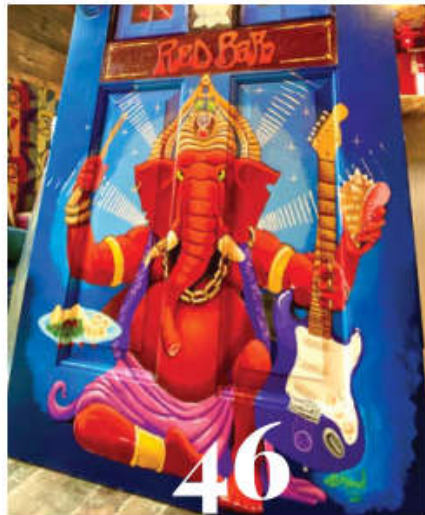

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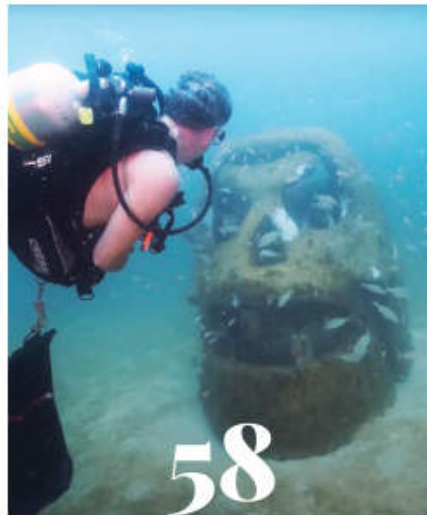
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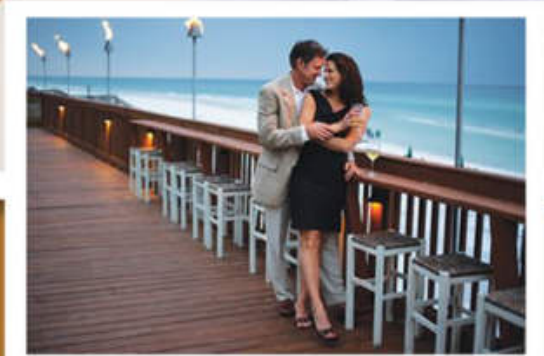
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is British but has lived along 30A since 2004. After a global career in advertising he has now made NorthWest Florida his home and runs local PR and Marketing Agency www.98RepublicPR.com. Martin's passions include soccer, cricket, rugby, Formula One and horse racing. He is a fan of craft beers and fine wines and enjoys good company and long, lazy lunches in any of the spectacular restaurants on 30A.



SUSAN BENTON

made 30A home in the 1990's and is the go-to resource for foodies visiting Pensacola to Panama City Beach. She is a nationally published food and lifestyle writer, food photographer, and local artist. Her website is 30AEATS.com where she shares recipes and writes about the secrets of Gulf Coast food.



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Our inaugural cover was photographed by Lauren Athalia (www.laurenathalia.com) and features 30A team member, Megan Lyons. In addition to being our cover model, Megan serves as 30A's National Sales Director, responsible for expanding 30A's recycled apparel line into more than 400 stores nationwide.

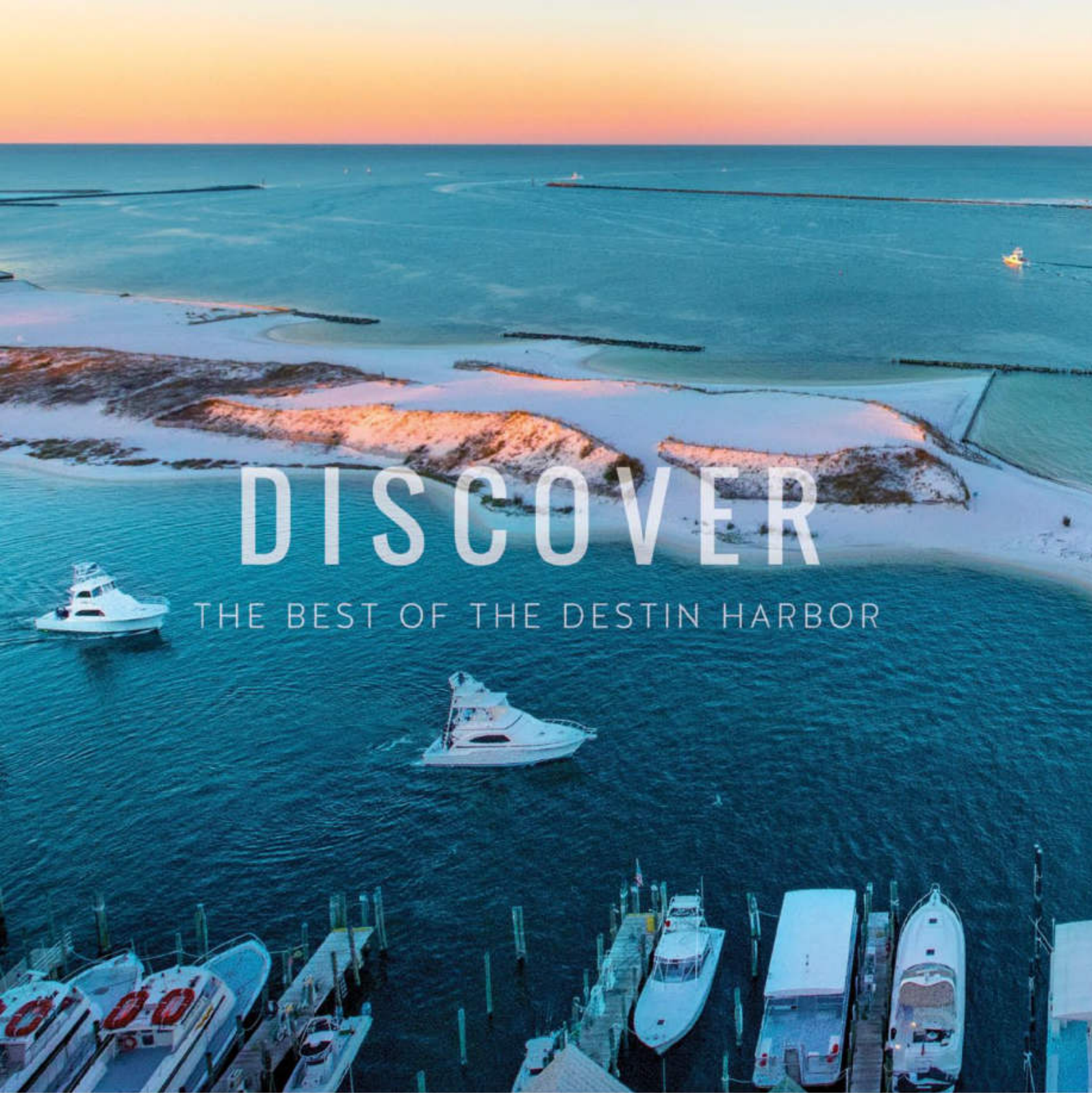
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By Abigail Abesamis

The chef, food entrepreneur and former *Below Deck* star talks midnight paddleboarding, his guilty pleasure food, and what it was like to be on reality TV.

We chatted with chef Ben while he was, like many of us, away from his normal work routine and staying in at his home in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. During this time, Ben was still running cooking demos for pizza, marinara sauce, steak and more, offering inspiration and interacting with his 400,000+ Instagram followers.

Ben is an accomplished chef with a career that's taken him around the globe, and provided experiences that many can only dream of. He apprenticed at The Fat Duck [Heston Blumenthal's acclaimed three Michelin star restaurant in the UK], helmed the kitchens of luxury yachts for more than 15 years, and now runs a high-end catering business. Here's a little of what he had to say about his journey thus far, though he's showing no signs of slowing down anytime soon.



Beach Happy: In all your world travels, you've seen a lot of beaches. If you could pick any one to live on for the rest of your life, which one would you choose and why?

Chef Ben Robinson: Mykonos is amazing and has some of the most beautiful beaches, but I don't think anything will beat the beaches of Cape Cod where I grew up. It's really close to home and I love those bay communities there on the Cape.

BH: As an avid paddleboarder, where's an interesting place you've paddleboarded?

Chef Ben: I live on the isles of Las Olas, which is just a gorgeous, gorgeous place to paddleboard and I really enjoy that. I live on a lake, so I invite friends out and we do moonlit paddleboarding around midnight and it's a lot of fun; it's almost like you're stealing time.

BH: After six seasons on *Below Deck*, what's something unexpected that you learned or experienced when filming a reality TV show?

Chef Ben: Just being on the front lines, thrown into a production company and not being allowed to communicate with anyone because you've got a camera on you the whole time. It was pretty shocking when I first arrived; we weren't allowed to talk about the television process and we weren't allowed to talk to the cameramen or the audio guys because from a producer's standpoint something gets lost if everyone's communicating with each other. The focus [of the show] is on us, and it's really hard to remember to respect the fourth wall.

The whole process was amazingly challenging. I think the [yachting] industry is very unfair for chefs. Every

other department has what's called 'hours of rest' but the chef does not, and so quite a lot I was working 19-20 hours a day for many, many weeks. [Add] in the pressure of being on camera and people filming you the whole time, and you can imagine what that does to a very tired psyche. It's pretty nerve-racking to be honest, and that's when they get their best material [laughs].

BH: You are shipwrecked by a desert island. The boat is sinking. You have time to grab three things. What do you grab?

Chef Ben: I've thought about jumping off the boat in certain marinas because I was fed up with the program, and at that point I was going to take my wallet, my passport and my sunglasses. But if I'm swimming to a desert island, I'm a chef so I would take as much non-perishable food as I possibly could. I'd probably take food, water and I guess an iPhone's not going to do you much good, is it? I like lighting fires so I'd make sure that I had plenty of lighters, matches, food and water.

BH: What's something about you that would surprise many Beach Happy readers?

Chef Ben: Wow, what a question; I don't think anything would surprise people about me. I think we've covered '50 shades of Ben' - that's actually my nickname for production... I'm a sucker for fast food; I like Burger King but prefer the fries at McDonald's. @

To learn more about chef Ben, follow him on Instagram (@benstogram) or check out chefbenrobinson.com.



The Tarpon King

Photo by Lauren Athalia



On The Hook With Guide Elite, David Mangum

By Martin Liptrot

As I pull up outside his Santa Rosa Beach, Florida home he is already waiting outside.

I expected a game fishing legend to be a big, salty bear of a man, shaggy beard, sunburnt nose and lips, sports sunglasses on and bedecked in those PFG vented shirts and shorts I'd seen so many times before.

Instead, I'm warmly, but warily, welcomed by David Mangum dressed in a simple t-shirt and shorts and wearing uber-fashionista Havaianas flip-flops.

He is slim but toned, dark hair, greying a little at the temple and with a well-kempt beard he could have been a yoga instructor, a musician or a tennis pro.

This being during the COVID-19 crisis, we decline to shake hands or bump elbows and he leads me through to the decked backyard where

we are going to talk. There, in anticipation, he has set out three chairs each 'socially distanced' almost exactly 6 feet apart. I move one of the chairs slightly so I can arrange my notes and recording devices and I see his eyes dart back and forth recalibrating the distances.

David Mangum is recognised as one of the nation's elite Tarpon fishing guides and has been at the top of his game for more than two decades. His is a story of how an obsession for being the very best, a commitment to doing the right thing, and respect for one of the most exotic of game fish combine.

Born in Northwest Florida, David grew up fishing and boating on its emerald green waters. While fishing was always a passion, he had other interests too, playing State championship soccer, dabbling with art. He is now an accomplished



painter, in oils, and with a brief stint at military school to, in his words, 'straighten me out a little.' He graduated high school in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

"Sharing that accomplishment within that small circle is more than enough for me."

He tells me his first experience with Tarpon was on a fishing trip with his father: "I was young, really young. We were in our Jon boat, which we still have, and we were under the Destin bridge and my Dad was doing something on his side of the boat, and on this side I saw what looked to me like a scaled serpent. You know the old paintings of serpents in the sea. The Tarpon do this thing where they come up and grab air from the surface—it's called rolling. At the time I had no idea what it was, and I swore to my Dad for years that I saw a sea serpent. It was a long time after, I realised that it was three tarpon rolling together."

Post school, he applied for fishing camp and guide jobs in Alaska, similar opportunities took him to Colorado, Texas, the Bahamas and Puerto Rico. Back in Northwest Florida, working bar and restaurant jobs, David spent every spare hour out on the water looking for Tarpon, but unlike his fellow fishing friends, he was also taking careful note of the tides, the weather and the way the fish behaved.

"I started fishing and exploring east of Panama City and we saw Tarpon. We saw them, and found them, but had no idea how to catch them. I remember going to the library to figure out anything I could. That was my education, I guess. This was way over 25 years ago and nobody was doing that. Nobody even knew what that fish was in this area. We're known for grouper, snapper, stuff you can eat and kill, redneck stuff."

Is David a redneck? I wonder, but he says, "No! Within certain circles I might say I'm a redneck, but all my redneck buddies think I'm pretty liberal. When they call me a liberal, I think they mean

harm with that statement, but I don't think I'm a redneck."

Fishing friends call him 'The Scientist.' David says, "I'm way more analytical and I pay attention to all the little details others don't. I pay attention to the velocity of the tide, water temperatures, barometric pressure, the direction of the wind, and over time you see patterns and learn things that way. Things are learned over the years. Repetition insures we get good at anything. With any sport, anything you want to do well at, you are going to have to obsess that way. I have a journal I've kept since 2002 that I've written in every single day I've gone tarpon fishing."

In talking with David it's clear he is a man of strong beliefs and principles, driven by a set of rules and ideas which he is absolutely unwilling to bend. He is going to be the best. But he is going to do it the right way and on his terms.

"I probably wouldn't have the relationship I have with this fish if I had to kill it. The fishing I do is still hunting. That's built into us from thousands of years ago. We're all hunters, but I love the fact that with fish, I can let it go again.

"A couple of years ago I caught one that was 215 lb. The world record is 202 lb, but to achieve that record I would have had to kill it. So forget that! I'll never kill that fish. Why would I? The



Photo by Lauren Athalia



people I respect in the outdoor world will know about that catch in a matter of days anyway and be like, 'hey, cool.'" Sharing that accomplishment within that small circle is more than enough for me."

"What I do is entertainment, and I want to keep that perspective. This isn't a matter of life and death."

And how do his clients relate to him? Many, who are wealthy people paying to go on the hunt, feel the same.

"I'm a Guide, I introduce folks to the fish and explain the them how to catch the fish. Probably 95% of fish we catch, we see first. I'll show them the fish and they make their cast and try to catch it. Way cooler! I'd rather brag about what we did. It's not about me, nobody cares, they know I can do it. It's far harder and more skilled to guide my angler to a fish than catch it myself."

David laments, "We have to manage expectations from when the client and I first speak. It takes years to figure that out, and learn how to speak with clients, so they're laughing before they step on your boat."

"The people who want to kill fish, are going to kill fish. I see them coming, with their white styrofoam cooler, from miles away Those are not our clients. We are going out for sport fishing, and we

catch and release."

Game fishing today, especially along this stretch of Northwest Florida's Gulf, is a big money business. I wonder if a man so driven by the process of learning by experience, years of watching and recalling the moves the big fish make, is worried about the money and technology available to others who haven't 'served their time'.

"It still takes work, there's more resources to help figure it out, but there's no substitute for time. You cannot cheat time, no way. Time spent is irreplaceable, but I embrace the technology if it gives me the edge."

And woe the man who trespasses on his fishing spots, which are clearly identified with his trademark skull buoy anchor float.





"I won't cheat off anyone else's homework. That's the ultimate rule in our industry. If someone takes the time to figure out a spot, then that's theirs. When we hook a tarpon we'll unclip the anchor and may be out of sight before we actually catch the fish. Guides will see the anchor buoy and say, 'Ah, that's where Mangum is fishing,' and leave. If they don't, we'll have issues. Every blue moon it happens, you can't just figure that place out. Nobody just licked their finger, put it up to the wind, and decided to drive their boat to that one exact spot. Many people don't care about learning it the right way, they just want to have the fish in front of them. They don't care about the hunt, the search, they just want to put the photograph on social media. If you didn't learn it the right way, and you're just going to take it, or take it from someone else that earned it, in my world, that doesn't work."

As for the future, David can see no reason not to carry on doing this for another 20 years. Mangum says, "The biggest inhibitor nowadays is that I'm 47 years old. My body says, 'hey, guess what man, you're not 20 anymore, but physical fitness is still something I prepare for every year before my Tarpon season. I just did a seven day juice fast, cleaning out, cardio, and balance on my slackline, because I want to be the best I can, to wake up before the sun comes up and be out there all day every day.' He goes on to say, "It's my favorite thing in the whole world. Those days, those 120 days, it is work, but it's not, and it's hard. I love that, if it were easy, I wouldn't care about it."

Dedication. Passion. A Lifetime's Pursuit for Perfection. For what? "I'm going to figure it all out before it's over. I'm going to learn everything there possibly is to know about Tarpon on the Florida Gulf Coast. I want to know more than anyone else knows."

And what has all this taught him?

Mangum says, "What I do is entertainment, and I want to keep that perspective. This isn't a matter of life and death."

"The main skill isn't even fishing, rather connecting with somebody that you have a common passion with, making people comfortable. I love dealing with people and I hate it as well, sometimes. It just sort of happens. I meet somebody on the boat or at the ramp for the first time and we become friends. That human connection is a real thing and I still dig it"

And with a final smile:

David Mangum looks at me and says,

"Just don't tell anybody." 🐟

David Mangum owns Shallow Water Expeditions, a team of expert fishing guides serving Florida's Gulf Coast. (www.shallowwaterexpeditions.com)



"I want to be the best I can, to wake up before the sun comes up and be out there all day every day."



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Coastal Casual (Without The Kitsch)

5 Tips From
Interior Designer
Vern Yip



Photography by David A. Land

By Abigail Abesamis

A chamois carousel animal (that's goat-antelope in case you wondered) along with Asian-inspired patterns and hues from bright citrine to warm gray are just a few of the things you may find in Vern Yip's beach home in Rosemary Beach, Florida, along Scenic Highway 30A. While bowls full of seashells, a blue and white color scheme and mermaids galore may be what people typically think of when they hear coastal casual, for Vern that descriptor is more about a feeling and way of living.

"I think when people think about coastal casual they think about a feeling of ease, decompression [and] being able to come into an environment and immediately be relaxed, rejuvenated and nurtured," Vern said. "It's this idea that life is stressful and [people are] creating coastal casual environments even when they live in the mountains, in the deserts [and] in the middle of the Midwest where there's not a drop of water to be seen anywhere. People want to create that coastal casual look because what they're really trying to achieve is an environment where they can relax easily and the focus is more on life, people and relationships rather than preserving an environment or being worried about how something is used."

Incorporate some coastal casual vibes into your home by following Vern's top tips:



1 Choose fabrics and materials that match your lifestyle.

A home is meant to be lived in, so it's important to balance aesthetic desires (like pristine white countertops and sofas) with the realities of your way of living (meaning kids, pets and house guests that are prone to spilling a glass of red wine—it happens to the best of us).

"I love the wide breadth of performance fabrics that we now have; it's why I came out with my own line of performance fabrics last year," Vern said. "I was seeing this strong desire, not just in coastal environments but in lots of people's homes, to have beautiful fabrics that are soft to the touch but also incredibly durable so that you're not worried about your friend drinking a glass of red wine on your white sofa, your kid eating ice cream on a piece of upholstery they're not supposed to be eating on or your dog climbing up on it. At the same time, you're able to have a white sofa or something that's light-colored and really embrace that aesthetic."

If you've got your heart set on white countertops, consider using quartz instead of white marble. "We see a lot of white marble countertops in coastal design but a lot of times people might have the look but they don't have the lifestyle; white marble tends to stain with red wine [and] scratches very easily but you can employ quartz that looks just like white marble," he said. That simple swap allows you to entertain guests



without worrying about it scratching and focus on the conversations you're having with people instead of silently hoping they don't set their glass down on your countertop.

2 You don't have to stick to colors like blue and white.

While blue and white may be the obvious colors to incorporate in a coastal-inspired space, Vern recommends choosing colors that you and your family find joyful and uplifting, and encourage a sense of casualness and connectivity to the people you spend time with in your home.

"I'm on my third home in Rosemary Beach and I've never had a blue and white home, not because I don't love blue and white but when I think about what puts a smile on my face, what lifts me up, what I find joyful and what my family finds joyful, it's something slightly different," Vern said. "In my current home I employed a lot of citrine, which is a really beautiful jewel toned yellow, a warm gray and white. I really went for that palette because it makes it feel sunny inside even when it's not sunny and I love that, I love bright."

When choosing a color palette for your own home, he recommends having an honest conversation with yourself and your family. Instead of focusing on what's expected, think about which colors, patterns and objects would create that sense of happiness often associated with coastal living.

3 Play around with patterns.

"Pattern is another great tool to express individuality, and it's also a great tool to create the emotion or feel that you want in an environment," Vern said. If motifs of sea stars, knots and waves aren't calling your name, you can still achieve an easygoing coastal feel by thinking outside the box. "In my home I have

patterns that maybe you wouldn't expect in a coastal environment; I have patterns that are Asian-inspired and I have them mixed with geometrics."

4 Surround yourself with objects that bring you joy.

From great seahorses that typically don the gondolas of Venice to a vintage carousel chamois, Vern has accented his beach home with unique finds from his world travels. "I don't think most people think of carousel goats as necessarily coastal, but I have him in our kitchen because he's joyful and puts a smile on everybody's face," he said.

"Think outside of the usual iconic things. If mermaids make you happy, that's great; mermaids don't do it for me. I found a great door knocker in Cartagena in the shape of an octopus. It's huge and weighs a ton and I designed a base to display him on and now he's on my front door. Again, it's about having a personal connection to your home and being surrounded by things that tell your story in a joyful way—[the objects] I've described are a reflection of somewhere I've been in the world and a great experience that I had."

5 Think about what message you're trying to convey with your space.

"Everything in your home, whether or not you realize it, every single thing sends you a message," Vern said. Whether that message is a reminder of a great vacation and a serendipitous find or an impulse buy (right place, right time) that you don't love but takes up space in your home, you have control over that messaging."

For more design tips and inspiration, check out Vern's Instagram page (@vernypdesigns) or pick up one of his books, Vern Yip's Design Wise: Your Smart Guide to a Beautiful Home (a New York Times bestseller) and Vern Yip's Vacation at Home: Design Ideas for Creating Your Everyday Getaway.





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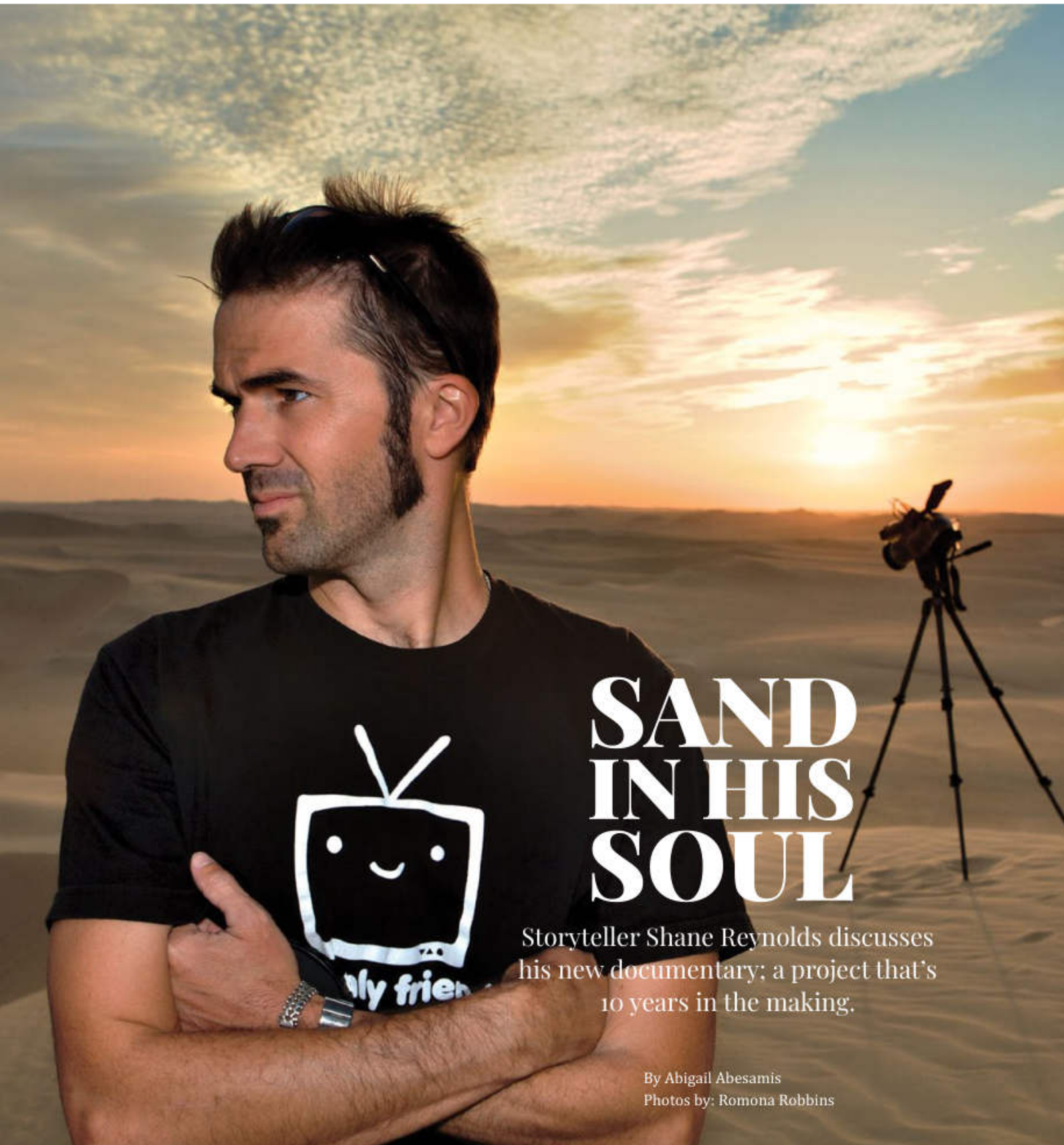
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SAND IN HIS SOUL

Storyteller Shane Reynolds discusses his new documentary; a project that's 10 years in the making.

By Abigail Abesamis
Photos by: Romona Robbins



Gulf Coast native Shane Reynolds has traveled to more than 65 countries as part of his job as a multiplatform video producer, and shooter, running his production company, Color Earth. His client list has included such well-known media names as National Geographic, Discovery Channel, Travel Channel and the BBC, just to name a few.

Still, for this born in Pensacola, raised in Fort Walton Beach, residing in Destin native of Northwest Florida, of all the places he's journeyed and experienced, when it came to choosing where to make his home the answer was simple; where he'd been all along.

"Growing up here, you don't know how good you have it," Reynolds told Beach Happy. "Obviously the beach and the water and the options we have here [are great], but I think over time you realize that the standard of living here is cozy, the people are real, [and] I feel like it shaped me to be a reasonable person because it's just a balanced place of culture and outdoor activity."

Over the course of his career Reynolds has worked on a number of notable projects, including *Shane Untamed* by NatGeo Wild, an international wildlife adventure series he produced, hosted, directed and edited. However, his biggest project to date is all about his hometown. *Sand In My Soul: Stories of the Emerald Coast by Those Who Tell Them Best* is a full-length

historical documentary about the Emerald Coast (now known as Destin-Fort Walton Beach) that's almost 10 years in the making.

It all began in 2011, when Lee Glaser, who Reynolds describes as "an ingrained local and all-around good person," came to him with the idea. After securing an initial round of funding, Reynolds and his team hit the ground running with production, accomplishing a great deal in 2012. "[We] did a lot of interviews and laid the groundwork for the edit and then funding got pulled from under us."

At this crucial crossroads, Reynolds chose to turn the documentary into a personal project.

"I decided that since we were already so far into this that I would go ahead and make it a passion project and just work on it when I had free time; there just wasn't a lot of free time," he said. "I was doing a couple of different series for Travel Channel, I was working on stuff for National Geographic, so this was my hometown project that I buried myself into when things got slow."

In addition to not wanting to let go of the footage that had already been shot, Reynolds felt a personal connection to the project. "I was born in Pensacola, raised in Fort Walton and I'm living in Destin; the only time I've been gone was to go to Gainesville for school and then Nashville professionally for about four years,"

"I've always thought I was lucky growing up here, but I feel even more lucky living here now because I get it."



Reynolds said. "I've always thought I was lucky growing up here and so when this project stalled out it just got personal for me."

Through his documentary, Reynolds seeks to educate visitors and tourists alike about the history of the Emerald Coast and show them (particularly the latter) that it's more than just a tourist town. Rather than tell the story himself, Reynolds tapped some local legends to share their accounts and expertise.

"We tried to find names in each community," Reynolds said. "This documentary is about the Emerald Coast, which has spread from Pensacola to Panama City but more accurately, I think it's Fort Walton Beach, Destin and Mary Esther, that kind of stretch, so we focused on that area and people that were prominent in Fort Walton, Destin and Okaloosa Island." Interviewees include Tom Rice, a local historian and the owner of Magnolia Grill in Fort Walton Beach, Dewey Destin, the great-great-grandson of Destin founder Leonard Destin, and Charles Morgan, the owner of Harbor Docks restaurant in Destin. Reynolds also had the older fishermen of Destin sit down together at a table at Harbor Docks to chat.

The personalities featured in the documentary were all asked the same questions in the hopes that they could talk about the history of the area without any need for a narrator. "The intent was that they would tell these stories in a way that they could all finish each other's sentences," said Reynolds, who ultimately decided to provide a minimal amount of narration to bridge the gaps between stories and help make transitions into different topics.

Writing, directing and editing a full-length historical documentary for the first time was a continuous learning process which, in addition to having limited time to work on it, contributed to the amount of time it took to complete. "There were a lot of things that if I could go back and do it again it would probably save me a couple of years," Reynolds said. "The good thing about it taking so long is that if we had finished it in a year like we hoped to, I don't think it'd be anywhere near as good as it is now."

Technological advances allowed him to include aerial shots taken on a drone, and over the last five years people following the documentary's progress have shared historical 8 mm footage from their

"The good thing about it taking so long is that if we had finished it in a year like we hoped to, I don't think it'd be anywhere near as good as it is now."



personal collections. "I've spent many, many, many hours sitting in my office playing 8 mm reels on these little projectors," Reynolds said. "I've gone through probably four projectors now that have broken on me, transferring everything to 4K, and getting them to where they're usable."

In the years he spent working on this documentary, more than anything Reynolds just wanted to finish it and have it presented. "It was such a weight on my shoulders [and since] it was a passion project I wanted it to be perfect." As for where his documentary would premiere, he had his sights set on Suds N Cinema, a historic movie theater in Fort Walton Beach. The sold-out weekend premiere for April 4 and 5 was ultimately postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic, however those who didn't make it to the drive-in premiere in Fort Walton Beach can rent or buy *Sand In My Soul* via Reynolds's Vimeo page.

Sand In My Soul, in Reynolds's eyes, is coming out at the end of an era. "We're dropping the Emerald Coast as a moniker [and] going to be known as Destin-Fort Walton Beach now instead—at least from a branding perspective—so this is being released right as the Emerald Coast is going away," he said. "I think [the documentary] is a memento of that era, which I think a lot of us are going to carry on with us." @

To learn more about Shane Reynolds, check out his website colorearth.tv or follow him on Instagram. (@colorearthpro)

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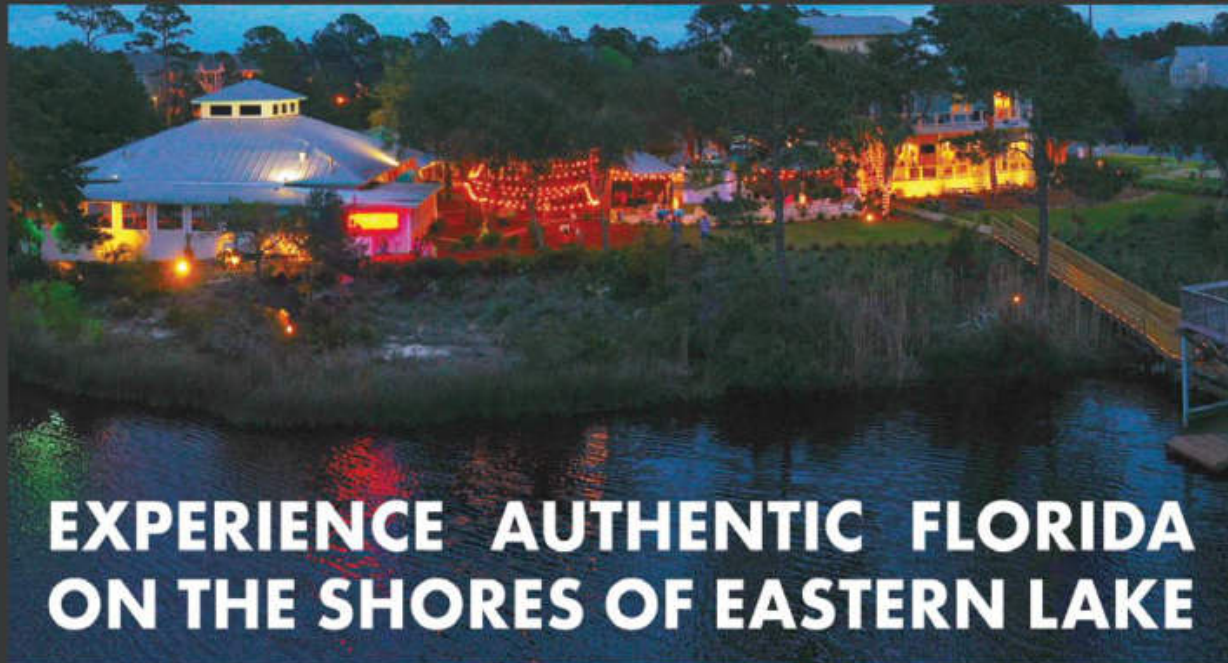


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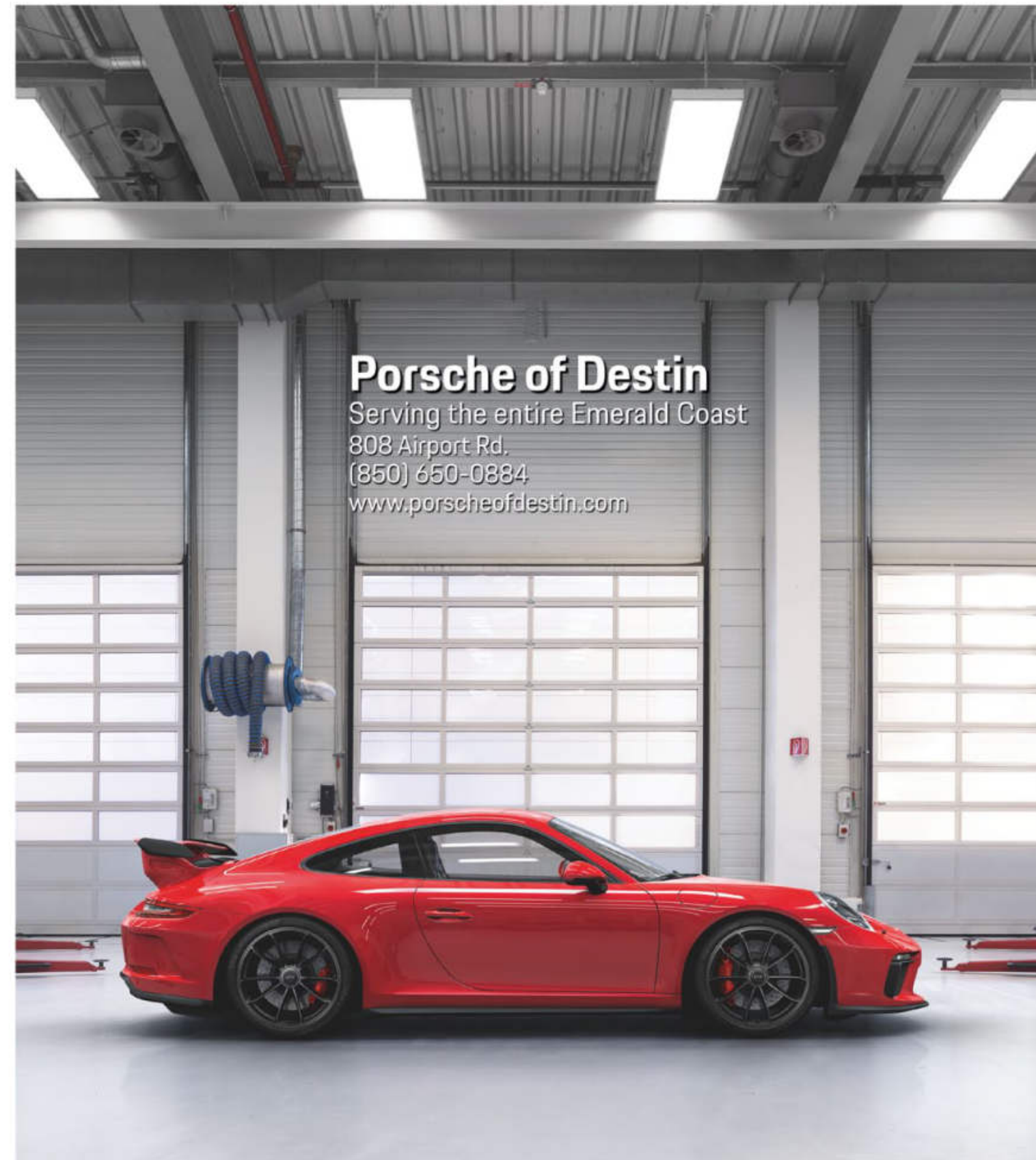


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Photographs by Fletcher Isacks

Red Bar Reborn

**A Gulf Coast Icon of Beach
Culture and Cuisine Roars
Back To Life**

By Martin Liptrot

Oli and Philippo, with dad looking over their shoulder



Grayton Beach is a 'BO-HO' hot-spot nestled on the sugar-white sands of Northwest Florida's Gulf Coast and has become a favorite vacation spot for celebrities, musicians and 'those in the know' from Dallas to Nashville, Atlanta and New Orleans.

Grayton Beach's allure is its laid-back lifestyle and a big part of this is The Red Bar, a classic beach restaurant housed in a former general store on a town-center sand lot.

Oliver Petit, Red Bar's owner and chef, is a big man with a big personality to match.

Born in Liege, Belgium, 6-foot 5 inch Petit first came

briefly to America with his family in the '70s, before making a permanent move to Northwest Florida.

"My father was a Maitre D' by profession and got the opportunity to work in Little Rock, Arkansas. I came to Florida in the Summer of 1990—as an experience, a Summer adventure—and I never left. Now my father and brothers are here too."

As a 20-something, Petit was drawn to the Northwest Florida lifestyle "a mix of Ol' Southern civility and classic coastal 'fun and sun'" and picked up a number of bar and restaurant jobs to establish himself in the area's tight-knit hospitality industry.

But it was a chance meeting with a fellow francophone which set the course for Petit's journey to owning and operating The Red Bar.

"I worked here, in this building, in 1990. I was hired by a French guy called Pierre Laurent to be a waiter. I worked here that season, but things didn't work out and I moved on. I got work in Seaside at Modica Market—and I worked there for four years, with the wonderful Modica family—and at

"But it was a chance meeting with a fellow francophone which set the course for Petit's journey to owning and operating The Red Bar."



Photo: Florida Memory / State Archives of Florida



night, worked at Josephine's Bed and Breakfast, a little hotel restaurant that became the Vera Bradley Inn,—but I always kept my eyes on that building in Grayton Beach."

While his working experience in Grayton Beach had been short-lived, the former general store struggling to re-invent itself as a restaurant had left an impression on the Belgian.

And fate was quick to intervene.

"My landlord was also the landlord of the property and when the Frenchman's lease was terminated, he was the one who got me into this

building. For nearly a year and a half they couldn't find anyone to lease the building—people wanted to purchase the property, but the building had problems, no air-conditioning—and they didn't want to sell. So, one of the landlords, Joe Cannon, he had the ambition and confidence in me—the contract was written on a paper napkin and we shook hands – so that's how I got it."

Petit took possession of the keys on January 1, 1995, and with \$2000 in the bank set about opening in time for Super Bowl XXIX on the last Sunday of that month. With a modest target of making \$200 gross takings a





day, Petit reckoned he could survive.

"San Francisco 49ers versus San Diego Chargers—it was a great party and I knew we were onto something good. We were like, 'What is happening here?' People came over to hang out and then they discovered they could actually eat, which I think was a surprise to some people. [pause] We did a lot more than \$200."

Petit, having served his time in the local hospitality industry, was able to call upon the support of the area's many restaurant workers and bar staff.

"From 5 pm to 10 pm it was dinner time and we covered the pool tables. At 10 pm we'd pull the curtains off the pool tables and the rock and roll band would start playing! We were popular with the restaurant guys who had finished their shifts and wanted to hang out—at the time we were the only place open after 10 pm."

But Petit also knew he had to appeal to tourists as well as his core local regulars and determined live music in a restaurant would differentiate the offer

from what else was available along Scenic Highway 30A, the beach road that tops the 26-mile sand bar Grayton Beach sits on.

"In Europe, the idea of live music in a restaurant simply didn't exist. And while America, especially in bars, had plenty of live music, nowhere was offering live music during dinner. We started with a jazz guitarist and then we would go into rock 'n roll from 10 pm."

"March arrived—the start of the tourist season—and it was gangbuster for dinner, the pool tables had to go, but we remained popular as a local bar and a tourist attraction. It is about having the right attitude to everyone. I tell the staff, 'You could have the King of Spain in here or a fisherman getting off the beach—treat them the same way, because often times they look the same.'"

With a summer season behind him, Petit realised the Red Bar formula of good food, live music, late bar and casual beach vibe was a success but he needed help.

"We were clearly exceeding our \$200 a day target

"I told them, while it was smouldering, I was resolved to rebuild... I didn't want to grieve, I want to get back to work."

so I had to put on—well, I had to find, I had no clue—my businessman's hat! This is where my brother came in. He's an accountant by trade and was living with my father in Little Rock and I begged him to come and see what we are doing. By March we had 30 employees, I had started off just myself, my girlfriend and best friend – we had payroll, taxes, we had gone from zero to a hundred miles an hour really quick. It was a blessing but it had become a serious business."

So, did he think he had found the recipe for success?

"No! I felt like I'm a novelty and people were going to get tired of me, always thinking this might be our last great moment... because it's a fickle business – people like you one week then move on to the next place."

In 1997, all of 30A benefited from the exposure filming of the movie "The Truman Show" brought the area—and the Red Bar was a major recipient of that new curiosity and interest.

"Look, how great to have a Hollywood production in your back yard! We were embraced by the actors and crew working on that picture as their bar of choice – they hung out here."

Established and loved by locals and tourists alike, the Red Bar was going from strength to strength. It weathered the 2008 financial crash, the BP oil spill and hurricanes and storms.

But then came February 13, 2019.

"I was in bed. It was 5:30am and I get a call from one of my neighbors here to tell me the restaurant is on fire."

"I jumped out and drove the 10 minutes over to Grayton Beach, thinking maybe the kitchen is on fire, or the dining room, but by the time I got here the streets are blocked off, they let me through, and I just witnessed this beloved place in a solid



***"I often brag that our success
is about our staff — the
people behind me."***

ball of fire, the most horrific sight."

"I just sat there and watched the firemen do the best they could to save Grayton Beach because there was no saving the Red Bar. It was destroyed."

Petit was immediately inundated with calls from staff, suppliers and supporters asking what they could do.

"The word got out and we all met here that afternoon, all 112 employees. I told them, while it was smouldering, I was resolved to rebuild... I told them I'm in opportunity mode, I didn't want to grieve, I want to get back to work."

But how do you recreate something which had evolved and grown organically over 25 years?

"We had blueprints for the building as a precaution in case of a hurricane or even a fire. We loved the layout, not every property is like that, sometimes you wish it was different, but other than maybe a less leaky roof and better bathrooms, we loved this layout."

But part of Red Bar's charm was the eclectic and unique collection of artifacts, posters and furnishings which it had amassed over the years, all destroyed.

"You know the show American Pickers? That's what we do, my father and me. We keep stuff. We have a treasure trove of items and articles we have sourced and saved, moved in and out of the restaurant over time, have taken to or from our other restaurant. I think the people are going to be so pleased we will have the similar soul we had in the past."

And the spirit and vibe of Red Bar—can that be recreated?

"Yes. I often brag that our success is about our staff - the people behind me. It sounds a bit of a cliché, so I guess, now we have the chance to prove it.

"Unanimously staff have voiced the desire to come back. The band has been here for 24 years and they are coming back. The servers, bartenders and cooks—some we have been able to move to our other restaurants—are amazing. We are all the engine of this place, being there with a smile on our faces, playing that same three chords that people love to dance to."

Has Petit now reflected on the last 15 months or so?

"There has been no time to grieve, the focus has been on getting it cleaned up and open. Ground-breaking was a tough time—I shed a tear—I suddenly felt this gargantuan project we had to achieve."

When can we expect Red Bar to reopen?

"We were ambitious, but we are on pace for opening for this summer—but with the virus and conditions we are in, it would actually be kind of neat to reopen the place at the same time as the country. Yes, Summer 2020 is a commitment."

Whenever that date is, Petit will be there, larger than life, greeting his guests, seating you and your friends with his charming refrain:

"This is the King of Spain's table but I've told him he'll have to wait another 50 minutes so you can be seated first." 🍷



The Perfect Mix

**Rolling Nostalgia + Great Drinks
= Big Fun with Kombi Keg**

By Bentley Caldwell



We've all been to outdoor events complete with makeshift bars consisting of a few tables thrown together. Kombi Keg now kicks the party up to a whole new level.

I first became aware of this cool Northwest Florida Gulf Coast based business in the fall of 2019, and was so intrigued by their vintage VW Vanagon, and what this unique new company was doing, that my friends and I obtained their services for a large outdoor concert and joint company party that we put on in Destin. Not only did the company do a wonderful job meeting our every need from specific beers and drinks we wanted on tap to providing great pouring services for our guests, but they also managed to create a hype that we're still hearing about. Sure, the kegs of 30A Beach Blonde and Rosé Gose were popular, as were the other concoctions we chose, right down to juice for the children and non-partakers. What really caught our thirsty crowd's attention, however, was that hot little blue Vanagon with beer tabs protruding from its side. And, that is really what the Kombi Keg experience is all about.

I sat down over breakfast with Kombi Keg 30A's owners, and childhood best friends, Kevin Schmidt and Patrick Nasri.



What is Kombi Keg and what makes it so memorable?

Our Kombi Keg is a vintage VW split screen Vanagon that has been modified to be the life of any party. It's retrofitted with 6 taps to pour ice-cold beverages such as beer, wine, kombucha, cold brew coffee, juices, sodas and more. It also features a 50" flat screen smart TV capable of streaming sporting events, movies, or your marketing material during your event. Additionally, our Kombi Keg has LED lights for an amazing night-time ambiance. Kombi Keg is truly a sight to see and use, and is definitely a cool step above a regular (insert boring) bar on a table.

How exactly does it work?

We work with our customers to customize the beverage needs for the event. Maybe it's a weeklong rental to

supply a family reunion with beer and water or maybe it's a wedding reception featuring the Bride's favorite Prosecco and Kombucha. We collaborate with the customer to figure out a menu of beverages, and then we take care of the rest. All you have to do is show up to the event, and we will get the beverages flowing.

What areas and beach communities does Kombi Keg 30A service?

We offer Kombi Keg 30A services from Tallahassee to Pensacola, Florida. While there are other Kombi Keg's across the US and the World, we are able to travel to any area where another Kombi Keg is not currently operating. We love going on a road trip to celebrate with others.



How does someone go about renting Kombi Keg for their event?

You can reach out to us on our social media platforms, Instagram and Facebook. You can also visit us at KombiKeg30a.com. A simple deposit will hold your dates and then we will begin the party planning. It really is that simple.

What have you enjoyed most about running Kombi Keg 30A?

I think the best part has been meeting all of the awesome people that hire us and that attend the event. We are usually hoarse by the end of an event because we are chatting with everyone, from the older couple that used to drive around in a VW to the young 8-year-old who saw a similar Vanagon on a movie or television show.

What type of events can Kombi Keg 30A be used for?

Our Kombi can be used for a simple birthday party with 30 people to a multi-day music festival with thousands of people, to an outdoor concert and party of a few hundred like the one we did last year for you and your friends. The systems allow us to be flexible in the quantity and types of beverages we serve.

What is the difference and benefit between hiring a bartender and hiring Kombi Keg 30A?

A typical bartender/caterer will have a bar table and black tablecloth out, serving bottles/cans/drinks. You will pay a mark-up on the alcohol and you will still pay a lot of money to have them there, in the corner, looking like a mess. With Kombi Keg, you can have a centerpiece at your event where people can hang out, watch a game, or just enjoy the ambiance and take pictures. You get rid of the excess trash and supplies that are needed with a standard bar. And people leave talking about Kombi Keg as a huge part of your event.

What made you two, as entrepreneurs who are also into other ventures, decide to start Kombi Keg 30A?

We have known each other for nearly 20 years. We have been in each other's weddings, were there when each other's children were born, etc. We have always said that one day we will start a business together. When I saw the Kombi Keg opportunity, I immediately sent Patrick a text and said, "Here it is!" We haven't slowed down since. @

For more information about Kombi Keg, call (850) 685-0633 or email Hello@KombiKegFlorida.com



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SUNKEN TREASURE

A deep dive into the United States' first underwater museum



Photo by: Shane Reynolds

By Abigail Abesamis



In the Gulf of Mexico, just off the coast of Walton County, Florida, lies a collection of sculptures 58 feet beneath the surface, known as the Underwater Museum of Art (UMA). A partnership between the Cultural Arts Alliance of Walton County (CAA) and the South Walton Artificial Reef Association (SWARA), with support from Visit South Walton, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Alys Foundation and Visit Florida, UMA is the United States' first underwater museum. In addition to offering artistic and cultural value, the sculptures "made of concrete, steel, iron, and other materials that will last for years" are designed to foster the development of marine habitats and expand fishery populations.

At the beginning of this year, the CAA and SWARA announced the jury-selected 2020 class of sculptures, which will make up the third installation. "The submissions this year were fantastic," Andy McAlexander, vice president of SWARA, told Beach Happy. "The artists really took into consideration not only the sculpture that they had in mind but its ability to serve a dual purpose as an artificial reef." During the CAA's annual Under The Sea fundraiser that will be held later this year, people will have the opportunity to see the sculptures on land before they're deployed into the Gulf of Mexico and chat with the artists that created them. After that, you'll need to be a scuba diver or freediver to see the sculptures in person.

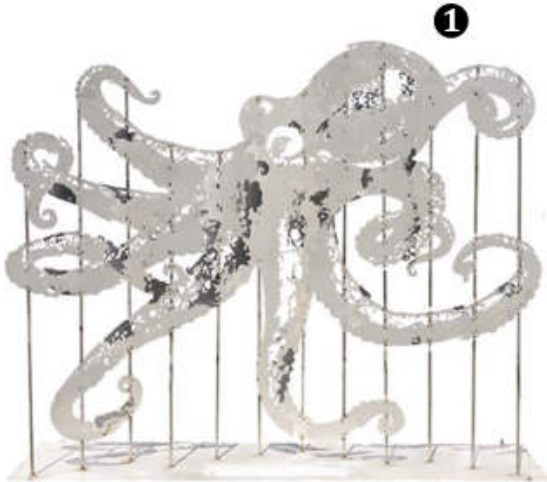
The young museum, which made TIME magazine's World's Greatest Places list in 2018, was just a proposal of an idea in 2017 by Allison Wickey, board president of the CAA, who was a new board member at the time. Wickey came up with the idea after learning about an underwater sculptor who was deploying pieces in other countries and having witnessed the deployment of artificial reefs locally. "I was mesmerized by the idea of observing art underwater," said Wickey, who set up a meeting with McAlexander to discuss the possibilities of such a project. "At the time SWARA was deploying limestone towers and pyramids in permitted areas along the Emerald Coast and I asked if it was possible to deploy sculptures."

A week later, Wickey presented the concept for UMA and a partnership with SWARA at a CAA board meeting. Wickey recounted that she was nervous and felt her idea was "totally pie in the sky" and, after sharing her proposal with CAA executive director Jennifer Steele and the board, was immediately met with excitement. The CAA worked with SWARA to make her vision a reality. "Every single step of the project involved something new to figure out that none of us had ever experienced and the CAA and SWARA leaned heavily on each other through it all," Wickey said. The first call for artists submissions was out within the year.

Rachel Herring, a Florida-based multimedia artist and graphic designer, was one such artist who answered the call. Her sculpture, The Grayt Pineapple, was one of seven designs chosen for the inaugural deployment of UMA. "When I set out to apply, I knew I wanted my piece to be fun and whimsical," Herring told

Here are a few of the many exhibits you might just see under the sea:

- 1. Anamorphous Octopus by Allison Wickey:** Divers swimming around this sculpture will see different things depending on their vantage point, with the full picture revealing itself when viewed head-on.
- 2. The Grayt Pineapple by Rachel Herring:** This 8-foot tall stainless steel structure in the shape of a pineapple, a symbol of hospitality, welcomes small fish into its hollow body.
- 3. SWARA Skull by Vince Tatum:** Look closely at the eye sockets of this skull, which stands 8-foot tall, and you'll see that they resemble the shape of southern stingrays.
- 4. Let's Not Blow This by Kevin Reilly:** This piece is a call to action for all of us to do our part to restore and protect the earth, represented as a fragile dandelion.
- 5. I Found It! by Ingram Ober and Marisol Rendon:** Massive loose jewels flank an even larger diamond ring on this sculpture inspired by lost pirate treasure.



Photos by: Spring Run Media



Beach Happy. “I also knew I wanted it to be hollow so it could house and protect fish. When the pineapple idea came to me, I knew it was perfect since they are symbols of welcoming and friendship. And of course, an 8-foot pineapple fits into the category of fun and whimsical.”

After her design was selected, Herring enlisted the help of her dad—who conveniently owns a metal fabricating shop and had a supply of stainless steel at his disposal—to turn her sketch into a full-blown sculpture. “I started making paper models to scale so we would know what cuts to make,” Herring explained. “Luckily the calculations were pretty spot on, and we welded it together fairly quickly. The most rewarding part was being able to create The Grayt Pineapple with my dad. His hobby is building old hot rods, and he loves to say ‘more people have asked me about that dang pineapple than anything else I’ve done.’”

Herring got scuba certified soon after the sculptures were deployed in the summer of 2018. “It is so rewarding to see them doing their job growing coral and housing wildlife!” she said.

Wickey also conceptualized a sculpture for submission that inaugural year, and her piece was also chosen. She found inspiration in an anamorphous sculpture at a Chicago airport. “It was a huge piece mounted on the ceiling and consisted of hundreds of birds suspended by threads, floating in a murmuration,” Wickey said. “As the viewer descended the escalator, the shape changed and undulated and I knew then I wanted my sculpture to be about perspective.”

She ultimately decided to create a multidimensional octopus. “An octopus is a multitasker and is equipped to handle any situation it experiences, always finding a way out or around predicaments,” Wickey said. “I’m a painter and my style is known for its layered and textured look, which also shows through in the sculpture—any way you view the piece reveals a new layer and dimension. I love a challenge and problem solving so the image is very symbolic of my personal vibe.”

Once her piece was selected, Wickey got to work on the technical logistics of actually creating her sculpture, Anamorphous Octopus. She was able to bring her concept to life with the help of a graphic designer and metal workers from Montgomery, Alabama. “I could not have been more impressed by the teamwork and finished project,” Wickey said. “While I came up with the concept, they did the work to make it come alive through software, cutting and welding.”

For Wickey, the experience of watching the welders assemble her sculpture was second only to watching the first deployment of UMA. “I remember that perfect late June day in the Gulf right off Grayton Beach, looking out at the sculptures on the deployment barge and at all of the boats and yachts holding the sculptors, our UMA team and so many supporters, and being in total amazement that it was even happening,” she said. “Watching the pieces deploy and hearing the cheers is something I will treasure as one of the very best moments of my life.”

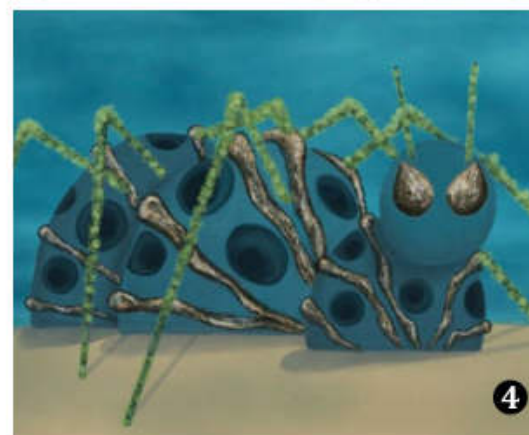
New sculptures will be deployed every year. Here's a look at what's coming soon:

1. El Plastico by George Sabra: This massive plastic bottle constructed of environmentally cast concrete, a representation of something that's harmful to marine life, is playing a direct role in helping it flourish.

2. Three Wishes by Ingram Ober and Marisol Rendón: Small ports located low on the belly of this giant geometric genie lamp are designed for divers to purge air from their octopus regulators. The air enters the lamp and is released out of the spout, like a wish-granting genie would.

3. Dawn Dancers by Shohini Ghosh: Underwater tides and sea life can move freely through this silhouette sculpture of two dancing seahorses.

4. Eco-Bug by Priscilla D'Brito: The many limbs and segmented body of this magnified insect sculpture offers ample surfaces to foster marine life and coral growth.



This sculpture by Beatriz Chachamovits mimics bleached coral, a condition affecting once healthy corals stressed by rising ocean temperatures and pollution. It is now a flourishing marine habitat.



To learn more about the Underwater Museum of Art (UMA), check out www.umafl.org



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Concerts in the Village

JULY

09 Jeffrey Steele

16 Accent

22* Ultimate Eagle's Tribute
On The Border
*Wednesday Concert!

30 Forrest Williams Band

AUGUST

20 M80's

SEPTEMBER

10 Casey Kearney

17 The Shakedown

24 The Bonehoeffers

OCTOBER

01 Pickled Pickers

03* Shania Twin
*Saturday Concert!

08 Emerald Gold

25th Season of Events

SEPT. 11 Vintij Wine Dinner Series

OCT. 24 & 25 25th Annual Festival of the Arts

NOV. 12 8th Annual Ruth's Chris Wine Walkabout

DEC. 10 25th Sounds of the Season "Charles Billingsley"

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Made for the Shade



Ray-Ban Meteor Striped Havana

The Ray-Ban Meteor sunglasses combine the timeless style of '60s eyewear with a modern day bold and original look. With clear frames made of shiny striped transparent acetate, the Meteor is sure to maintain your cool factor while also serving as the perfect pair of shades to protect your eyes while at the same time enhancing your image.

RAY-BAN.COM (\$198)

On the beach, on a boat, or on the road - your sunglasses go wherever you go, and in many ways, become an extension of your lifestyle and look. Whether you're protecting your baby blues from the rays or hiding those late-night party eyes, here are some of our favorite picks for style, practicality and durability.



Miu Miu Délice

Perfect for beach queens anywhere! Worn by super-model Miranda Kerr, Miu Miu is a luxury brand known for its sensuous feminine silhouettes, alluring cat-eye lines, and contemporary oversized shapes that define the sunglass collection.

MIUMIU.COM (\$380)



Quay Walk On

With celebrity endorsements from Alex Rodriguez, Jennifer Lopez and Kylie Jenner, Quay sunglasses have, without a doubt, become the most sought-after affordable high-end sunglass brand of 2020. The Walk On is a cool and classy unisex model with a signature tiered shape and features polarized round lens encased in a comfortable CRX frame with internally reinforced arms for maximum durability. About the best look you're ever going to get for a cool fifty.

QUAYAUSTRALIA.COM (\$50)



Dior So Real

With a deconstructed pantos shape and sophisticated architectural lines, the So Real model screams luxury eyewear. The frame is light and features a crystal acetate front with silver metal details and thin black acetate temples as well as silver mirrored lenses that ensure 100% UV protection.

DIOR.COM (\$495)



Persol 714 Steve McQueen

Originally introduced in the 1960s, the famous Persol 714's were the first ever folding sunglasses to hit the market. Perhaps best known for being worn by Steve McQueen in the film 'The Thomas Crown Affair', the Persol 714's have been a classic style staple for almost 60 years, and show no sign of becoming anything other than well worn.

PERSOL.COM (\$480)



Oliver Peoples Delray Sun

Oliver Peoples is perhaps the most posh sunglass brand on the market right now. Embellished with intricate detailing and a refined, polished silhouette the Delray Sun is the perfect balance between business and casual when it comes to luxury sunglasses.

OLIVERPEOPLES.COM (\$415)



Dita Flight 006

Inspired by the daring swagger of fighter pilots, the Flight 006 is Dita's tribute to the classic shape of the aviator frame, yet constructed in muscular, modern materials for a new look. The character Tony Stark, played by Robert Downey Jr., sports a pair of these sunglasses in the Avengers franchise, and I wouldn't be surprised if the iconic actor dons these affluently appealing bad boys in real life too.

DITA.COM (\$525)



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AquaMedicalSpa.com



10 SUMMER READS FOR THE BEACH AND BEYOND

Whether you're sitting on the beach or just pretending you are, few things are more relaxing than cracking open a good book on a beautiful summer day.

By Shannon Serpette

BEACH HAPPY BOOKS

1 The Bookish Life of Nina Hill - by Abbi Waxman

Introverts or people who don't like to push past their comfort zones will appreciate Nina, the main character in this book. She wants to keep to herself and her small circle, but circumstances will throw her in the path of strangers she'll have to get to know.



2 The Mystery of Black Hollow Lane - by Julia Nobel

If you are a fan of Harry Potter, you might want to give this book a try. It doesn't have magic, but it does have a boarding school, an intriguing mystery, a plucky heroine and her group of new besties, and a secret society. You won't be left wanting more when you reach the end because the second book in the series was just released.

3 Waiting for Tom Hanks - by Kerry Winfrey

If you loved the romantic comedy movies of the 1980s and 1990s, this book should earn a spot in your beach bag. It has a heroine who is looking for love but may not recognize it when she sees it.

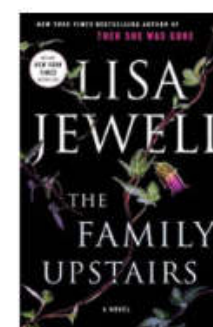
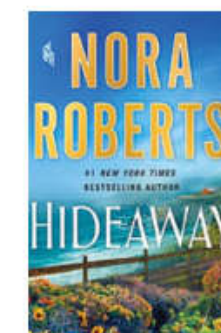


4 The Last Resort - by Marissa Stapley

If you want to feel like a winner, read about the fictional lives of people with worse problems than you. In this book, you'll read about a getaway resort for struggling marriages. But the owners may not have as strong of a marriage as they've led everyone to believe. See what happens when a tropical storm hits the coast and traps everyone together on the resort. Cracks and secrets appear, much to the reader's delight.

5 Hideaway - by Nora Roberts

Nora Roberts knows how to deliver a good read, and this one is no exception. If you're looking for a page-turner sure to provide mystery and romance, you've found it.



6 The Family Upstairs - by Lisa Jewell

If you like your beach reads on the darker side, this haunting whodunit will have you repeatedly swearing you'll just read one more chapter until you pack it up for the day. The main character of this book is Libby Jones, and she's just learned who her birth parents are and inherited their huge London estate as well.

BEACH HAPPY BOOKS

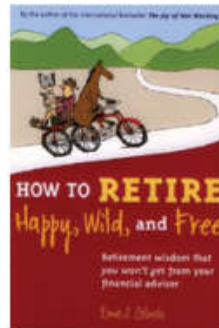
7 **Playing with Matches** - by Hannah Orenstein

Sasha Goldberg thought she was on the right path – career, boyfriend, and apartment with her best friend. Then everything blows up on her, and she embarks on a hilarious new career as a matchmaker.



8 **How to Retire Happy, Wild and Free** by Ernie J. Zelinski

Worried about your shrinking 401k balance and wondering how you'll ever be able to afford to retire? This feel-good beach read will teach you that retirement is about a lot more than numbers. It's a good pick for all those who hate the daily grind.



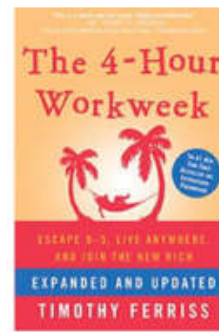
9 **Home Sweet Anywhere** - by Lynne Martin

Ever dreamed about pulling the plug on your ordinary life and moving out of the country? It's not impossible to do, as this book will show you. Read all about this couple's real-life adventures after selling all their possessions and moving abroad.



10 **The 4-Hour Workweek** - by Tim Ferriss

This fun read shows you how one man escaped the 4-hour work-week rat race, and lays out the blueprint to help you do the same. It's all about creating the life you want, bit by bit.



Write Your Own Chapter

Enjoy your summer beach reads from a lounge chair in your backyard, near a pool, or on an actual beach somewhere. Just don't forget to relax, enjoy the moment, and make times like this a priority in your life.



BEACH HAPPY BINGE WATCHING

Want to take a break from reading in favor of some fun binge-watching? Here are our favorite picks for this summer:

Car Masters: Rust to Riches (Netflix): Even if you aren't a gearhead, you'll be amazed at what this talented team of mechanics can do to a car and the trades they can make.

Chilling Adventures of Sabrina (Netflix): If you have a teenager or college kid in your household, give this gothic series a try. It's also a popular pick for those who grew up reading *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* comics.

Virgin River (Netflix): If you're looking for a romantic drama, Virgin River is it. This series, based upon the Robyn Carr novels, came out in late 2019. It has already been renewed for a second season.

You (Netflix): This creepy drama has two seasons available, with a third on the way.

Disenchantment (Netflix): In the mood for something animated? This binge-worthy series has real heart and plenty of laughs. There are 20 episodes ready to watch, and 20 more coming soon.

Psych (Amazon Prime): This lighthearted mystery show is fun for the whole family. And with another Psych movie slated to be released later this year, if you've never seen this show, you can get up to speed.



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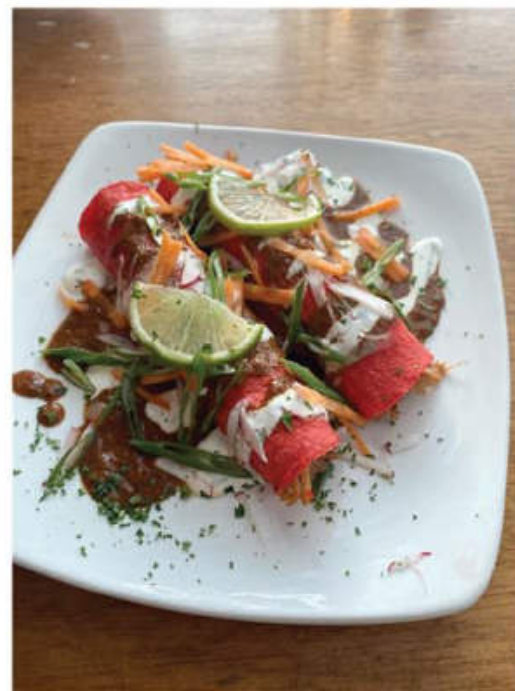
Coastal Cuisine Dharma Blue

By Susan Benton

Located in downtown Pensacola, Dharma Blue is truly a gem of a restaurant that offers seating inside and outside on the patio facing Seville Square. Step inside the historic Smith House, a quaint space that opened in 1996, and you'll be greeted, seated and surrounded by walls dripping with some of the most collected southern folk artists in America, including Pensacola's late great Ann Morley aka Ann Frantic, who painted the portrait of master chef Yoshie Eddings that rightfully hangs over the sushi bar.

Veteran former charter boat captain turned restaurant icon and fishmonger, Capt. Charles Morgan is well known on the Emerald Coast with his fresh, local seafood, as the founder of Destin's Harbor Docks and Camille's at Crystal Beach. When we spoke by phone, Morgan was making a delivery to Dharma Blue, one of his many successful restaurants in the Southeast, where market-priced fish will be ready to be grilled, fried or specialty blackened to perfection come dinner.

Dharma Blue's executive chef Brian Culleton runs a tight ship and has created an eclectic menu, but the food is simple, clean, and not over complicated with too many ingredients to mask the beauty of the of natural flavors.



The fresh catch is always a coveted dish, but also plan to try the beef filet with the four-day made from scratch demi-glase, and one or two of the 37 varieties of special rolls or sashimi-style nigiri that are certainly not to be overlooked. The award-winning sushi bar was created and managed by renowned chef Yoshie Eddings, who has been the sushi chef at Harbor Docks restaurant for over 30 years.



Originally from Tokyo, Yoshi learned the art of sushi-making while working in her parents' Japanese restaurant and is responsible for opening, training and overseeing all sushi chefs for Morgan's restaurants



in the Southeast. She has also catered for many top celebrities like Tom Hanks, Madonna, Bill Murray, and Billy Bob Thornton on various film sets.

The root of the word Dharma is "dhri", which means to support, hold, or bear. It is the thing that regulates the course of change by not participating in change, but that principle which remains constant. Consistency and holding community dear, is what makes Dharma Blue great in my book, and certainly a legendary Pensacola restaurant.

Dharma Blue is open for reservations and walk-ins seven nights a week for dinner and sushi, and for brunch on Saturday and Sunday. Arrive Monday for \$2 off sushi rolls and ladies' night drink specials, or Tuesday and Thursday for \$20 select bottles of wine. 🍷

Susan Benton is a nationally published food and lifestyle writer, food photographer, and local artist. Her website is 30AEATS.com where she shares recipes and writes about the secrets of Gulf Coast food.





BREATHE, MOVE & RECOVER

The Waterman's Way to a Healthier Life

Have you ever experienced a moment when you realized, truly realized, that you are capable of doing more? That what you previously thought to be impossible, is actually do-able? Do you remember what brought you there?

FOR A LOT OF US, THESE MOMENTS OF BREAKTHROUGH OCCUR WHEN WE'RE PHYSICALLY STRESSED.

Legendary big wave surfer Laird Hamilton and professional beach volleyball legend Gabby Reese used this concept and their own daily regimen to create XPT, the couple's Extreme Performance Training system. XPT is designed to get you "operating at the highest possible potential in all areas of your individual life."

No pressure.

"Our goal through XPT is to use what we have learned to challenge others to push beyond their own physical boundaries, and breakthrough mentally," Hamilton said.

XPT keeps it simple by building this system around three pillars: Breathe, Move and Recover.

Breathe involves breath work, breathing exercises and working to prolong the holding of breath. Move entails intense exercise like heavy weight work in a swimming pool. Recover could combine time spent in a sauna followed by an ice bath, or the ice bath alone.

The focus on breath-work came from co-founder Hamilton's breath-holding exercises. He needed to remain calm and focused when under giant waves, so he took inspiration from an ancient Polynesian practice of carrying stones underwater. And it worked.

It turns out proper breathing has dramatic effect on the body. By bringing more oxygen into vital organs and tissues, you can alkalize the body. Increasing breath-holding times can also cause the body to release adrenaline. "It creates a sympathetic nervous system response (fight or flight response) to increase alertness, get you fired up, boost your energy and enhance your mood," PJ Nestler, director of performance for XPT, explained.

The recover aspect, with the sauna and ice bath, also boosts energy.

These full-body, head-under-the-water ice baths are where Sean Miller, a certified XPT coach, has seen the most dramatic transformations in his clients.

"I meet my clients at the level they are at and then I pull them to where they can go," Miller explained. "My motto is 'slow is smooth and smooth is fast.' You can't get in the water with weights and power through. It takes breathing, focus and the ability to remain calm."

Documented benefits from ice baths include increased

testosterone in men, a boost in human growth hormone, increased sperm count, reduced swelling in joints and increased blood flow and alertness.

"Some people will say they did this as part of their high school athletic program. It's not the same," Miller said. "We're dealing with stress adaptation here. The ice takes you to a different level. If you don't want to think about anything in life, go in the ice," he said.

Adrian Bears, a client of Miller's, admitted he was changed by the recovery work. "The hot/cold therapy helped me focus," he explained. "The second time I did an ice bath I felt completely still and calm. Sean has been such an inspiration. I've pretty much changed my whole life since starting (XPT). I stopped smoking. I started running again. I





realized I was not taking any time to better myself and I changed that."

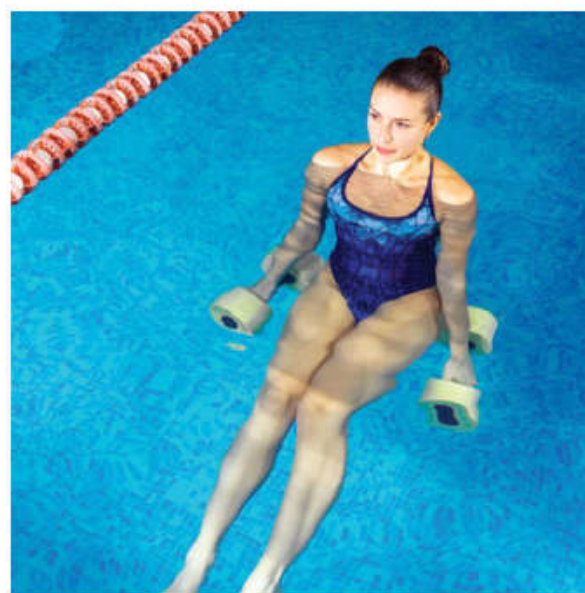
Miller said this response was not uncommon. After attending a few classes he's seen clients invest in infrared home saunas and create ice bath systems in their homes.

"This work creates a mind-shift change. Let's say you're in the pool swimming with weights. If you need to come up or stop, you can't come bursting out of the water and drop the weights. That could break the pool or hurt someone else in the water. XPT creates an awareness in everything you do."

And it's that awareness in everyday activities that might be one of the most important benefits of XPT. Having the ability to slow down during stressful experiences, pay attention to the task in front of you or to remain calm under pressure are vital to success. The physical benefits are almost a bonus.

"The main part of the journey for me has been how much it has helped me de-stress and deal with everything going on throughout the day," Bears said. "I started out as a skeptic and it has bled into all areas of my life." @

Sean Miller is a certified XPT instructor in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida. His website is www.seanmilleroxpt.com.



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6 Essential Beach Beers

By Martin Liptrot



Photo by Dawn Whitty

It's no secret that craft beer, breweries and taprooms have taken over the U.S. drinks scene. No self-respecting hipster, flannel shirt and skinny jeans wearing type with a waxed mustache would be caught dead drinking anything but a pint of triple-hopped, chocolate malted, twice filtered stout with a rocket fuel gravity and off the chart bitterness index. The 'kookier' the beer, the brand, and the brewer, the better it seems.

This domination of drinks by these monsters of ale is ever growing and seems to have no limit where it can be readily found. Even here at the beach, after a day's swimming and lounging, playing volleyball or topping

off the tan, a 'cold one' is still king.

But that doesn't mean it has to be a tasteless, mass-produced number. In fact, we discovered many of the best beach beers are artisanal ales, but it must possess those taste characteristics which matter. Crisp, clean, maybe hints of citrus and a bit of fizz, but absolutely capable of refreshing the saltiest sun-kissed lips.

Packing my YETI with ice, I set out to test and sample the best of the best and to save you from having to perform this thankless task. As a result, here are my picks for the perfect 'beach beer six pack.'

Medalla Light

The real taste of the islands.

You can't have a beach beer list which doesn't include a Caribbean brew. There were plenty of obvious contenders for this spot in the six pack but this one is the ultimate island beer – brewed in Puerto Rico and shipped to only a few choice distributors in Florida and Connecticut. When you see this one, buy it. This is a quirky little beer, after all there is no regular Medalla just Medalla Light, and the beer is designed to be drunk cold, ice cold. It comes in a slightly smaller can than the standard 12oz so once you crack it open you don't give it time to heat up and, for that glamor of the islands look, the shiny gold can shimmers perfectly in the sun. Salud, mis amigos!



Kona Longboard Island Lager

Simple but complicated.

In 1912, Duke Kahanamoku the Hawaiian Olympic swimmer is credited with introducing surfing back to Southern California. The Kona Brewing Company on Hawaii's Big Island doff their cap to this sporting hero with a fine beer, the Longboard Island Lager. Duke carved himself a 16-foot board from a single piece of redwood and the idea of Longboard surfing was born. Much like this beer, what at first glance appears quite simple, is in fact complicated and difficult to master. The beer is a classic golden lager, with a slightly spicy taste and fittingly rounds out our perfect beach six pack. Poured into an iced glass after a day's surfing or bodyboarding, you too can raise a toast to the memory of Duke. Okole Maluna!



Keweenaw Wequetong Cherry Wheat

A fruity little number.

Across Lake Michigan from Wisconsin's brewing mecca of Milwaukee lies Traverse City, a beach town on the Great Lakes. This region is famed for its Summer cherry harvest and festivals and the team at Keweenaw Brewing Company have included the little red fruit in this outstanding Summer beer. The base is an American Pale Ale so it has that crisp, clean flavour a beach beer needs, but the addition of local cherries not only gives the golden pour a slight pinkish hue, it packs a tart and tangy smack across the chops which really pops!



Six Point Jammer

A salty brew packs a surprise.

There is a beer called Gose which originated in Leipzig, Germany which broke all the rules. German purity laws mean only a handful of ingredients can be used in brewing but in Leipzig the brewers were using water from the local river, The Gose, and adding sea salt and coriander to taste. While this style of beer was little known outside of Germany, it is now proving a hit with craft brewers in the U.S. and NY's Sixpoint Brewing Company have one of the best. The beer has an almost briny taste which is surprisingly refreshing and the coriander flavor gives it an acidity which keeps it super fresh in your mouth. If you have been swimming or boating 'til sunset, this brew served cold will be the perfect one for you.



Bass India Pale Ale

The Original Warm Weather Beer.

In the late 18th century British troops and traders established their presence in India. The men stationed there longed for a decent beer but the problems of shipping in such extreme temperatures and conditions, and the 3-month journey time, meant beers arrived mouldy and sour and flat. Britain's beer boffins were set the task of solving the problem. They did this by creating a brew we now know as IPA – India Pale Ale. The secret was to increase the alcohol levels and the hop content to fight off bacteria and allow the beer to carbonate during the long voyage. The result is the strong, hoppy, sparkling beer we know and love today. Bass, a British brewer, quickly dominated the market and with its Red Triangle logo creating a brand, it was much sought after by thirsty soldiers, sailors and businessmen. This beer is still delicious on a hot day and for that reason the original warm weather brew takes a place in our beach six pack.

30A Beach Blonde Ale

Exactly What You Want at the Beach.

On the emerald waters and sugar-white sands of North West Florida, fishing and boating have long been a favorite pastime. Craft brewing was slow to catch on along here until Grayton Brewing Company opened its doors in 2011 and in addition to a range of traditional hoppy beers, the brewers knew they had to have something which appealed to locals and visitors enjoying those hot, humid summer days. Enter the 30A Beach Blonde. With a retro look, a sassy spirit and an unabashed 'brewed at the beach, for the beach' attitude, this is an easy drinking thirst quencher. As the label's motto urges you: 'relax, you're here.'



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3 Beachy (and Healthy!) Smoothies

By Susan Benton

Whether you are on vacation or at home in your own kitchen, think about starting the day with a smoothie. Though I own a Vitamix, the Nutri Bullet was the best investment for our morning power routine. I hide veggies in my family's fruit smoothies along with two scoops of protein powder and feel good about sending them on their way for the day, especially if it's to the beach.

Lindsay Tobias is a local certified holistic health coach, podcaster and owner of the website Keep Your Plants On (howtokeepyourplantson.com). She offers a 12-week nutrition program on her website and works one on one with her clients to help them feel optimal. "My main focus is to help clients change who they are internally so that they can create their own health plan, not follow someone else's," explained Tobias.

Handy also is her guide called Meal Prep Differently, that includes 9 weeks of anti-inflammatory grocery lists with instructions. Tobias believes that people should stop dieting and start nourishing their bodies sustainably. Tobias says, "I have used my training to heal my own hormones, my relationship with food, and to sustain clear skin and a healthy weight."

Follow Lindsey Tobias on Instagram and the hashtag #biglasssmoothie if looking for healthy recipes, exercise tips, and joyous inspiration while making small changes that will go a long way in the future of your health.

Susan Benton is a nationally published food and lifestyle writer, food photographer, and local artist. Her website is 30AEATS.com where she shares recipes and writes about the secrets of Gulf Coast food.

Chia PBJ Smoothie

- 1 1/2 cups unsweetened vanilla almond milk
- 1 scoop vanilla vegan protein powder
- 1 cup strawberries/raspberries
- 1/2 cup frozen zucchini coins
- 2 tbsp chia seeds
- 1 tbsp peanut/almond butter

Instructions: Mix and blend all ingredients in a high-speed blender.



Son of A Peach Smoothie

1 1/2 unsweetened vanilla almond milk
1 scoop vanilla vegan protein powder
1/2 banana
1/2 cup frozen peach
1/3 cup frozen riced cauliflower
1 tbsp almond butter
sprinkle of cinnamon



Chocolate Avocado Smoothie

1 1/2 cup unsweetened vanilla almond milk
1 scoop vanilla vegan protein powder
1 frozen banana
1/4 frozen avocado
1/3 cup frozen riced cauliflower
1 tbsp cacao/cocoa powder
1 tsp vanilla extract

BEACH HAPPY GEAR

The warm days are upon us and vacation season is in full swing along the best beaches in the land. Whether you're kicking it along the sands of Destin this summer, or planning a perfect fall getaway on the Alabama Gulf, the right gear can make the best of coastal escapes even better. Here are some appealing getaway gear choices that will put a smile on your face and serve as the gift that keeps on giving even when you're back home in the real world.

By Blake Estell

1 30A Electric Bikes by YOLO

30A has teamed with YOLO Board to produce a top-notch line of eco-friendly E-Cruisers. Helping you travel farther and faster than any regular bike ever could, these electric bikes, powered by pedal assist, are a new form of transportation that will open your eyes to a whole new world. Features include a 350-watt rear hub motor to provide serious acceleration (peaking around 20 mph,) a 36V long-lasting lithium battery that allows you to travel 25-75 miles on a single charge, 3" fat tires with front and rear hydraulic disc brakes, a waterproof control panel with backlit LCD screen, an integrated rear wood rack, an LED headlight and to top it all - a classic bike bell.

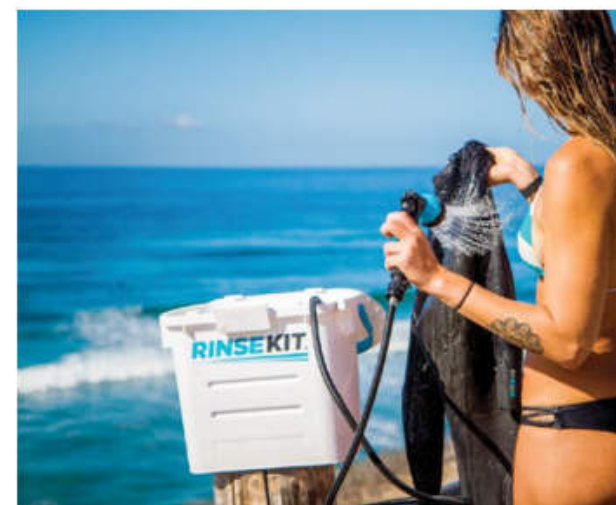
30AGEAR.COM (\$2,595)

Photo by: Jesse Foy

2 YOLO 12' Fisher SUP - Moccasin

With extreme stability and load capacity the YOLO 12' Fisher SUP is YOLO's most stable stand up paddle board, supporting up to 320 lbs. It is the perfect SUP for fishermen or any paddler that needs a little extra stability. Featuring durable Hammerstrength epoxy construction, stylish custom graphics designed by Jake Meyer and the LiftSUP pop-out handle that makes your YOLO Board easy to carry, the 12' Fisher SUP is perfect for fishing, yoga or just all around expedition.

YOLOBOARD.COM (\$1,699)



3 RinseKit Plus Portable Shower

Use the RinseKit portable shower to clean your beach gear or rinse yourself off at the beach. The RinseKit has a capacity of 2 gallons and can be filled within 30 seconds. Other features include a dual port design that allows for heater and hand pump accessories to be used simultaneously and a removable lid that can be stood on for rinsing.

REL.COM (\$99)

4 Bose SoundLink® Bluetooth® Speaker III

No beach day is complete without great tunes. The Bose SoundLink Bluetooth speaker III reproduces the fullness, clarity and depth of your music, and it also has a cool sleek look that will have people asking, "what is that thing?!" It packs up to 14 hours of music through its rechargeable lithium-ion battery, and it has a range of about 30 feet so you can enjoy the sound you want without wires.

BOSE.COM (\$299)





5 Airstream Bambi Sport

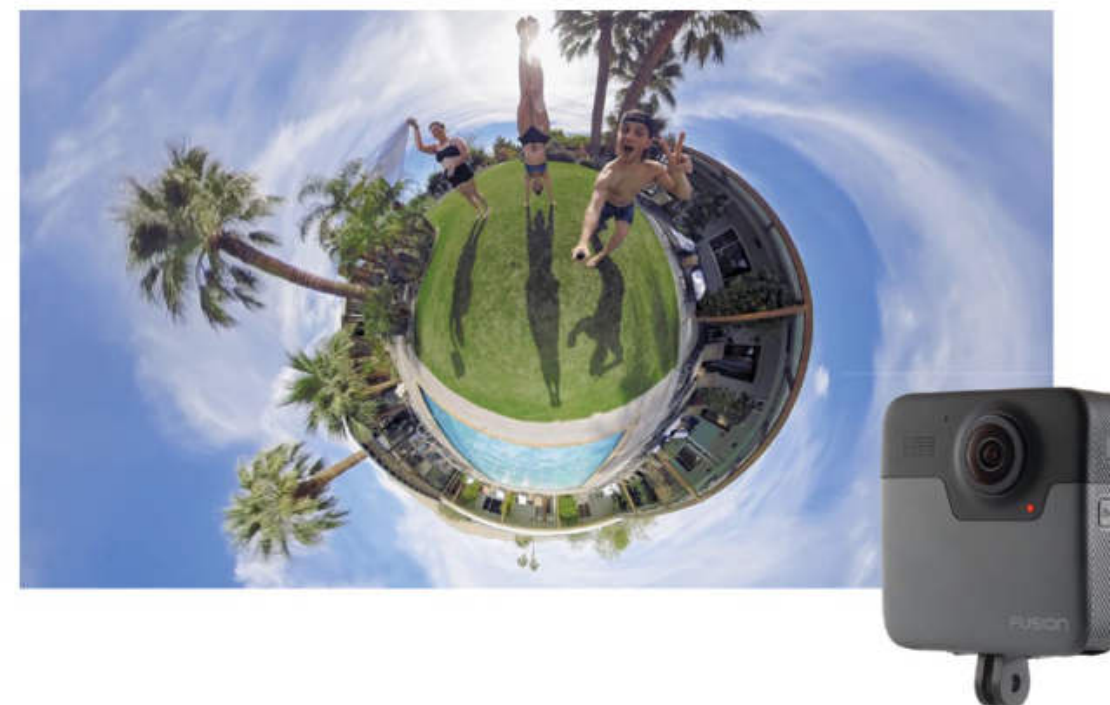
The Airstream Bambi Sport is an ultra-towable premium compact travel trailer that makes you just want to get up and go. The Bambi Sport doesn't leave behind the comforts of home in any way; it is both spacious and outstandingly fuel-efficient. It may be lightweight but it is packed with features including water, shower, lights and it is easy to tow efficiently. This trailer is more comfortable than most trailers twice its size. The Bambi sport has an exterior Length of 16' 4" – 21' 8", Exterior Width 7' 3.25" – 8', and an Exterior Height w/AC 9' 3" and a sleeping capacity of 2 – 4.

AIRSTREAM.COM (\$48,900)

6 Native Watercraft Slayer 10 Propel Kayak

As you probably know, kayaking is all the rage these days. Not to say that it wasn't already popular, but it just seems like everybody is doing it now. That being said, it's time to get yourself a good kayak and it just doesn't get much better than the Slayer 10. The Slayer 10 Propel kayak is the newest, smallest member of the Slayer family. It is much lighter and more maneuverable and features an adjustable seat, a wide open deck, and a fast stable hull as well as an extra-large rudder. Not to mention, the Propel system is the only pedal drive that can be pedaled in reverse – a must have capability for the kayaking fisherman.

NATIVEWATERCRAFT.COM (\$2,099)



7 GoPro Fusion

The newest and most versatile compact camera on the market is the GoPro Fusion. As if GoPro couldn't get any better, the Fusion features 'OverCapture', a functionality that allows you to pull standard 1080p HD videos from anywhere within the 360 sphere. Unlike most 360 cameras, the Fusion is designed to create both spherical and standard HD videos, offering users more capability than they can get from any other action camera currently on the market. If action/adventure is your forte, the GoPro Fusion is the camera for you.

SHOP.GOPRO.COM (\$599)

8 ROLEX Yacht-Master

Whether you're on the beach, exploring a reef, or aboard a sailboat, the Yacht-Master combines character and performance in a way any watch fan can appreciate. The waterproof and robust nature of the men's or women's model make it the perfect high-end watch for anywhere you will wear it, and the investment value alone make it not only a great statement on your wrist, but also a great asset in your portfolio. Available in platinum and stainless, as well as with gold.

ROLEX.COM (\$11,250 WOMEN'S) (\$48,150 MEN'S)



BEACH HAPPY GEAR

9 YETI Hopper Backflip 24 Soft Cooler

The Hopper BackFlip™ 24 fuses the durability of the Hopper Flip® with a new, convenient-to-carry design. It's engineered to carry as a backpack, using the best tech of both worlds. Built taller and wider than its Hopper Flip counterparts, Hopper BackFlip is designed to efficiently distribute the weight of your goods, while the ergonomic shoulder straps make the journey more comfortable. And like the rest of the Hopper family, it promises superior cold-holding, a 100% leakproof zipper, and a tough DryHide™ Shell. So, go ahead and trek to your favorite faraway fishing destination, because this backpack cooler won't slow you down.

[YETI.COM](https://yeti.com) (\$299)



10 Land Rover Defender (130 truck pictured) from Osprey Customs

If you're into rolling nostalgia nothing says "ultimate beach vehicle" quite like a vintage inspired Land Rover Defender. Whether you choose a 90, 100, 110, 130 or other series, Osprey Custom Cars has you covered with fully updated (can we say better than new?) retromod Defenders. Complete with everything from 6.2 liter 435 hp engines to new bulkhead, suspension systems and leather interiors to custom racks, bars, bumpers, wheels and winches. If you want to turn heads while going anywhere this is the way to do it.

[OSPREYCUSTOMCARS.COM](https://ospreycustomcars.com) (\$199,950)



11 Grady-White Canyon 456, 45' Center Console

Re-imagine the luxury sportfishing yacht. Grady-White's new flagship, the Canyon 456 center console, is incredibly spacious, technically sophisticated, and more richly appointed than any other outboard sportfishing boat. The 456 Grady is crafted with exceptional attention to detail and is superbly engineered for an entirely new level of elegance. It has by far the widest beam in the category and is also the largest unsinkable boat of its kind.

[MARINEMAX.COM](https://marinemax.com)





Romantic Beach Getaway

Henderson Park Inn

By Janie Schmidt

"Clink!" The sound of wine glasses tapping together echoing on the beach as a couple toasts to their love during Beach Walk Café's signature "Toes in the Sand" dining experience is just one note in a symphony of romantic experiences at Destin, Florida's only inclusive, adult-only hotel.

Named the Most Romantic Inn in North America by TripAdvisor, Henderson Park Inn remains a hidden gem tucked away along the shores of Northwest Florida's Gulf Coast, perfect for an intimate escape, whether it be a three day weekend or a full week frolicking along the sands and surf of one of the most beautiful beaches in the entire country.

"Henderson Park Inn is one of the most unique places in the country in that it matches modern luxury with classic, coastal charm for a romantic getaway like

nowhere else," said Owner Representative, Shannon Howell. "It's a property that's designed with no detail of a stay overlooked." This is a sentiment held not only by the ownership, but moreover based upon, and held by most any of the tens of thousands of couples from across the globe who've been lucky enough to discover this wonderful 36 room beach boutique hotel.

Initially designed to replicate all the best features of the classic-style coastal inns in New England, Henderson Park Inn continues to capture the hearts of visitors and locals. Each thoughtfully-decorated suite distinguishes itself from others, boasts breathtaking views of the Gulf's emerald-green water, and is designed for total pampered privacy, featuring sumptuous bedding, a flat-screen TV and concierge service for any additional flights of fancy.

The attentive staff caters to each guest's every need from the moment he or she enters. Rooms greet guests with romantic music, a bottle of wine and two glasses, a vase of roses, as well as a special house-made treat. There's almost no limit on the romantic experiences offered at Henderson Park Inn, as couples can grab a picnic lunch provided by the Inn, claim a spot for two on the powdery beach—where complementary beach chairs ensure there's ample room to find some relaxing seclusion—or explore the area like a local, on bikes provided by the hotel.

From a made-to-order breakfast to a complimentary happy hour at the tiki bar, this coastal getaway provides everything you need for a perfect romantic beach vacation, including multiple pools, outdoor bar and dining, fitness facility, ice cream

parlor, a full service spa, and so much more.

For the full romantic effect, couples are encouraged to dine al-fresco on the terrace of Henderson Park Inn's on-site restaurant, Beach Walk Café, as much for the atmosphere as for the exquisite food, which is expertly crafted by Executive Chef Daniel Peters. For pure seclusion, couples can arrange a "Toes in the Sand" dining experience. Guests can toast to their love by the light of tiki torches at this private dinner on the beach. The romantic, rose-petaled excursion pairs fresh-caught seafood with glasses of bubbly.

"Being nestled within one of the most romantic inns in the country and having unique dining experiences like Toes in the Sand definitely sets us apart as one of the premier places for a romantic evening," said Beach Walk Café's Food and Beverage Manager Melissa Malcolm.





With numerous accolades like Best Outdoor Dining on the Emerald Coast, Beach Walk Café remains Destin's only fine dining restaurant located directly on the stunning white sand beaches of Florida's Emerald Coast. There's lots to love about this unique restaurant, and the atmosphere and succulent dining options aren't the only features guests keep coming back for.

"Chef Daniel's food is absolutely incredible," said Malcolm. "We're blessed to have a chef of his caliber leading our kitchen, and our guests see that when they dine here."

A Destin, Florida-native, Executive Chef Daniel Peters harmonizes fresh, locally-inspired ingredients and flavors with culinary skills he perfected while living in Napa Valley and studying under world-renown chefs like the James Beard Award winning and Michelin Star Chef, Douglas Keane, as well as Top Chef Contestant Sang Yoon.

"Chef Stephan Barber, of Farmstead in Napa, really pushed an ingredient-forward approach to food," said Peters. "And, I've really started pushing that myself at Beach Walk. These chefs taught me everything I know, and I think our guests can see and taste their influence in the food we put out here."

Peters explained that he's working to bring about a gulf-to-table concept at Beach Walk, adding daily features like pan seared snapper with roasted fingerling potatoes and sautéed haricot verts topped with lump crab and Mediterranean artichokes, cherry tomatoes and capers.

"The features Chef puts out are some of the most creative and delicious dishes I've ever had the pleasure of eating," said Malcolm.



Even with Peters' new additions, Beach Walk's menu still holds the classic crowd favorite dishes that people from around the country have been enjoying since the restaurant first opened years ago.

"With dinner being the only part of our guests' stays that is not included, having this award-winning restaurant on site is just another perk for our guests," said Howell. "It's definitely a must-do for all of our guests. And you won't want to miss the sunset on the back patio of the Inn," said Howell. "To see the sun sink in the Emerald Coast waters is absolutely stunning and



one of the most romantic moments our property can offer." 📸

For more information about Henderson Park Inn or to book a room, visit www.hendersonparkinn.com or call 866-398-4432.

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By Will Estell

The Magic Behind The World's Most Famous Beach Bar

Chances are if you're from anywhere south of the Mason Dixon, you're already familiar with the Flora-Bama. However, if you haven't yet made it down, up, or over to this iconic coastal hotspot, you probably know plenty of people who have, or you've at least heard the stories... oh, the stories.

Connie and Tony) who decided to build a package store and a small bar. Right smack dab on the new State Line.

The Flora-Bama was constructed in 1964, just two years after the new bridge and road were completed. In those days the beaches on either side of the line were a lot different than the hustle and bustle of our modern era, and the Flora-Bama was practically the only bar in the surrounding area. As time went on, over the next few years, traffic counts and tourism began to increase along these beach communities, with Flora-Bama benefitting from that growth. At the time Escambia County, Florida was a wet county, while Baldwin County, Alabama, was dry. This posed a small inconvenience for the Tamparys, but not one they couldn't find a solution for.

Jump ahead to 1978, and local businessman Joseph Gilchrist purchased the little bar and package store. This is when live music began to be a regular staple of the Flora-Bama, with people dropping by to have a drink and listen to some tunes in the little bar area. In 1986, Gilchrist brought in his business partner, Pat McClellan, and together they worked to grow the audience and popularity of their establishment. By adding appealing events like the Interstate Mullet Toss and the Frank Brown Songwriter's Festival (the latter being named after the early night watchman at the bar) the new owners were able to organically build the popularity of their venue.

In 2009, John McInnis and Cameron Price, both formerly in the construction industry, became co-owners of the Flora-Bama, along with Joe and Pat. McInnis' family were longtime friends with the Gilchrist family, and being from nearby Montgomery, Alabama, John had been very familiar with the famous establishment and, like many, felt a special magnetism to the Flora-Bama.

I recently sat down with John McGinnis and Cameron Price, at their sister restaurant, Shunk Gulley Oyster Bar, on Scenic Hwy. 30A, to talk a little more about Flora-Bama and the magic behind the good times coastal staple of fun. Though I'd never formally met John or Cam until a few months ago, I certainly knew of them, and was aware that we had a good number of mutual friends and acquaintances, ranging from Gulf Coast locals to close friends of John's who have also been previous feature article interviewees of mine. A

few you may have even heard of, like Kenny Chesney, Jimmy Buffett, Drake White, and John Rich, along with many other well-knowns that McInnis has befriended and built relationships with over the years. In fact, he's even President of Kenny Chesney's Love for Love City Foundation, an organization set up in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma to help get aid to the people of the Virgin Islands.

The friendship between McInnis and Chesney began after Kenny had visited Flora-Bama while on tour, playing at The Wharf in Orange Beach. Kenny told me this about the first time he visited Flora-Bama: "Someone found us a boat. We hit Pirate's Cove, then the next thing you know we [he and his tour manager, David] were at the Flora-Bama, hanging out, laughing and telling stories. We must've been there three hours. Completely forgetting it's a show

day. All of a sudden, I looked down and it hit me! 'David, we're an hour and half 'til Meet & Greet. We gotta get outta here!' We made it, but I tell you what; if we could've moved the show to the next night, and just sat there, that would've been okay with me. It's the kind of energy that really makes me love the place. Show up, sit down, grab a cold drink, and just let the hours pass. Come with your friends or find some new ones, but whatever you do, you're gonna have a good time."

When I went on to ask Kenny about the inspiration for his hit song, "Flora-Bama" written alongside another friend of McInnis', country artist David Lee Murphy, he told me, "I won't say 'Flora-Bama' wrote itself, but when you have a bar like that, all those details and people, life and love and laughter just tumble into each other. All the images paint a pretty vivid picture, and if you capture that spirit, you've really got something. Thankfully, John seems to like it, so we must've done something right!"

Having a few other connections who I knew had played the famous bar, I reached out to some of them for comments and kudos about the Flora-Bama. This is what country hitmaker, Drake White had to say: "I'm

from Alabama and the Flora-Bama has been a part of me as long as I can remember. When I was a kid I used to dream about playing there (we all did) and with sweat pouring down my guitar, a 4-beer buzz and a salty, barefooted smile, I have been able to play many times at the historic rite of passage. I consider it an honor and a privilege to play songs where so many greats have come before me. The Bama is the greatest bar in the world, but it's also a church, a family, and a part of me. Some of my fondest memories have been made there. I've fell in love, got in a fight, got food, boozed and wrote a song all in the same place on the same day. It's a way of life that has to be experienced. As far as the Bushwackers go? Two is not enough but three is too many!"

It seems everyone from Kid Rock and Hank Jr. to Jimmy Buffett and John Rich have fond memories and stories about this loveable beach bar, no matter where they may be in various levels of their musical careers. A friend of mine, and popular performer along 30A and the Northwest Florida Gulf, Casey Kearney, recently played Flora-Bama's Ole River Grill stage and had this to say: "Flora-Bama has its own unique vibe. I love the stages, right by the water, with the boats, the sun and the sand. It's

such an iconic venue that I feel like every professional musician should play there at some point in their career."

I even recall John Rich (Big & Rich) talking about the famous watering hole, when I visited his Mount Richmore home a few months back, in Nashville. Rich talked about his fondness for the bar, as well as his friendship with McInnis, and said to me, "You know they even have church there on Sundays. Where else can you play the main bar Saturday night and then go back to church there Sunday morning?" It's true, you can even get the t-shirt, 'My Church Is At The Flora-Bama' in their merchandise store.

All to say that you really know a place is widely revered and respected when everyone from up-and-comers to well-established artists feel so passionate about a venue that they want to talk about it. Not to



mention, when someone like Chesney and co-writer David Lee Murphy nail a hit country song specifically about the place. A song that coincided with one of the largest (about 30,000 people) and most well-organized and successful free outdoor concerts I've ever been to; 2014's Flora-Bama Jama.



I asked McInnis for a little more insight into just what makes the Flora-Bama so magically appealing to such a vast array of people from all walks of life.

How does one little beach bar, in Orange Beach Alabama, and Perdido Key, Florida become so well-known around the entire country, when I really can't recall ever even seeing advertising for the place, over all the years I've been in publishing and advertising?

"In the mid '80s Jimmy [Buffett] who's a friend, and is from Mobile area, would come over, play and hang out, and he even wrote about Flora-Bama in 'Tales from Margaritaville' [Buffett's first best-selling book, from the late 90's]. Kenny Stabler, would also come over and hang out, he was from Foley, Alabama, and at the time, Kenny was telling people nationally that Flora-Bama was the best bar in the world. So now you have the top NFL quarterback in the country, and Jimmy Buffett, telling people, 'Hey, this is the best bar in the world.' Shortly after, Playboy Magazine named Flora-Bama the Number One Beach Bar in the United States. And they [owners Jim and Pat] never spent a dime on marketing. So they went through the '80s, '90s and first few years of 2000s just having a good time and building it to become more and more popular into what it is today."



Tell me a little about how you became involved and moved from managing a third-generation successful construction company to becoming the owner of the world's most famous beach bar?

"In 2004, Hurricane Ivan hit Orange Beach and just destroyed the place. I was working in the disaster clean-up side of our family business, and personally working to rebuild Orange Beach, so I tried to do what I could to help out Joe and Pat in their efforts to rebuild the destroyed Flora-Bama. Then in 2009, when I was returning from New Orleans, after managing what was the largest FEMA funded demolition project in history, where our company [one of the many ventures John's family was into, including building over a thousand bridges, building ferries, and creating toll roads] literally tore down ten thousand homes, damaged by Katrina, in Saint Bernard Parish, I was trying to figure out a way to work closer from home in Orange Beach and get off the road. While Joe and Pat were looking for someone to carry the Flora-Bama into the future. So, God just worked it out, it was the perfect time for them and the perfect time for me. I went from being a full-time contractor running around the world, to being a full-time beach bar owner and a part-time contractor. At that time, Cameron Price was my Chief Operating Officer in the construction business, so I brought Cam on in 2009 as a partner in Flora-Bama. Since then it's been, Joe, Pat, Cam, and myself. With me being the majority owner, Cam managing the day-to-day functions of the business, and Joe and Pat doing what they've always done."

It just amazes me how many famous people have played the Flora-Bama and consider it an almost rite of passage in their careers. Especially in the country realm, and among those who love the whole beach vibe themselves. Why do you think that is? What's the proverbial secret sauce?

"You know, I think it's really just built on good times and lots of fun, and the history of all the big names who've come through our doors and graced our stages. It really is, like you say, just magic."

I'm sure you've been approached by people wanting to license the Flora-Bama name for other locations, do you ever consider that possibility? And as entrepreneurs who have now built two other restaurants and a watersports rental business alongside Flora-Bama, as well as this restaurant [Shunk Gulley], do you think you could replicate Flora-Bama in other places yourselves?

"Sure, we've been asked about that, many times. But, you know, even if it would work, it just wouldn't be right to do. There's only one Flora-Bama. You can't reinvent or fabricate that history into some other building in some other place. As for possibly doing something similar somewhere else, sure that could be done, but it wouldn't be called Flora-Bama, and while the structure, laid-back style, and business model might be possible to replicate, the history and heart of the place just can't be."

I know you guys have a pretty good model built with the mid-size shows you are now putting on after the massive success of the Flora-Bama Jama that you

guys and Kenny were able to pull off. Tell me a little more about the current concert format.

"You know, we really pulled off something so cool with Flora-Bama Jama. To be able to have 30,000 people on the beach at a concert, in the hot sun, with alcohol, and not have one single arrest or even a fight reported. Just the logistics alone of that event were monumental. Kenny and I rented 500 buses from all over the country just to get people in and out from various event parking points all over the area. It was just so awesome, and we learned a lot from it that we can now use for the smaller shows we do. Right now we're putting on about a dozen of those a year, with around 5,000 concertgoers at each."

Who are some of the better-known artists you've hosted recently?

"We recently had Riley Green, Justin Moore, and Billy Currington, and we've got some really cool ones lining up for future dates. Your readers can always find all our live music schedules, on our website too."

Speaking of future, what does the future of Flora-Bama hold?

"I get asked that a lot. Really, we just want to make it better, but do that by just continuing to do what we are doing... because it's worked. There's nothing cookie-cutter about it. Our goal is just to keep people having a good time and telling other people about it. We are working on more off-season events and activities to come."

How many people a day do you get through the Flora-Bama doors on average?

"We have about 5,000 people a day come through in season, which now is pretty much spring-break to late October, and seems to be getting longer each year."

Any parting words you want to leave our readers with, anything you want them to know?

"The experience is what it's all about. If you've been there you know, and those who haven't need to just experience it for themselves. It's what keeps people coming back, and why our patrons tell others about it. The Flora-Bama is probably the most authentic beach bar in the world. But, don't take my word for it, just come out and see for yourself." 🍸



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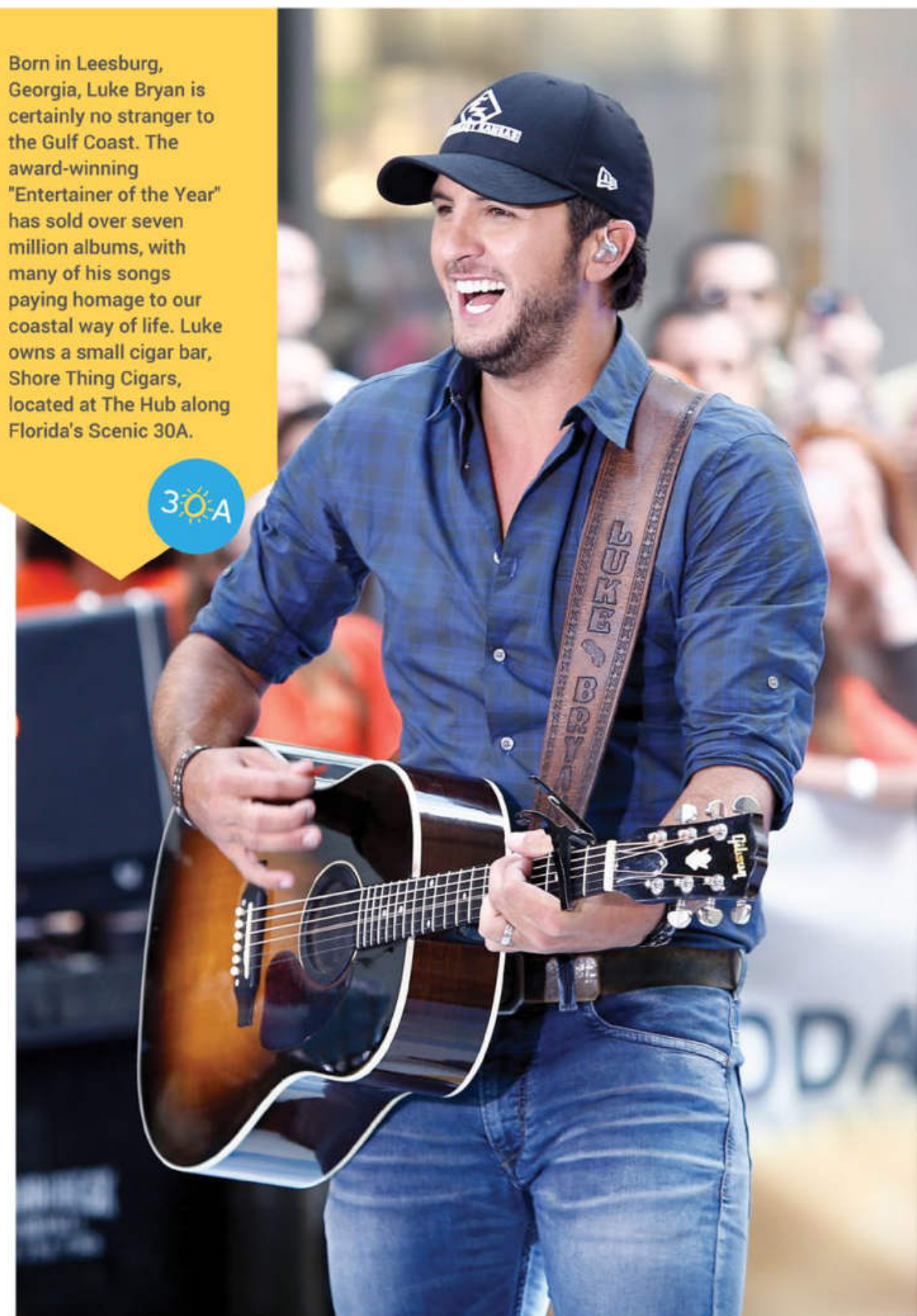
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Born in Leesburg, Georgia, Luke Bryan is certainly no stranger to the Gulf Coast. The award-winning "Entertainer of the Year" has sold over seven million albums, with many of his songs paying homage to our coastal way of life. Luke owns a small cigar bar, Shore Thing Cigars, located at The Hub along Florida's Scenic 30A.





Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, called for the formation of an elite flight team intended to encourage national patriotism, to garner public interest in aviation, and to help keep American morale sky-high. The original "Navy Flight Exhibition Team" (as they were called internally at the time) held its inaugural flight demonstration on June 15, 1946, at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Florida. Later that same year in Nebraska, the team was introduced to the wowed crowds as "The Blue Angels." The name stuck.

Some 74 years later, the Blue Angels have performed for more than 500 million fans across the U.S. and around the globe, helping boost morale and pride, especially during tumultuous times. For example, the Blue Angels recently conducted a special series of hospital fly-overs across much of the country, to help show our nation's support of those who are working non-stop to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. It might not sound like much – unless you've experienced one. These fly-overs are the thing of goosebumps. The

"All the nurses and doctors came outside," said photographer Fletcher Isacks, who documented one fly-over. "Here they were the ones being honored, and yet they were out there in the parking lot cheering on the Angels. It was as if that one salute brought everyone in the nation together, if only for a few moments."

As a military historian, Isacks has been to countless air shows over the past 20 years.

"I've seen every aircraft the U.S. employs here along our coast," said Isacks.





"No matter how cool the vintage aircraft are, when the Blue Angels enter the sky, magic happens."

The Blue Angels currently consist of 130 active-duty Sailors and Marines, each one having served in the Navy or Marine Corps for years before being tapped as members of this elite unit. Every year, the team selects three new fighter jet pilots, two new support officers, and one new pilot for the Marine Corps' C-130 support plane. As one might expect, the recruitment process is extremely competitive. The Chief of Naval Air Training anoints the Commanding Officer, who must have personally logged at least 3,000 tactical jet flight-hours and must have successfully commanded a tactical flight squadron. The Commanding Officer (or "Boss" as he's referred to by the team) always flies Jet Number One. The Chief also personally selects the team's Executive Officer, who must have at least 1,250 tactical flight-hours to be considered for that prestigious right-hand role. Navy and Marine pilots with aircraft carrier

qualification and a minimum of 1,250 tactical jet flight-hours are eligible for positions flying the remaining jets. Combined, the team proudly represent all 820,000 active-duty, reserve and civilian men and women who serve in the Navy and Marine Corps. And, just like the many people who visit our Gulf Coast beaches, the Blue Angels hail from every corner of the United States, currently including Officers from Alabama, California, Georgia, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Tennessee, and Texas.

In addition to the precision pilots, the Blue Angels include team members in administration, engineering, medicine, and public affairs, among other fields.

"Since joining the Blue Angels, I have witnessed teamwork to the highest degree," said Gunnery Sgt. Mike Burgess. "It is truly amazing to see subject matter experts from different platforms come together and accomplish our common goal."

The C-130T Hercules (a beast of a crowd-pleaser,



affectionately known as “Fat Albert” because of its jaw-dropping size) is manned by an all-Marine crew that’s responsible for transporting the personnel, supplies, and essential equipment that’s required for each performance. In 2015, Marine Capt. Katie Higgins was selected to pilot Fat Albert, making her the first female Blue Angels pilot.

But the team’s gargantuan mission certainly doesn’t stop in the air.

In addition to their inspiring air shows, the Blue Angels visit schools, hospitals and civic functions, and they partake in countless community outreach programs. Over the years, the unit has volunteered thousands of hours to community service. Regionally, for example, the Blue Angels have helped rebuild our coastal communities in the aftermath of devastating storms, such as Hurricane Michael in 2018.

Though the Blue Angels perform all around the globe every year, their beloved home base is Forrest Sherman Field in Pensacola, Florida. The annual airshow over Pensacola Bay is a deeply held local tradition. It’s their homecoming game, if you will.

“I take my boat over to watch them every year,” said Wayne Burnette of Crab Island Dolphin Tours. “I wake up that morning like a kid on Christmas day.”

Unfortunately, Wayne’s Christmas was postponed this year, following a statement by the Blue Angels:

“After much discussion and consideration regarding the current rise in COVID cases in our hometown, we have come to the conclusion that canceling our flights during the Pensacola Beach Air Show is the only way we can ensure the safety of our community we love so much.”

Canceling such a deeply revered tradition was no doubt a tough call to make. It’s like a torrential rainstorm rolling through on homecoming day. But hey, the first and most important job of any good Guardian Angel is to look out for our health and well-being. And the Blue Angels take their job very seriously. 🛩️



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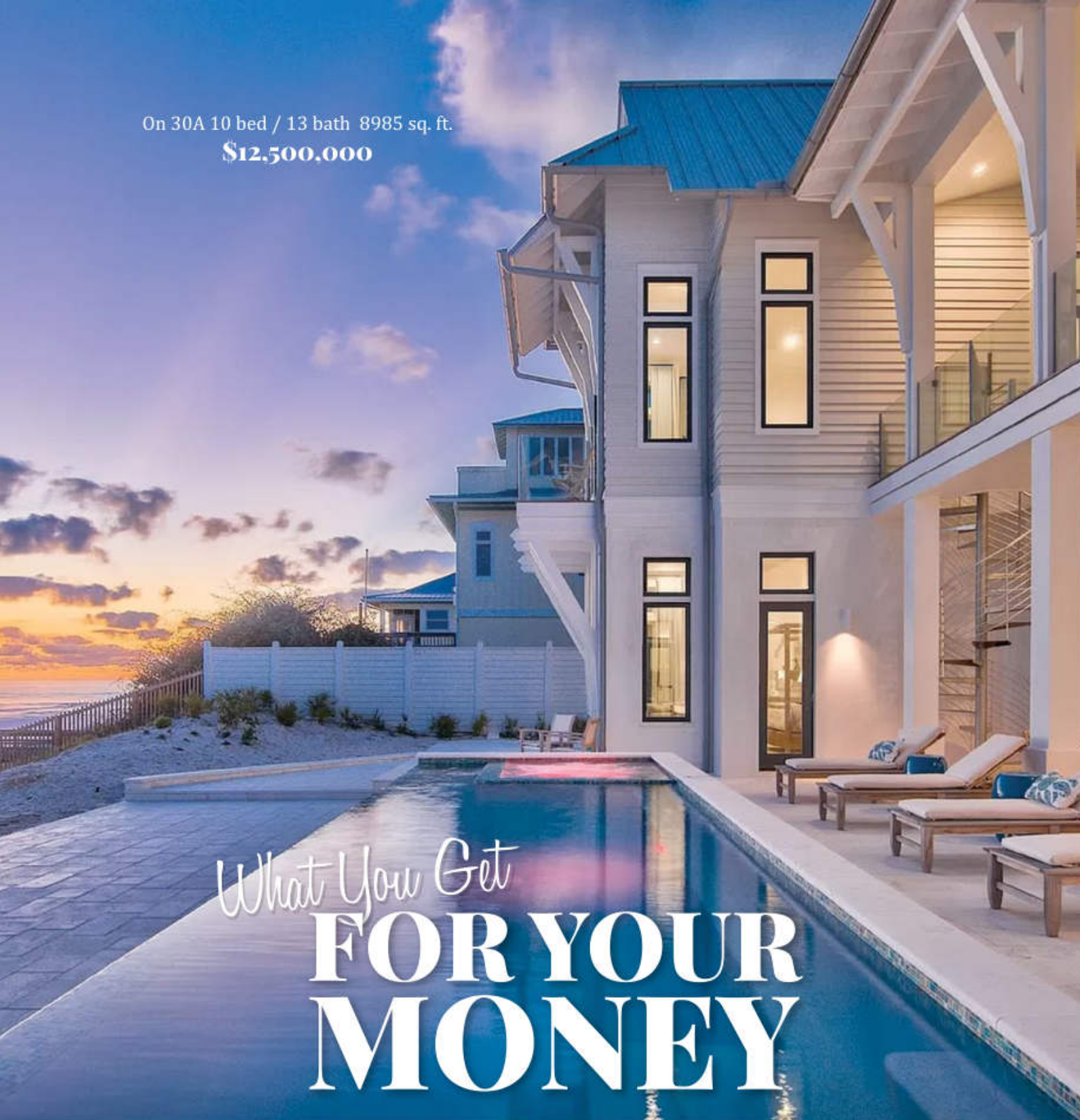
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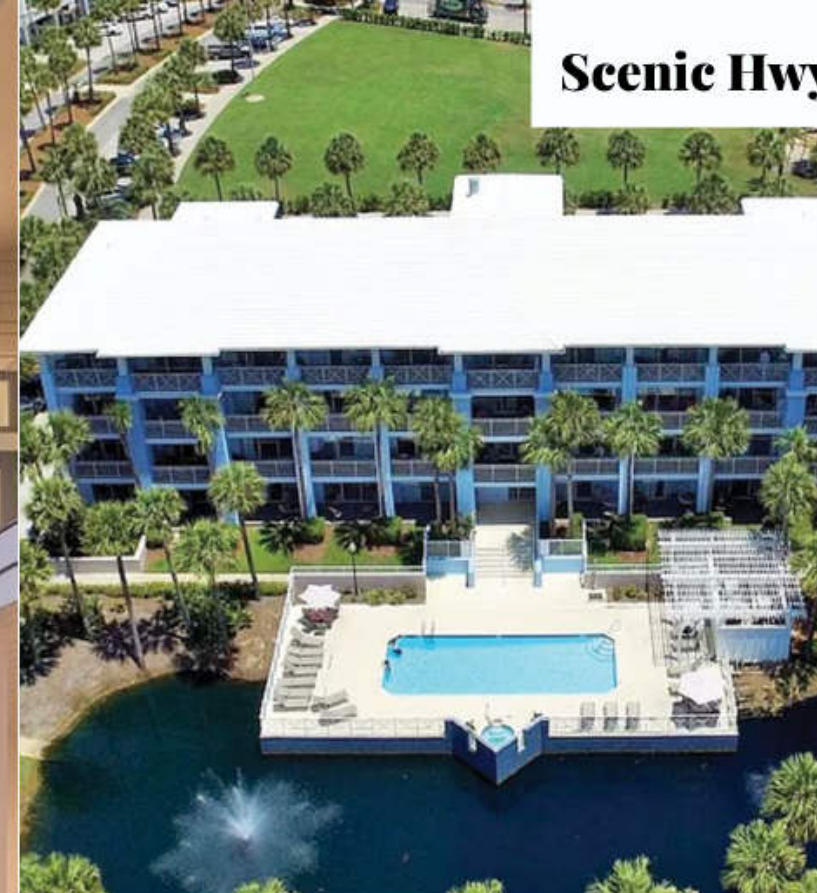
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▲ 3 bed / 3 bath 1845 sq. ft.
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▲ 4 bed / 4 bath 2200 sq. ft.
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Rodos Realty Partners: Build It And They Will Come.

Rodos Realty Partners – along with its affiliated family of companies, Altos Partners, Beachworx, Rodos Realty Advisors and RRP Capital Services – are influencers of coastal business with a goal of reshaping the Destin, South Walton, and Panama City Beach luxury real estate development market, while also providing capital resources for sustainable and affordable workforce housing across the entire panhandle.

The longstanding Rodos development and acquisition philosophy is intensely focused on quality, timing, cost and innovative value enhancement. Steven Franco, a visionary and Managing Partner of Rodos Realty, began the most recent chapter of his career when Atlanta based Rodos Realty Partners acquired Destin's BB&T Building in July 2015. Franco's plan to rebrand his building as Destin Commerce Center with anchor tenants BB&T and Merrill Lynch while launching the popular coworking business, Beachworx, was his first move in early 2018.

Beachworx has become recognized as the go to innovative workplace for busy people who may be visiting the Destin, Fort Walton Beach, and 30A area, but have a need for office and meeting space in order to carry on their business while vacationing or spending time at their beach home. Beachworx offers an array of flexible workspace options and business solutions unlike anything else along the Northwest Florida Gulf Coast. Its strong networking culture and support makes Beachworx impactful on the road to success for many member businesses, individuals and non-profit organizations.

A good example of the networking opportunities within Steven Franco's companies is the joint venture formed between RRP Capital Services and New Beginnings was initially derived when Steven Franco and Matt Staver met



at the weekly Tuesday Buzz meetup held at Beachworx. "Rodos in depth experience in real property and community redevelopment combined with its extensive capital sources through its family owned private equity firm, Altos Partners, was the perfect fit," said Matt Staver, co-owner of Out Of The Box, a Destin area based transformational home building system, and founder of New Beginnings, LLC, a comprehensive affordable housing development company being adapted by municipalities and housing authorities across the region. As a result, RRP Capital Services now has exclusivity across the state of Florida to fund over 1,500 affordable workforce homes through this joint venture with New Beginnings. The initial focus has been to start rebuilding in Panama City, FL following the aftermath of Hurricane Michael. Construction of the first wave of new Out of

the Box homes recently commenced in May 2020 and will go on for many years as the joint venture continues to develop the impacted area, alongside Franco's and Rodos Realty's other projects.

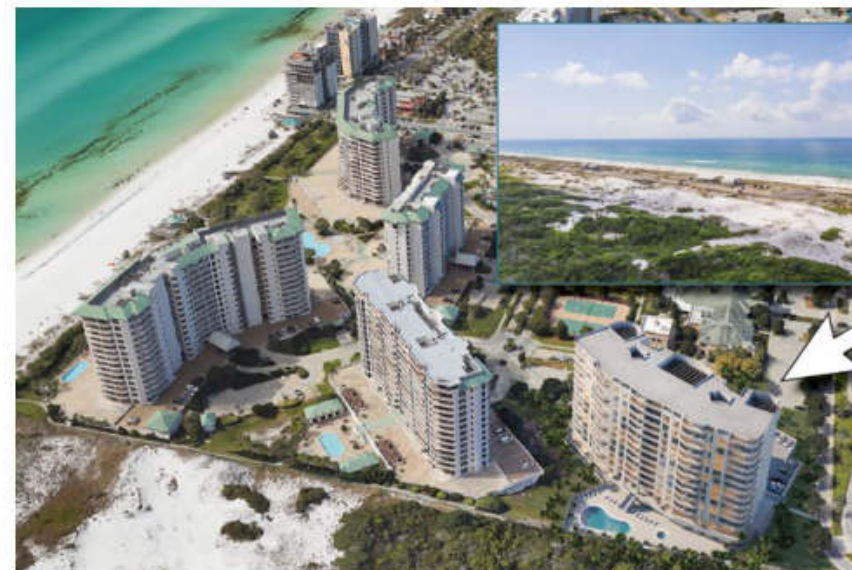
Another landmark real estate venture launched in spring 2020 from the synergy of Beachworx is Rodos Realty Advisors exclusive listing for the sale of St. Kitts, which will be Destin Florida's newest luxury condo property. St. Kitts is an upscale 70-unit luxury high rise condominium at Silver Shells Resort in Destin, Florida. Franco states "Rodos experience as a principal owner and developer, focus on customer service, unique personal and business contacts, and highly successful track record of value creation in real estate through leasing and sales are reasons why Rodos Realty Advisors



was recently engaged to spearhead the sales effort for St. Kitts".

Moving forward Rodos Realty is seeking to leverage its quality portfolio of real estate assets along with new projects like the local ones mentioned herein to expand its footprint here on the Emerald Coast. Franco tells us that Rodos Realty Partners has been eyeing long term investments of several high profile mixed-use development sites in concert with a bullish interest at present in expanding affordable workforce housing through its joint venture with New Beginnings.

In addition to the building and development side of the Gulf Coast real estate industry, Franco is also optimistic about growing Rodos Realty Advisors 3rd party representation business, which aims to service buyers and sellers across the country who see the immense appeal of buying at the beach. Who knows, one of them could be you! 🏖️



The Panhandler

By Mike Ragsdale

Burt sat on the pollen-laden hood of an otherwise maroon Honda Accord. It wasn't his car, of course, but that didn't matter. "This is a public beach," he thought. "I can sit wherever I damn well want."

He shifted his dark eyes up and down the bike path, scouring for a potential victim.

"Slim pickings today," he thought.

Burt was a diehard local, having grown up along the Emerald Coast. In all his days, he had never strayed far from the water. He couldn't explain why. Something primitive anchored him here; something ancient. Perhaps it was the soothing ebb and flow of the Gulf. Perhaps it was just the fresh seafood.

Still, Burt was a shiftless drifter, routinely meandering from Fort Walton to Destin to Panama City and back again. But this twenty-mile stretch of sugary beaches along Scenic Highway 30A was his favorite.

For most of the winter, he'd gone down to Seaside every morning and mooched off this little old lady from Michigan. She didn't seem to mind that he was a complete freeloader. She liked the company.

But now, warmer weather was here and the snowbirds had flocked back to their northern nests. The Spring Breakers had limped home too, tending to aching heads, overexposed shoulders, and depleted ATM accounts. Intoxicated and free-spirited students made easy prey, but they could also be a rowdy lot. While the young girls tended to humor Burt's persistent charms, those testosterone guys were just too unpredictable.

Now, though, there was a pleasant month-long lull, just enough time to catch one's breath before the onslaught of summer vacationers. The calm before the profitable storm.

"Plus, the fish are back," smiled Burt.

As bait fish and

minnows wiggled their way through his one-track mind, a white SUV with Alabama tags rolled into the lot.

"A family of four," noted Burt. "This looks promising."

Dad hopped out and began unloading beach gear with the swift precision of an airport baggage handler. He had the square-jawed good looks of a Caesar or a starship captain, and he wore a tacky Tommy Bahama print that screamed, "I'm a cubicle farm slave."

Dad probably got ten vacation days a year, fifteen if he was lucky. Most of those were squandered on family reunions, weddings, funerals and other obligations. Not this time though, as these precious few days at the beach were what dad toiled for all year long. The pathetic thought almost conjured up enough pity in Burt to convince him to

leave this poor guy and his family alone.

...Almost.

The pasty troop barged their way toward the sand, dragging floats, lawn

chairs, towels, umbrellas, and beach bags. Burt trailed them discreetly down the boardwalk. He perched on the rail and tried to appear as nonchalant and inconspicuous as possible.

Mom and dad staked out a family outpost by the water's edge, as teen and tween played tag with the lapping turquoise waves. After a while, Mom unpacked lunch and lured the kids back to their blanketed base camp. Sandwiches, chips, cookies and drinks were passed around liberally.

"This is it," Burt thought. "No time like the present."

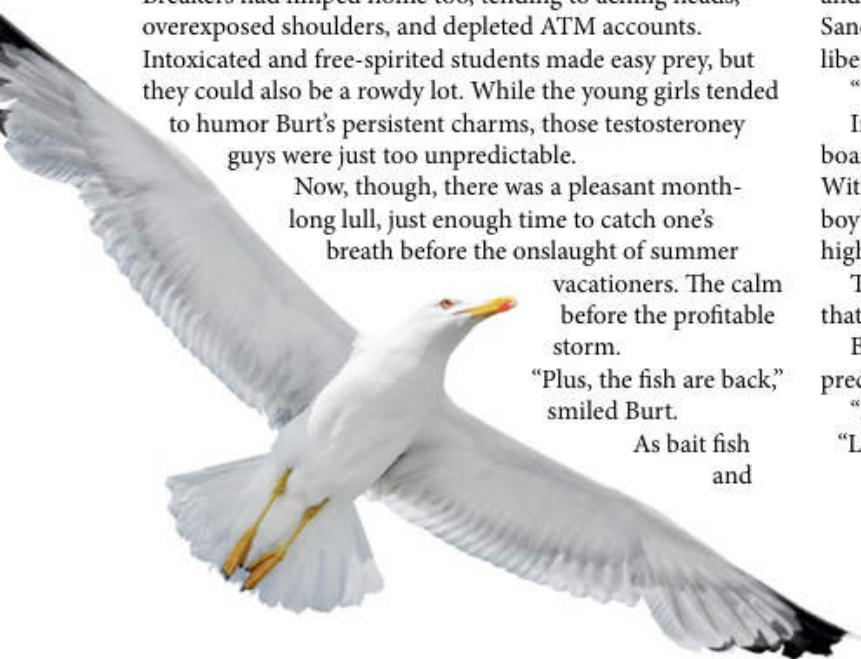
In one fluid flapping frenzy, he sailed down from the boardwalk and swooped low across the sweltering sand. With lightning-speed precision, he seized a prize from the boy's unsuspecting hands and then quickly ascended into a high spiral over the crime scene.

The boy squealed with delight. "Mom! Dad! Did you see that? That Burt just flew down and took my cookie!"

Burt smiled to himself. Once again, his reputation had preceded him.

"Like taking candy from a baby," he thought.

"Like candy from a baby." 🍪



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"The 30A area has always been the place my mind, body and soul are most at peace." – Jimmy Burgess

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