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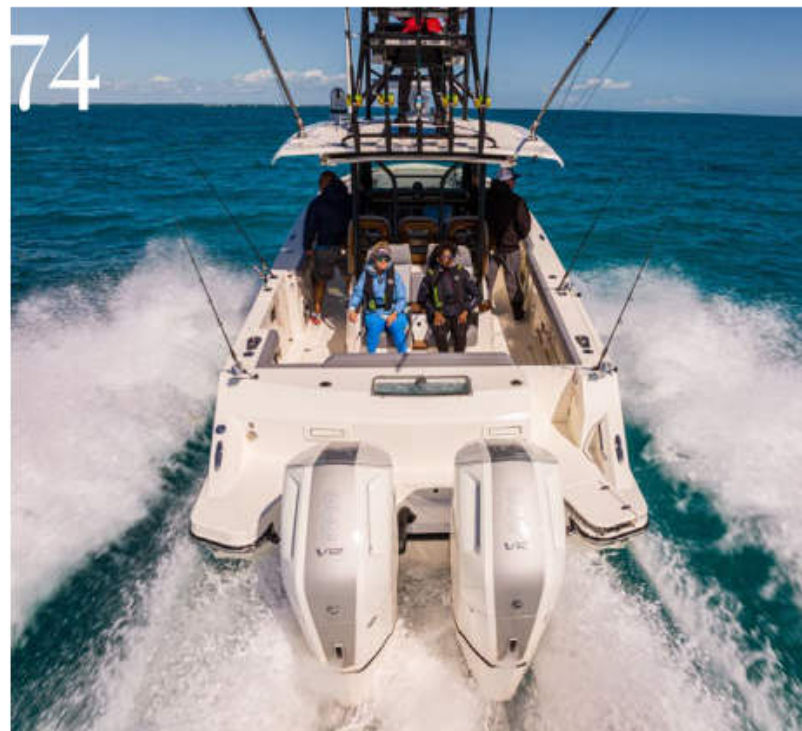
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SLURRED THOUGHTS

FROM THE  GUY

Alcohol is poison. Make no mistake about it. I know there are many “research studies” out there that tout the benefits of moderate alcohol consumption—articles about two glasses of red wine every day being “good for you,” or an interview with some 104-year-old woman in Montana who swears her longevity is a direct result of smokin’, cussin’ and slamming down a half-pint of gin before bedtime every day. Even Jesus’ big debut was about making sure all the wedding guests had enough liquid confidence to step out onto that dusty dance floor.

But c’mon, it’s pretty clearly bad for you. I suspect that one day, all those so-called “scientific studies” will be debunked as little more than paid-for propaganda, much like the doctors on those old black-and-white TV commercials who once hailed the many health benefits of certain brands of cigarettes. Total B.S.

So, why do so many of us continue to consume gut-burning fluids that make us do and say stupid things, cause immense pain the morning after, and can no doubt shave years off an otherwise healthy life?

I have no idea. Personally, I just love bar culture. I love the stories and laughter that inevitably spill out from a good bottle of bourbon. I love the savory scent of a well-crafted smoked Old Fashioned, punctuated with both an Italian Luxardo maraschino cherry and an orange peel. I love the ice-crystal chill of a dry, straight-up vodka Martini (yes, shaken, not stirred). I love eating creamy coconut pulp from a freshly concocted Piña Colada, and I love the spicy tartness of a Jalapeño Margarita. And oh my goodness gracious, how I love sitting in an open-air beach bar, where sandy feet, bikinis, and reggae all swirl together under a rickety old, slightly-off-balance ceiling fan. Simply put, beach bars and tropical cocktails make me happy and, well, I guess I’ll continue to indulge until they no longer do.

If you don’t drink, don’t start. If you do drink, quit if you can... or even if you just want to. But if you find pleasure in beach bars and cocktail culture, then I hope you’ll enjoy the features we’ve put together in this issue. (Don’t worry though: If you’re not into spirits, there are plenty of other fun and inspiring stories contained in these pages!)

In the meantime, as my best friend Sean likes to recommend, “Everything in moderation... including moderation!” After all, while alcohol might very well be bad for the mind and body, sometimes a little is good for the soul.

Cheers and Beach Happy, my friends!


Mike Ragdale
Founder, The 30A Company

P.S. If you or a friend or family member need help with alcohol, I strongly encourage you to call the National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Hotline at 1-800-662-HELP(4357). It’s free, and there’s absolutely no shame in getting help!



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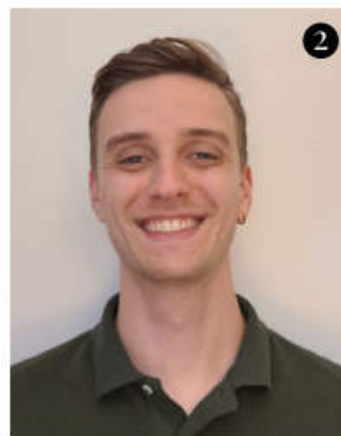
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1. ROMONA ROBBINS

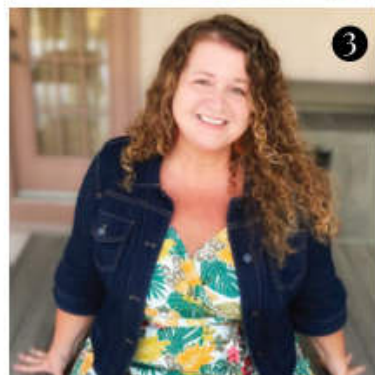
is an internationally recognized photographer based in the panhandle of Florida. Romona enables her subjects to reveal their own story. As an active observer, she strives to capture mood, character, and setting in an honest and authentic photo. Check out her work at romonarobbins.com.

2. LUKAS HARNISCH

is a Boston-based freelance writer whose work has appeared in the *Daily Beast*, *SPIN* magazine, and *The Boston Globe*.

3. CARRIE HONAKER

is a Florida-based freelance writer who is not sure where she will land next, but it will involve messy eating, a spicy Tempranillo and finding the local dive bar. Her work has been featured in *Wine Enthusiast*, *Bon Appétit*, and others. You can find her on Twitter and Instagram (@writeonhonaker).



3



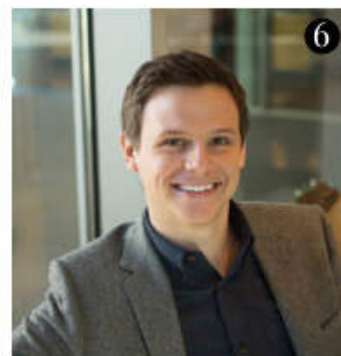
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4. MARTIN LIPTROT

is British but has lived along Scenic Highway 30A since 2004. After a global career in advertising, he made NorthWest Florida his home and runs a local PR and Marketing Agency (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 along 30A.

5. GUILLAUME LECHAT

is a French photographer who recently moved to the 30A area from Paris and fell in love with the Gulf Coast lifestyle. Check out his modern portrait photography at guillaumelechat.com and familyphotography30a.com.



6

6. SEAN COUCH

Sean, a former digital marketing expert, now thrives as a social entrepreneur and philanthropist. Over the past six years, his family's private foundation has generously donated close to \$10 million in grants to nonprofit organizations nationwide. Sean actively engages in direct charitable activities, creating high-production video assets to raise awareness and offering technical assistance to numerous boards.



5



7

7. NOAH CUSTER

a filmmaker and Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) graduate, has forged a career in the world of outdoor branding, collaborating with renowned names such as Columbia PFG, Southern Marsh, and Huckberry, capturing breathtaking visuals that seamlessly blend adventure and style. His passion for film and outdoor culture shines through his work, creating captivating narratives that inspire and immerse audiences in the beauty of nature.

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Colorful Obsession Hides in Plain Sight

By Martin Liptrot
Photos: Guillaume LECHAT



For those who have been visiting or living along Scenic Highway 30A for the past couple of decades, James Murphy, the owner of Barefoot BBQ in Seaside in Walton County, Florida, is better known as “Murph.”

Murph has been a fixture in the town for 18 years, 15 of those running his much-loved BBQ business out of one of the first Airstreams along 30A. His Airstreams are the ones covered in thousands of stickers.

“I moved here from the U.S. Virgin Islands,” he recalled. “I’d visited in 1992 and thought ‘WOW, this is a cool place to hang out!’ When I moved here, there was actually a little business network of people who’d been out in the Islands. There were about 20 people who’d either been living or working out there, including longtime locals Wendy and Jean Mignot, so it was an easy fit.”

The entrepreneur was looking for a business opportunity.

“I’ve always been in and around the restaurant business, and I’ve pretty much done every job – manager, front of house, back of house, waiter, bus-boy, dishwasher,” he recounted, “but mostly in high-end, white tablecloth establishments.”

There were already plenty of those on 30A, so Murph went looking for something fresh.

“No one was doing BBQ. I thought, perfect – great food you don’t need to dress up for.”

Murph knew his clientele. He envisioned a dad on vacation who was looking for an alternative to putting on a clean shirt and a jacket for dinner. “Someone who wanted to be in his shorts, smoke his cigar, ride his bike, and have a great plate of BBQ and a cold beer,” he said.

Barefoot BBQ was born.

“I was looking to provide a different experience,” said Murph. Luckily for him, so were Seaside founders and visionaries Robert and Daryl Davis.

“Airstream Row was just starting to take shape,” he recalled. “Jen had just opened the original Raw and Juicy, there was the sushi guy who used to go swimming looking for seaweed, and my neighbor, Frost Bites, was already here.”

Initially, there was some reservation about the line of Airstreams. Some people were worried it would make the town look like a trailer park.



“But I think everyone now agrees, and recognizes Robert and Daryl’s genius – it really adds character to Seaside,” said Murph.

As does Murph’s other passion – the stickers.

“From the very start, I didn’t want to give you something you could get in Dallas or Atlanta or Memphis. I wanted it to be unique, an experience.”

Murph has been a collector of stickers for as long as he can remember.

“I’ve got this huge collection of stickers – it’s out of control!” he laughed. “As a kid, I was a skater, I liked skiing. I just started collecting stickers and never outgrew it.”

But this lifetime obsession means a lot to Murph. He likens it to an art form. Many of the stickers – Murph estimates there are about 5,000 layered across every surface of the Airstream – tell a story.

“People bring me or send me stickers from all over the world – Alaska, Zion National Park. My ex-wife Jen brings me them from her travels – she brought me one back from Antarctica,” Murph said.

And, of course, Barefoot BBQ provides diners with their own stickers too. They distribute about 8,000 stickers a year.

“I had a customer come in and show me a photo of a car he saw in Berne, Switzerland, with a Barefoot BBQ sticker,” he told me.

Next time you are standing in line for a plate of delicious Barefoot BBQ, why not have a look at all the stickers? While it may look entirely random to





the untrained eye, this is a carefully curated collection. And there are rules.

"No politics, no sports, and they are all family-friendly," said Murph. "I don't do doubles, and surprisingly, I don't have any bumper stickers on my car."

But they are on the Airstream. And on the tables. The counters. The napkin holders. Even the doggie drink station is festooned in brightly-colored stickers.

Many of them are 30A businesses, including those who some may consider to be competitors, but that isn't how Murph sees it.

"We have BBQ stickers from everywhere. Every kind of business up and down 30A and, of course, the famous 30A.com sticker."

As well as refreshing his collection with gifts from customers, Murph is in touch with sticker dealers worldwide. Yes, like the world of fine art collectors, they do exist.

"I only deal with the well-known and respected dealers," said Murph.

Apparently, some stickers swap hands for thousands of dollars, and where there is fast cash to be made, there are fake stickers and forgeries too. But unlike paintings in a museum or gallery, these stickers are an evolving art form.

Every couple of years, the stickers need replacing. The sunlight fades them, and Murph can be found poring over his counters planning which new ones will go where.

"I do it early in the morning," said the BBQ-master. "I put headphones on and apply new stickers – scrape the old ones off, put new ones on. People look at me weirdly. The number of hours I have invested in these stickers... but it's a little glimpse inside my head for people. I've got about 10,000 stickers to choose from. Surf and skate stuff, the lifestyle brands like Nike, vintage Marilyn Monroe, Japanese car and bike racing stickers, and weird stuff only a few people will recognize."

And as Murph scrapes and reapplies new stickers, a 30A history is revealed.

"As I'm peeling them back, I find some of the original classic stickers from 30A businesses. Some are the old designs, and in some cases, the stickers have outlived the businesses that issued them," he said.

But like any great artist, Murph is constantly looking to evolve his masterpiece. You can contribute to the collection, and Murph welcomes you to send him your stickers.

"Like Barefoot BBQ, this is an expression of creativity. We keep evolving and changing the stickers, so every time you come back, there will be something unique and different to discover. That's what I love about it!" Murph concluded. 



Murph's Five Favorite Stickers

Supreme

1. Supreme Red Box – This is one of the most sought-after stickers out there. Supreme, the fashion brand, produced what was one of, if not the first, quality stickers for collectors. There are many different Supreme stickers available, but the Red Box is the holy grail.



2. Red Bar – A 30A institution, Red Bar was among the first local businesses to provide stickers, and the original designs are among Murph's favorites.



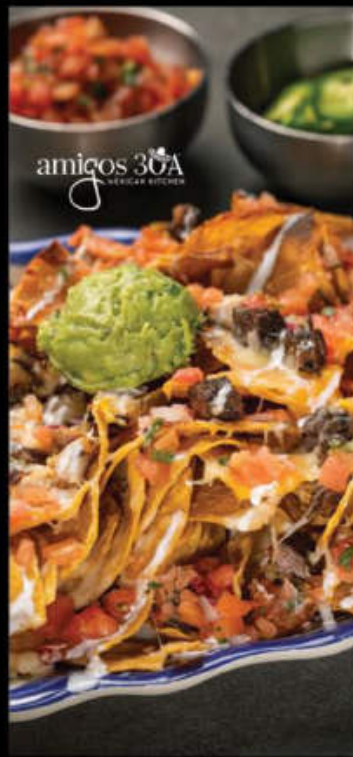
3. ONO – The ONO Surf Shop in Seaside produces a range of stickers that rank high on Murph's list. The ONO designs – surfboards, vintage VW campers, and more – are iconic, and the quality of the PVC sticker makes them highly sought-after.



4. Going Seanile – A trendy store in US Virgin Islands, now called Players, is a personal favorite of Murph as it reminds him of his time in the Caribbean and remains a collectible for those in the know.



5. Military and Uniformed Services – Surrounded by military bases, 30A has a strong connection with the uniformed services and veterans. Murph receives many air force squadron, firehouse, police department, and other stickers that have pride of place.



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**Five Coastal Cocktails Inspired
by Mythical Sea Creatures**

Mermaid Mixology

Illustrated by Maja Milojevic

From ancient folklore to modern literature, mythical sea creatures have long captured our imaginations with their enchanting tales and mysterious allure. In honor of these captivating beings, we've crafted a collection of original cocktail recipes inspired by legendary aquatic creatures, such as the Kraken, sirens, and selkies. Each drink is accompanied by a fascinating story and a vivid illustration, allowing you to dive into the depths of marine mythology while savoring a sip of oceanic bliss.



Naiad's Nectar

THE INSPIRATION: Naiads, freshwater nymphs from Greek mythology, presided over rivers, streams, and fountains. These graceful and alluring beings were believed to possess healing powers and were often sought after for their ability to bestow blessings on those who encountered them.

THE COCKTAIL: The Naiad's Nectar is a rejuvenating and ethereal blend of vodka, cucumber, mint, and sparkling water. Its refreshing, crisp flavors pay tribute to the naiads' healing energies, while the effervescent fizz evokes the sparkle of clear, flowing waters.

DIRECTIONS: In a shaker, muddle the cucumber slices, mint leaves, and simple syrup. Add the vodka and lime juice, and shake well. Strain into a highball glass filled with ice and top with sparkling water. Garnish with a cucumber ribbon and a sprig of mint.

- 2 oz vodka
- 4 cucumber slices
- 6 fresh mint leaves
- 1/2 oz simple syrup
- 1 oz fresh lime juice
- Sparkling water
- Cucumber ribbon and mint sprig for garnish

Siren's Song

THE INSPIRATION: Sirens, enchanting half-woman, half-bird creatures from Greek mythology, were known for their mesmerizing songs that lured sailors to their doom. These bewitching beings inhabited rocky cliffs and islands, using their irresistible melodies to seduce seafarers into shipwrecks.

THE COCKTAIL: The Siren's Song is a captivating blend of gin, elderflower liqueur, blue curaçao, and lemon juice. Its vibrant turquoise hue mirrors the beauty of the sirens themselves, while the delicate, floral notes evoke the enchantment of their irresistible melodies.

DIRECTIONS: In a shaker, combine the gin, elderflower liqueur, blue curaçao, and lemon juice. Shake well and strain into a chilled coupe glass. Sprinkle with edible glitter and garnish with a lemon twist.

- 2 oz gin
- 1 oz elderflower liqueur
- 1/2 oz blue curaçao
- 1 oz fresh lemon juice
- Edible glitter and lemon twist for garnish



Poseidon's Trident

THE INSPIRATION: Poseidon, the god of the sea in Greek mythology, wielded a mighty trident that could control the waters and summon storms. As a symbol of his immense power and authority, the trident embodies the awe-inspiring might of the ocean's depths.

THE COCKTAIL: The Poseidon's Trident is a powerful and invigorating cocktail that fuses tequila, grapefruit juice, jalapeño, and a touch of honey. This bold and spicy creation pays homage to the strength of Poseidon's trident with a thrilling blend of flavors that will make your taste buds dance.

DIRECTIONS: In a shaker, muddle the jalapeño slice with honey syrup. Add the tequila and grapefruit juice, and shake well. Strain into a rocks glass filled with ice and garnish with a grapefruit twist and a jalapeño slice.

- 2 oz silver tequila
- 1 1/2 oz fresh grapefruit juice
- 1/2 oz honey syrup (1:1 honey and water)
- 1 jalapeño slice, seeds removed
- Grapefruit twist and jalapeño slice for garnish



- 2 oz black spiced rum
- 1/4 oz squid ink
- 1 oz fresh lime juice
- 4 oz ginger beer
- Lime wheel and edible flowers for garnish

The Kraken's Ink

THE INSPIRATION: The Kraken, a colossal, tentacled sea monster from Scandinavian folklore, is said to dwell off the coasts of Norway and Greenland. This fearsome creature is rumored to drag entire ships beneath the waves with its powerful arms.

THE COCKTAIL: A dark and mysterious concoction, the Kraken's Ink combines black spiced rum, squid ink, lime juice, and ginger beer. This inky libation pays homage to the legendary monster with its deep, black hue and a spicy kick that will keep you on your toes.

DIRECTIONS: In a shaker, combine the black spiced rum, squid ink, and lime juice. Shake well and strain into a glass filled with ice. Top with ginger beer, gently stir, and garnish with a lime wheel and edible flowers.

Selkie's Embrace

THE INSPIRATION: Selkies, mythical creatures found in Irish, Scottish, and Icelandic folklore, have the ability to transform from seals into humans by shedding their magical skins. These shapeshifters are often associated with tales of love and loss, as they can only remain in human form for a limited time before returning to the sea.

THE COCKTAIL: The Selkie's Embrace is a rich and velvety cocktail that captures the bittersweet essence of these

mythical beings. This smooth creation combines Irish whiskey, cream liqueur, crème de cacao, and cold brew coffee, finished with a touch of sea salt to evoke the ocean's embrace.

DIRECTIONS: In a shaker, combine the Irish whiskey, cream liqueur, crème de cacao, cold brew coffee, and a pinch of sea salt. Shake well and strain into an old-fashioned glass filled with ice. Top with whipped cream and garnish with chocolate shavings.

- 1 1/2 oz Irish whiskey
- 1 oz cream liqueur
- 1/2 oz crème de cacao
- 1 oz cold brew coffee
- Pinch of sea salt
- Whipped cream and chocolate shavings for garnish



Sea to Tee

AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN



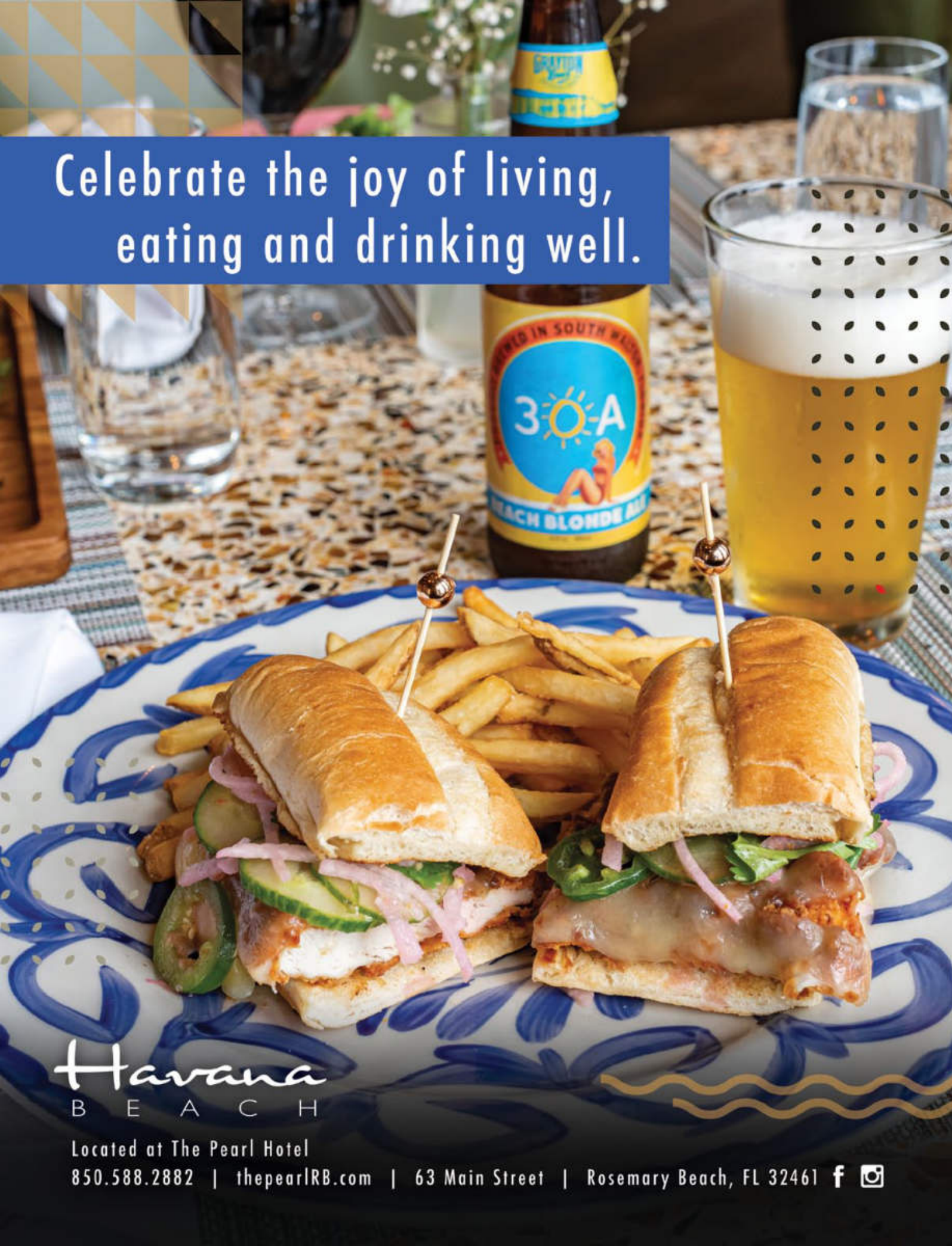
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HOLE

Lot of Fun



The Corny Chronicles of Cornhole

Photos: Noah Custer

From mysterious origins to modern-day tailgating, discover the irresistible allure of this classic beach game.

Picture a warm summer day, the sun shining brightly, the aroma of barbecue wafting through the salt air, and the cheerful laughter of friends and family gathered on the sand. Amidst this idyllic scene, there's a good chance you'll find a friendly game of cornhole in progress, with players of all ages taking turns tossing bean bags at a wooden target. But have you ever wondered how this simple yet addictive game came to be? Let's dive into the fascinating history of cornhole and explore its rise to popularity as a staple of American leisure.

A Tale of Many Origins

Cornhole – also known as bean bag toss, sack toss, or baggo – is a popular beach and backyard game with a history that is both debated and somewhat murky. The basic premise of the game is to toss small bean bags or corn-filled bags onto a raised wooden platform with a hole in the far end, aiming to get the bags into the hole or as close as possible. The game is typically played in a 2-vs-2 format, with players taking turns tossing their bags.

There are numerous theories regarding the origin of cornhole.

Some sources suggest that cornhole can be traced back to 14th-century Germany, where the game was played using rocks and a hole dug in the ground. The game supposedly evolved over time, and settlers brought a variant of it to the United States. Another theory posits that cornhole originated from a Native American game called Hubbub, which involved tossing beans or corn kernels into a hole in the ground. Some believe that European settlers adapted the game, leading to the modern version of cornhole. Another Native American connection involves the Blackhawk tribe in Illinois, who reportedly filled pig bladders with dried beans and tossed them into holes as a form of entertainment. As with the Hubbub theory, it is thought that European settlers adapted this game into the cornhole we know today.

The Cincinnati Connection

While the historical origins of cornhole may be shrouded in mystery, there's no denying the pivotal role that Cincinnati, Ohio, played in the game's recent resurgence. In the early 2000s, cornhole's popularity skyrocketed in the Midwest, with Cincinnati earning the unofficial title of "Cornhole

Capital of the World." The founding of the American Cornhole Association in 2003 further solidified the game's status as a legitimate pastime, complete with official rules, regulations, and even organized tournaments.

A Game for All Ages

One of the secrets to cornhole's enduring appeal is its accessibility. With a simple set of rules and minimal equipment required, the game can be enjoyed by young and old alike, making it the perfect addition to any gathering. Whether it's a family reunion, a neighborhood barbecue, or a competitive tailgate party, cornhole offers an inviting and inclusive way for people to bond and engage in friendly competition.

Beyond the Beach

Cornhole's popularity has extended far beyond casual backyard and beach games. Today, the sport boasts a thriving competitive scene, with amateur and professional leagues hosting tournaments throughout the country. Additionally, the game has spawned a variety of creative variations and themed sets, ranging from personalized boards featuring favorite sports teams to glow-in-the-dark options for nighttime play.

The journey of cornhole from its mysterious beginnings to its current status as a beloved American pastime is a testament to the game's irresistible charm. With its simple rules, easy setup, and universal appeal, cornhole has cemented its place in the pantheon of classic lawn games. So, the next time you find yourself at a sun-soaked gathering with bean bags in hand, take a moment to appreciate the storied history of this timeless game – and, of course, aim for the hole!

The Cost of Cornhole

While the concept of Cornhole is simple, enthusiasts can spend more than a few kernels to get in the hole.

Regulation Cornhole Boards: These are the standard-sized boards used for official games, typically measuring 4' x 2' with a 6-inch hole. Prices can range from \$80 to \$300, depending on the materials and design.

All-Weather Cornhole Boards: These boards are made from materials that can withstand harsh weather conditions, making them ideal for outdoor play. Prices vary but expect to pay anywhere from \$100 to \$350.

Cornhole Bags: Regulation cornhole bags are 6" x 6" and are filled with 16 ounces of corn kernels or synthetic pellets. Prices for a set of eight bags can range from \$20 to \$50, depending on the materials.

Custom Cornhole Boards: Many retailers offer customizable boards with unique designs, team logos, or personalized graphics. Prices for custom boards can vary greatly, with some options starting around \$150 and going up to \$500 or more.

Cornhole Carrying Cases: These cases make it easy to transport and store your cornhole boards and bags. Prices for carrying cases can range from \$20 to \$60, depending on the size and quality.



Photos courtesy of Grayton Beer Company

Cornhole 101 The Essential Rules

Whether you're a seasoned cornhole pro or a newcomer to this addictive pastime, here's a quick rundown of the essentials you need to know before you toss your first bean bag:

Equipment

Two cornhole boards, each with a 6-inch hole, spaced 27 feet apart (from the front edges). Eight bean bags (four of each color, usually filled with corn kernels or synthetic pellets).

Players

Cornhole is typically played with two teams of two players each. Opposing team members stand at opposite cornhole boards.

Gameplay

Teams take turns tossing bean bags, with each player throwing one bag per turn. The objective is to land the bean bags on the board (1 point) or through the hole (3 points). Players can knock opponents' bags off the board or use their own bags to push others into the hole.

Scoring

After all eight bags have been thrown in a round (four per team), the points are tallied. Only one team scores per round, earning the difference in points between the two teams. (For example, if Team A scores 5 points and Team B scores 3 points, Team A earns 2 points for that round.)

Winning

The game continues until one team reaches or exceeds 21 points. A team must win by at least 2 points, so the score is 21-20, the game continues until this condition is met.





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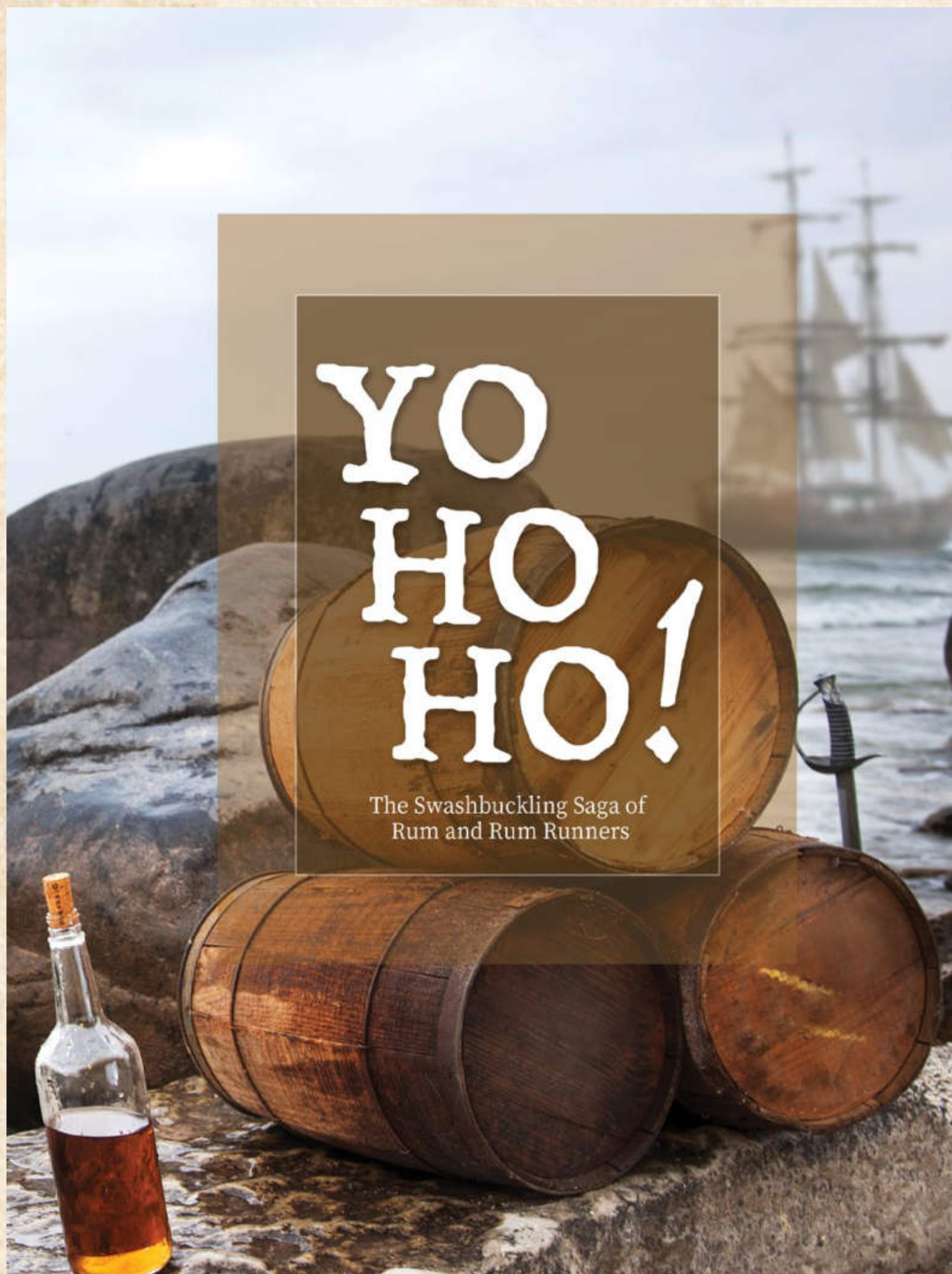
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YO HO HO!

The Swashbuckling Saga of
Rum and Rum Runners

We all know the old cliché pirate stereotypes: one-eyed swashbuckling adventurers with a penchant for treasure, planks, parrots, peglegs, pillaging, and, of course, copious amounts of rum. But how did these seafaring scoundrels become so intertwined with this sugarcane-based spirit? Grab a tankard of grog, and let's dive into the storied history of pirates and their liquid treasure: rum.

What is now referred to as "The Golden Age of Piracy" took place between the late 17th and early 18th centuries. It was a time of cutthroat competition on the high seas, and the Caribbean was teeming with pirates eager to plunder ships carrying valuable cargo. Coincidentally (or not), the Caribbean was also the epicenter of rum production, with sugar plantations churning out molasses by the barrelful. This sweet by-product was distilled into rum, a cheap and plentiful beverage that quickly became the go-to drink for sailors and pirates alike.

Sugarcane, the raw material for rum, was brought to the Caribbean by European colonizers during the early 16th century. The Caribbean's climate proved ideal for growing sugarcane, and soon, plantations sprung up throughout the region, producing large quantities of sugar and its by-product, molasses. The first recorded instance of rum production dates back to the 17th century in Barbados, where plantation owners found that fermenting and distilling molasses resulted in a potent, albeit rough, spirit. This early version of rum was known as "kill-devil" or "rumbullion," which gives you an idea of its less-than-refined taste.

Over time, distillation techniques improved, and rum began to develop a more polished flavor profile. It wasn't long before the spirit gained popularity beyond the Caribbean, eventually making its way across the Atlantic to the American colonies. In fact, rum became so popular that it played a key role in the infamous "triangular trade" – a complex network of exchanges involving sugar, molasses, rum, and slaves between the Caribbean, Europe, and the American colonies.

Despite its dark associations with the slave trade, rum enjoyed widespread popularity in colonial America. Taverns and inns throughout the colonies served rum, and the spirit was even used as a form of currency in some instances. It's estimated that, at its peak, the average American colonist consumed more than three gallons of rum per year.

For pirates, rum was also something of a multitasker. Not only did it provide an essential morale boost after a long day of looting and pillaging, it also played a crucial role in preserving and sterilizing water on long voyages. The high alcohol content of rum killed off bacteria and algae, making it safer to drink, which was especially important considering the scarcity of fresh water aboard ships. Pirates also believed that a healthy swig of rum would help stave off scurvy, though we now know that citrus fruits were the real heroes in that micro-battle.

Of course, pirates weren't the only ones who appreciated a good dram of rum. The British Royal Navy issued daily rum rations to their sailors until as late as 1970. Known as a "tot," this daily

allotment consisted of a half-pint of rum, watered down with an equal amount of water to create "grog." It's said that Admiral Edward Vernon, who introduced the practice of diluting rum rations, earned the nickname "Old Grog" due to his grogram cloak. The name "grog" stuck for the watered-down rum mixture.

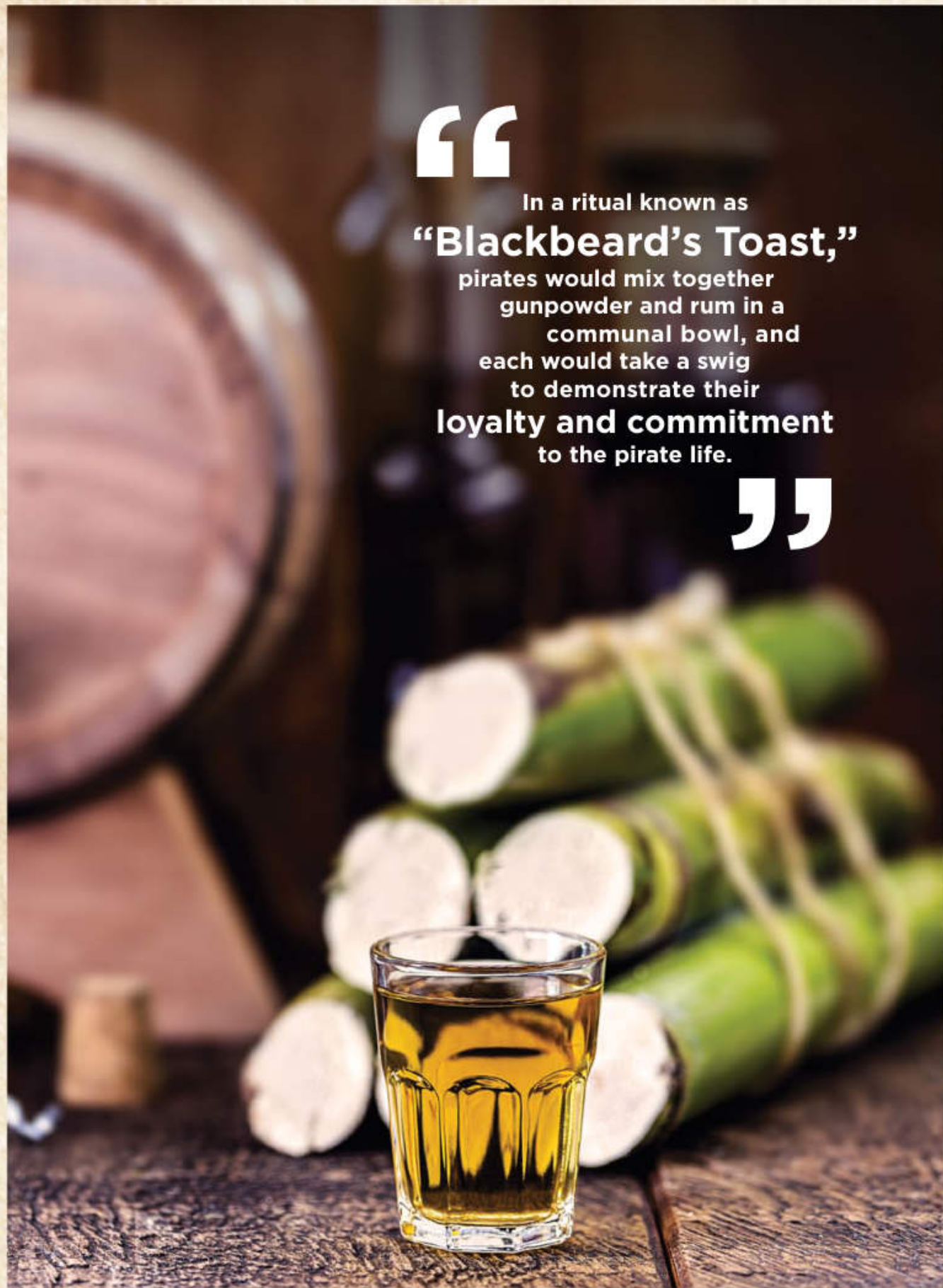
As for pirates, their love affair with rum was not limited to simply drinking it. They also used the spirit as a means of bonding and sealing deals. In a ritual known as "Blackbeard's Toast," pirates would mix together gunpowder and rum in a communal bowl, and each would take a swig to demonstrate their loyalty and commitment to the pirate life. The practice was as dangerous as it was symbolic – ingesting gunpowder could cause severe gastrointestinal distress, but to pirates, it was a small price to pay for camaraderie and solidarity.

The Golden Age of Piracy eventually waned as nations increased their naval presence in the Caribbean and cracked down on the sea-faring scoundrels. The rum-soaked days of plunder and adventure gave way to more organized and regulated maritime trade, and the once-ubiquitous wooden pirate ships faded into the realm of legend and lore.



As for rum itself, its fortunes have risen and fallen over the centuries. The spirit's popularity waned in the late 18th and early 19th centuries as whiskey and bourbon took center stage in America, but it experienced a resurgence in the early 20th century with the rise of tiki culture and the invention of cocktails like the Daiquiri and the Mojito. Today, rum remains a staple of the spirits world, with artisanal distilleries producing a wide range of styles and flavors, from the light and refreshing to the dark and complex.

Through the centuries, rum has evolved from a rough, unrefined spirit to a beloved and sophisticated beverage that continues to captivate drinkers today. While the days of pirate ships and buried treasure may be long gone, we can still raise a glass of rum in honor of those devilishly daring rogues and their undying love for the spirit that fueled adventures and legends. 🏴‍☠️



“ In a ritual known as
“**Blackbeard’s Toast,**”
pirates would mix together
gunpowder and rum in a
communal bowl, and
each would take a swig
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loyalty and commitment
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The Story of Danielle Torley,
30A's Fire Dancer

By Martin Liptrot

Photos: Romona Robbins

Those who frequent the many festivals, parties, and beach events that dot the social calendar along Florida's Scenic Highway 30A may have seen Danielle Torley at work.



As the founder and principal at Emerald Flame, the fire dancer is in demand to bring a sense of danger, adventure, and glamor to any festivity.

"Fire performance is a fun, glamorous, and artistic form of entertainment for any event or area, but it goes hand-in-hand with the beach, and complements the entire Panhandle," said Danielle.

Watching as the flames are manipulated into artistic displays, partygoers will be even more in awe when they hear the emotional back story behind Danielle's discovery of her passion.

Danielle's life was turned upside down by fire at an early age. As a six-year-old in Michigan, she lost her mother in a tragic house fire. Her father suffered burns to more than a third of his body, requiring surgery and skin grafts, and Danielle and her sister were only saved by the bravery and actions of a kind passer-by who helped the girls escape from a second-floor window.

"The years which followed the fire were tough," said Danielle. "As a single dad raising two young daughters, he did his best to support us as we grew, and as we grieved."



Slowly, the torn-apart family moved forward. “We moved into a new house, my father remarried, and my sister and I excelled at school,” said Daniel. “She rode horses and played in the band, and I was a cheerleader. Outwardly, we had ‘recovered,’ but nothing could stop the nightmares. Dreams of fire, being trapped, or looking on helplessly haunted me.”

Then, in high school, a friend of Danielle’s painted two portraits as part of an art project. “One was in black and white, with a girl cowering in the corner. The other a blast of color with the girl in the center and brimming with joy,” recalled Danielle. “My friend knew me well, what I was going through, but he wanted to show me how he saw me. I realized the two portraits were really pathways ahead: fear or hope. I chose hope.”

Fast forward to 2004, Danielle and a friend were backpacking in Central America. One of the friends they made along the way told them he was a fire dancer and asked if they would like to see a show.

“We watched mesmerized as he and two friends lit these props on fire and swirled them around their bodies. Their movements were deliberate and controlled, yet graceful and rhythmic. I was entranced.”

Over the next few months, Danielle and her friend practiced to the flow of music – but without fire – the art of spinning, moving the props, staffs, and fire poi, the balls on chains controlled by the fingers. Danielle knew this was something she wanted to continue, and she hoped, one day, to be brave enough to try it with fire.

When they finally took the plunge to light the poi, Danielle was terrified.

“Part of me was saying ‘stop,’ but the creative part of my brain was exhilarated. It was an adrenaline rush as I realized, I’m a fire dancer! There was a great sense of control, which for someone traumatized, was empowering,” Danielle recalled. “Fire went from something I was apprehensive about to something that strangely brought me peace.”

Eventually mastering the art, Danielle started her own fire dance troupe.

When people first hear of the trauma Danielle suffered, they are curious. “Why do you do this? Why aren’t you terrified and running in the opposite direction?” they ask.

“I don’t know the answer,” she said. “Perhaps partly because I did cheer, piano, gymnastics – they are all very disciplined, precise, structured, and prescribed. This



“

I realized the two portraits were really pathways ahead: fear or hope.

I CHOSE HOPE.

”



was ‘flow,’ more like a form of meditation, but with a focus on fire – this thing that so deeply scared me.”

Now, settled along the Emerald Coast, Danielle runs her successful business doing what she was once terrified by.

“After moving back to the States (from Dubai), I decided to focus on my family and career and took a step back from events and fire performing,” said Danielle. “But after being in Destin for a year, I reached out to Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort in Miramar Beach to inquire whether they were interested in a fire performer for their luaus. The rest is history.”

Now, living at the beach, with her business well established, she spends her time making people’s beach adventures and family get-togethers more memorable.

“It’s tough to balance my day job with fire performance and my family, but I enjoy the performance aspect, and I love being able to show my children that they do not need to choose only one thing to ‘be’ when they grow up,” said Danielle.

Emerald Flame performers can be hired for parties and private events in the 30A area.

“I love to collaborate with other performers, working with friends in the area to support each other in our training and performances,” said Danielle.

Danielle’s story, of course, is her personal response to the terrible events that occurred that evening in Michigan.

“Not everybody could, or should, have the same reaction,” she said. “I realize that. But what I can say from my own experience is that you have two paths to choose. Either you let the trauma and grief remain, clinging to the grief and sadness, which may, in a way, provide comfort. Or you can step out of the grief. It doesn’t undo the trauma and hardship. It will always be hard with highs and lows, but this path moves forward. For me, fire – with its trauma, beauty, and art all at once – became a metaphor for life itself.” 🍷

To learn more, visit Emerald Flame on Facebook and Instagram (@emeraldflamedance).



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Northern Exposure

The chilly Northeast's hottest beach bars

By Lukas Harnisch



When for three-quarters of the year it is too frigid to lounge comfortably on the beach, opening a beach bar isn't top of a northeastern entrepreneur's mind. What Bostonian, New Yorker, or Rhode Islander thinks to themselves, on a Friday night in February, "You know what would be great? A couple of drinks on the icy Atlantic Coast, fighting off frostbite."

A handful of wild barkeeps decided to post up on the coast, and thank heavens for them. Because when those glorious three months of sunshine finally do come around, and the masses of pent-up Northeasterners can peel the

down jackets off, this collection of dives, inns, and wharf restaurants serves a noble cause. They're the gathering places where the usually serious and hardworking folk of this region can finally let their toes wriggle free of steel-toed boots and claustrophobic leather loafers.

And sure, it's not Cancun, but Cancun's overrated anyway. There's nowhere else that you will find the genuine gruff-yet-friendly people you meet in the Northeast. And there's nowhere else that you'll eat the quality of oysters, lobster, and haddock that you can get at this assortment of bars.



Ocean Mist

South Kingstown, Rhode Island

Let's start with my undeniable favorite on this list. Ocean Mist is an establishment, operating since 1988, and any visit to Rhode Island warrants a stop at this divey bar and venue right on the water. I will always defend Rhode Island as having the best beaches on the northeast coast. Watch Hill, Misquamicut, and East Beach have plenty of soft sand and crashing waves, and great food abounds in the coastal towns.

You might be thinking, what about the Cape? To that, I say, too many damn sharks.

Another great feature of these beaches is that they're in proximity to Ocean Mist! The large bar is nothing fancy. In fact, their slogan is, "Just a beach bar," but there's good reason for it being a favorite among locals.

The classic New England shore style building features a porch that juts out on the water where breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served. Their beer list is dominated by classic refreshing lagers and ales like Narragansett and Corona, much preferred over those cloying, heavy IPAs. Local music acts populate the semi-regular calendar of the venue attached to the bar, and more often than not, the bands are loud – a perfect pairing with a can of cold Narragansett.

It's the perfect representation of beach culture in the Northeast, from the likelihood of needing a hoodie in late June to salt-of-the-earth patrons, the indie rock, and the delicious seafood. What's not to love?

895 Matunuck Beach Road, South Kingstown, Rhode Island 02879
oceanmist.net



The Red Inn

Provincetown, Massachusetts

There's nowhere quite like Provincetown. The coastal village, out on the very tip of Cape Cod, has been a historic safe haven for LGBTQ, and it's perhaps because of this that it is one of the most unique places in the world.

It's a favored hideaway for Massachusetts writers, poets, and artists, and a visit there makes it obvious why. The town itself, teeming with life, consists of ramshackle colonial-style buildings and a long main street, Commercial Ave., lined with restaurants, bars, clubs, and art galleries.

On the other side of Route 6 is Race Point Beach, possibly the most picturesque beach in the entire Northeast, complete with an old lighthouse. It's not uncommon to see herds of seals close to the shore, their small brown heads popping up just two arms' lengths away from where you're swimming. That's of

course because they're avoiding the sharks in deeper waters, so I wouldn't go in too far.

And there's no better place to meet, or simply be among, people than at The Red Inn. The historic building has welcomed guests since 1915, and it features one of the best bars and restaurants in town.

The views from the porch jutting out into Cape Cod Bay are stunning, especially as a long summer night begins to wind down over the ocean. There is no better way to enjoy a glass of wine or a cocktail, and the dinner served there is some of the best on the Cape.

Compared to Ocean Mist, it might be pricier, but it is no less authentic and well worth a visit.

15 Commercial St, Provincetown, Massachusetts 02657
theredinn.com



Breakwater

Stonington, Connecticut

New Englanders and New Yorkers often skip over Connecticut when thinking about beaches, but that's a shame since Connecticut has some gems. As you get away from the oily shores of New York City, Stamford, and Bridgeport, and head north, you'll find small historical coastal towns like Mystic and Stonington.

Mystic has really committed itself to its history with the famous Mystic Seaport. But a 10-minute drive east brings you to Stonington, where you'll find Breakwater, a peaceful spot to enjoy the sunset on an expansive porch jutting out onto Fishers Island Sound. Kick back and watch fishing vessels return from a day's work while sipping martinis and enjoying oysters and impeccable service.

Although the building could easily fit in a colonial setting, the restaurant and bar are airy, cozy, and contemporary. It's the perfect place to enjoy the still waters of the Long Island Sound and a cocktail.

66 Water St, Stonington, Connecticut 06378
breakwaterstonington.com



The American Hotel

Sag Harbor, New York

The Hamptons are rife with great places by the shore, but none can rival The American Hotel's bar. Around since 1846 and only steps away from the harbor, the bar offers a unique coastal drinking experience.

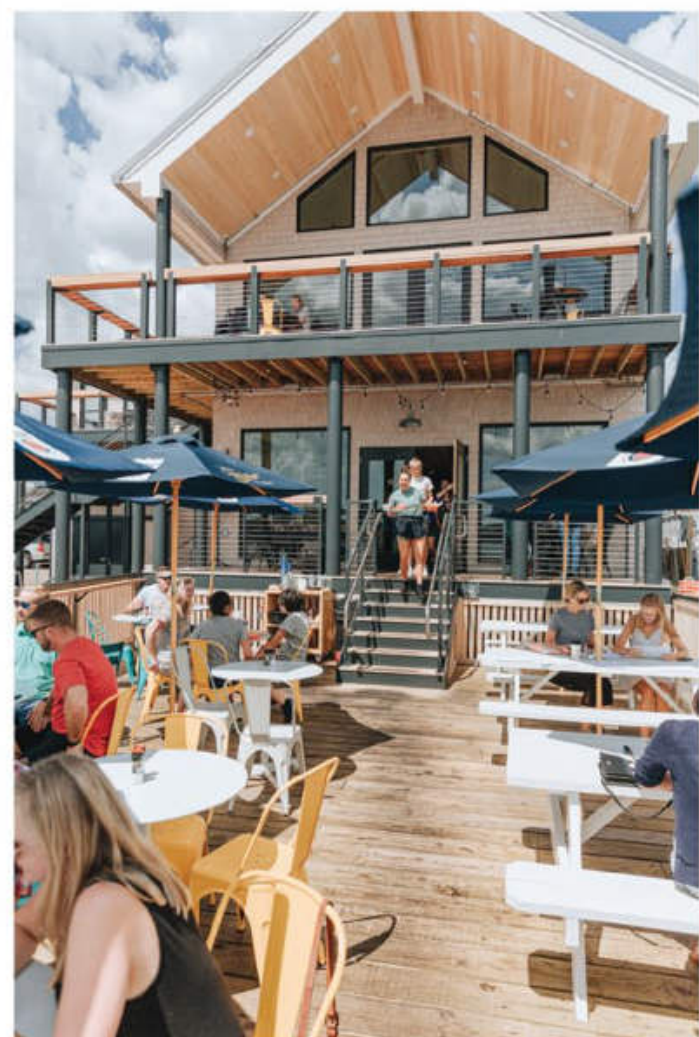
Their award-winning wine list is a staggering 85 pages, with 1,700 selections and 30,000 bottles in the cellar. Of course, if you're having option paralysis, the expert staff will help you choose a bottle (or cocktail).

And you're going to want a bottle, because once you sit down, you won't want to leave. The bar's a classic — it feels like it could be in Havana or Hemingway's Paris, with its sophisticated and bohemian vibes. The interior is quaint and timeless, crammed with landscape paintings, ornate light fixtures, antique wicker chairs, and a taxidermied moose's head.

If you're in the area, stop by this watering hole that has hosted the likes of Bill Murray, Roger Waters, Billy Joel, and Bono, and it was a staple for some great American writers and artists post WWII. The drinks and ambiance are special and gloriously unfazed by the typical Hamptons' trendiness.

45 Main St #3012, Sag Harbor, New York 11963
theamericanhotel.com





Luke's Lobster

Portland, Maine

Downtown Portland's restaurants and bars are not only high-quality and affordable compared to some of what Boston and New York offer, but they're also in a conveniently walkable area, huddling up right against the coast. If you're in Maine, you're probably looking for some lobster, and Luke's Lobster is the place to get it.

Located in an A-frame at the end of a pier, it's as close to the source as it's going to get, barring being on a lobster trapper's sloop. Views of Portland's bustling harbor — with "360 degree views of the lobster industry" as they like to put it — through the restaurant's giant windows are unrivaled, the cocktail and beer lists are long, and the seafood is delicious. It's a great bar year round.

60 Portland Pier, Portland, ME 04101
lukeslobster.com/pages/portland-pier



Ballard's Beach Resort

Block Island, Rhode Island

Back to Rhode Island, right off the coast, to a classic summer vacation spot, is Block Island. The small chunk of land is surrounded by 17 miles of pristine beaches, lighthouses built in the 1800s, magnificent bluffs, and a wildlife refuge that is a great spot for birdwatching.

The metropolitan Northeast is characterized as hustling and hardworking, but that ethos hasn't subsumed Block Island. The harbor town is reminiscent of a working colonial port town, but residents and visitors are very much on island time.

And the place to stay (if you like lively), drink, and eat is Ballard's Beach Resort. This is the first location on

the list that falls most in line with what most people probably envision when they hear "beach bar." Drinks — including the tropical ones you crave — are served right on the private beach, and cabanas and chairs are available to rent for those who want to imbibe and sunbathe in style. The inside bar is the size of half an airplane hangar and is perfect when it's either too hot or too cold outside.

They also regularly host live music with a focus on reggae, rock, and country.

42 Water St, New Shoreham, Rhode Island 02807
ballardsbi.com

All Revved Up!

9th Annual
30A Sand Rover Rally

PHOTOS BY
NOAH CUSTER - SPENCER MATTIX - CHLOE REYNOLDS

Presented by Land Rover Gulf Coast, the 9th Annual 30A Sand Rover Rally took place April 14-16, 2023, at Topsail Hill Preserve State Park and other venues along Florida's Scenic Highway 30A. This family-friendly tradition attracted over 150 vintage rides, including Land Rovers, Broncos, Jeeps, dune buggies, retired military vehicles, and many more. This year's rally also featured the inaugural 30A Poker Run, a welcome party at Grayton Beer Company, VIP guests and presentations, great food, live music, and fun in the sun (and mud!). Thanks to our many sponsors for making this event happen, including RMR4x4, Adventure Motor Cars, 34 North Defenders, Storyteller Overland, Visit South Walton, Rustic Mountain Overlanding, Grayton Beer Company, YOLO Board, The Java Can, Rhino-Rack, Maxtrax, and 30A Radio.

Save the date for next year's event — April 18-21, 2024 — and discover more exciting highlights at 30Asandroverrally.com.



SCAN TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT THE
30A SAND ROVER RALLY





SEAFOOD

In the Summer

By Sean Dietrich



Sean Dietrich, nicknamed Sean of the South, chronicles life in the American South. Find him online at seandietrich.com.

An old Florida village. Not the touristy kind with swimsuit shops and scooter rentals. This is a place where the local high-school colors are probably camo and orange.

We are vacationing nearby this week. I am in search of tuna dip.

I pull into a random seafood market. The place isn't fancy. This is rural Florida, where all seafood markets are required by state law to look like rundown miniature correctional facilities.

In the sandy parking area, an old man and a kid leap out of a dusty Suburban then walk inside. The old man wears an Atlanta Braves ballcap. His grandson, maybe 9 years old, wears a Freddie Freeman jersey.

Inside the market, the old man never speaks. He communicates via sign language with the boy. I don't speak sign language, but I speak fluent Kid. And I see a lot of love on that little freckled face.

When the employee at the counter is ready to take their order, the old man gestures to the kid who serves as our translator this afternoon.

The kid points and speaks to the guy at the counter. "We want three pounds of those."

The seafood market employee is a man with a shaved head, lots of inkwork, and an unlit cigarette wedged in his lips. We must have caught him just before a smoke break.

The inactive cigarette bounces when he talks. "Three pounds of shrimp? Anything else, boss?"

The kid checks with Granddaddy for instructions. The old man looks over the motherlode of seafood displayed on ice. Choices, choices. He signs to Junior.

Junior translates. "Yeah. What're those things?"

"These? Grouper cheeks. Good eating. Want some?"

The kid signs to the old man who nods.

"Yes, please."

The kid never stops signing, even when speaking to the cashier. It's called being polite to Grandad.

"Sure thing, bossman." The guy behind the counter is trying to act nonchalant about this exchange, but I can tell he's impressed by the charismatic duo. So am I.

Cigarette Guy places the fish into a double-bag filled with crushed ice. He addresses the kid. "So... he your grampaw or something?"

"Yessir, this is my granddaddy."

Granddaddy lifts his hat.

Cigarette Guy nods, then weighs the fish on a digital scale.

"My granddaddy says he wants to know about the tuna dip. Do you make it here?"



"Oh, yessir, boss. We smoke the tuna, my wife makes the dip with my mom. Wanna sample?"

Granddaddy is in full support of this idea.

So Cigarette Guy changes his gloves, then goes behind a sneeze-guard and scoops two club crackers into a sample container.

I make my presence known because I, too, hold a deep affection for free samples.

The grandfather chews, swallows, signs.

"Okay," the boy says. "We'll take two tuna dips."

Granddaddy signs again.

"Nope, wait," the boy clarifies. "Three tuna dips."

And I'm lost in the cinematic scope of it all. Sometimes everyday life presents itself like a divine picture show. Sadly, I miss too many of these pretty scenes because I focus on the wrong stuff. All I can say is, I should pay more attention.

Granddaddy and Grandson eventually approach the cash register. They have racked up quite a seafood bill. The old man removes a wallet and pays for his fare while Boy Wonder is placed on sign-language standby.

The seafood guy takes the cash, punches buttons, the money drawer opens. He makes change. The old man says thank you in a universal gesture—hand touching the chin, then sweeping downward.

The kid says, "He says thank you."

The man at the register smiles. He repeats the thank-you gesture to the duo. Then he does something I will never unsee: he performs another brief phrase in sign language.

And as it happens, I know the exact words he's signing because I learned this same three-word phrase in Vacation Bible School when I was 6 years old.

Granddaddy and Junior are extremely impressed by this. The old man and kid return salute, then exit the market grinning.

Now it's my turn to buy seafood.

Cigarette Guy says, "What'll it be, boss?"

I approach the counter, look over the spread of raw fish, and say, "I know what you just said to them."

He laughs. He slides the cigarette behind his ear. "Yeah? Well, it's the only little bit of sign language I know. My daughter had to learn it for a Christmas play one time."

I smile and pay for my items. But before I leave, I force my clumsy hands to make the same gesture he made earlier. A gesture I haven't used since Miss Judy's VBS sign-language class a hundred years ago.

Without dropping a beat he signs back and says, "God bless you, too, boss." ■



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5 Boats 5 Lifestyles

By Martin Liptrot

Which one floats your boat?

For many, a life on the ocean is the epitome of coastal living.

If you and your crew are ready to set sail and make a splash this summer, picking the perfect vessel for the “Beach Happy” lifestyle you hunger for is critical.

As a beloved pastime, there are so many stylish and innovative vessels on the market. Whether you are looking for a speedboat to jet through the Keys, a tub capable of hauling your catch, an all-purpose ‘do everything, go everywhere’ boat, or a floating gin palace to entertain your millionaire friends, there’s a boat to suit every style, preference, and bank balance.

Have Boat, Will Travel *Grady-White Coastal Explorer*

The Grady-White Coastal Explorer range is amongst the ultimate for inshore and offshore adventures. Whether you are cruising along the waterways and tributaries of America's lakes and rivers, looking to dock at your favorite watering spot or restaurant, or off exploring desert islands, reefs, and sandbars, the Coastal Explorer range is a favorite.

The bow (the pointy end) is built with a casting deck that provides anglers easy access to the water. With a shallower draft, this boat also allows owners to fish in “skinny” inshore waters. The Grady-White Coastal Explorer also has a hull, which gives extra stability for traversing both inshore and offshore waters, allowing it to venture offshore while keeping everyone safe and comfortable.

Grady-White boats can be configured however you want them. There are footrests, coolers, drink holders, and entertainment systems for the leisure boater, and fish cleaning stations, rod holders, live catch boxes, freshwater showers, dive platforms, and storage for the more adventurous.

Greenville, North Carolina, is a curious home for a saltwater boat-builder, but the quality of their work is highly regarded. The company has recently received their twenty-first consecutive award for customer service from the National Marine Manufacturers' Association.

Photo courtesy of gradywhite.com





The Land Rover of the Seas
The Boston Whaler

The Boston Whaler performs many of the duties mariners are looking for. A big part of their appeal is their durability and the, hopefully never to be tested, claim to be unsinkable. The boffins at Boston Whaler say they have engineered a vessel that will stay afloat even if it is cut in half.

The Boston Whaler is also supremely popular because of its flexibility—from a simple run-around, a fisherman's favorite, to the tender of choice for those with larger vessels to reliably get to and from.

For more than 60 years, Boston Whalers have achieved legendary status with numerous regional, national, and international owners' clubs for aficionados who swear by the legendary craft. Boating families pass their Boston Whalers down to their children and grandchildren like landlubbers do with their vintage cars or beach houses.

Owning a Whaler isn't just about having a boat; it is also your passport to membership in a community that has been growing for decades.

Photo: bostonwhaler.com



The Muscle Car of the Ocean
Top Gun Cigarette

Think Don Johnson, Tom Selleck, Tom Cruise, or any of your '80s TV and movie heroes. Nothing screams 'flash' louder than a cigarette boat crashing through the waves, cruising through the Keys with your bikini-clad best friends posing and vogueing as you go.

The appropriately named Top Gun has been a favorite of movie stars, pro-sports stars, and international royalty since Cigarette Racing became a household name during the 1980s *Miami Vice* era. The brand has been a favorite in go-fast racing circles since Don Aronow founded the company in 1970.

Now the iconic American speedboat manufacturer is in new hands after Lionheart Capital, led by founder and CEO Ophir Sternberg and billionaire entrepreneur John H. Ruiz, took control of the Miami-based business, revealing plans for a new range of luxury speedsters.

If you get the urge to 'ruche the sleeves' on your pastel jacket, don your wayfarer Ray-Bans, and slip on some espadrilles, this might be the high-performance boat for you.

Photo: topgunyachts.com

When a Boat Isn't a Boat

The Galeon Fly800

Most watercraft are defined as boats, but when they get a bit bigger, they become ships, and when they get a bit fancier, they become yachts.

This general rule of thumb means the Galeon Fly800 is definitely a yacht and firmly marketed to those who employ other people to drive and maintain their vessel while they sip ice-cold champagne and cocktails on any one of the numerous decks available.

Galeon vessels have been around since 1982, when they were first built in the legendary European boat yards of Poland. Although perhaps relatively unknown to American yachters and boaters, the Gdansk Shipyards, where Galeon is based, is world-famous for being the birthplace of Solidarnosc – the Polish Solidarity Movement led by Lech Walesa, which saw the Baltic nation slip its yoke of Soviet communist rule.

A family-owned business, Galeon produces a range of ultra-high-end yachts for the discerning sailor, which offer a quality product embracing the latest technology and hand-picked bespoke designs.

Yacht interior design is big business, and Galeon's team of designers will work with prospective owners to pick out the flooring, cupboards, work surfaces, fixtures, and fittings in much the same way billionaire property developers do.

Photo: galeonyachts.us

Pontoon Partiers

Harris Grand Mariner

If you've looked with envy at all those people having all that fun on Crab Island as you cross the Destin Harbor Bridge, you can thank Peter and Ernie Harris.

The brothers from Fort Wayne, Indiana, built their first pontoon boat on a production line in 1957. Since then, they have gone on to patent and build millions of these floating platforms, which have been at the heart of family holidays in lakes, rivers, streams, and bays around the nation.

The brothers quickly went on to launch their FloteBote brand. They started protecting their aluminum hulls from corrosion through anodizing and introduced rear propulsion to make their vessels more maneuverable.

Thirty years later, they introduced the rounded bow seating, which has become a permanent and popular adage to the pontoon boats used today.

Modern pontoon boats are all about amenities and having the maximum amount of fun. Harris has consistently added new features, including entertainment systems, slides, dive platforms, fridges, coolers, and changing rooms, and the company has pretty much motorized everything from anchor chains to sun covers so you can concentrate on having as much fun as possible.

Harris boats have also embraced environmental concerns, reducing landfill waste by manufacturing to zero and introducing an electric version to cut down on emissions and fossil fuel usage.

Photo: harrisboats.com

Tropical Tipple Tales

Salty Stories of 10 Classic Coastal Cocktails

Whether you're sipping a Piña Colada in Puerto Rico or a Caipirinha on the beaches of Brazil, these 10 classic beach cocktails have intriguing histories that can add an extra layer of enjoyment to every sunny sip. So, pull up a barstool, and let's dive into the fascinating origins and recipes of these liquid treasures.

Mai Tai: Taste of Excellence

Legend has it that the Mai Tai was created in the 1940s by Victor J. "Trader Vic" Bergeron, founder of Trader Vic's tiki bar. The name "Mai Tai" comes from the Tahitian phrase "Maita'i," meaning "good" or "excellent." Rumor has it, Trader Vic's rival, Donn Beach of Don the Beachcomber, also claimed to have invented the drink. Talk about a spirited rivalry!

2 oz aged rum
3/4 oz fresh lime juice
1/2 oz orange curaçao
1/4 oz orgeat (almond syrup)
1/4 oz simple syrup
Mint sprig and lime wheel for garnish



Daiquiri: A Cuban Classic with a Hemingway Twist

This Cuban classic dates back to the late 19th century. It was invented by an American mining engineer named Jennings Cox in the town of Daiquiri, near Santiago de Cuba. Legend has it that Cox created the drink when he ran out of gin and had to improvise with local rum. Today, the Daiquiri is synonymous with Hemingway, who had his own version called "Papa Doble" with double the rum and no sugar.

2 oz white rum
1 oz fresh lime juice
3/4 oz simple syrup
Lime wheel for garnish

Blue Hawaiian: A Tropical Delight Invented in Paradise

Created by bartender Harry Yee in 1957 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, the Blue Hawaiian is a visually striking cocktail that screams tropical paradise. Its vivid blue color comes from blue curaçao, a citrus liqueur that adds a touch of island magic to this delicious concoction.

1 oz light rum
1 oz blue curaçao
2 oz pineapple juice
1 oz cream of coconut
Pineapple wedge and cherry for garnish



Margarita: A Cocktail of Legends, Mystery, and Timeless Flavor

The Margarita's origin is shrouded in mystery, with several tales claiming its invention. One popular story credits a socialite named Margarita Sames, who supposedly created the drink for her friends in Acapulco in 1948. Another attributes the cocktail to a bartender in Tijuana who crafted it for an actress allergic to all alcohol except tequila. Regardless of its true beginnings, the Margarita remains a beloved Mexican classic.

2 oz tequila
1 oz orange liqueur (Cointreau or Triple Sec)
1 oz fresh lime juice
Salt for rimming the glass
Lime wheel for garnish

Mojito: Hemingway's Favorite Cuban Elixir

This refreshing Cuban cocktail can trace its roots back to the 16th century when Sir Francis Drake's crew consumed a similar concoction called "El Draque" for medicinal purposes. The Mojito we know and love today gained popularity in the early 20th century and was also one of Hemingway's favorites. (That guy sure made the rounds. Hemingway, that is, but also Sir Francis Drake!)

2 oz white rum
1/2 oz fresh lime juice
1/2 oz simple syrup
6-8 fresh mint leaves
Soda water
Mint sprig for garnish



Caipirinha: Brazilian Remedy Turned Global Favorite

Brazil's national cocktail, the Caipirinha, originated in the early 20th century as a remedy for the Spanish flu. Made with cachaça, a Brazilian sugarcane spirit, lime, and sugar, this tangy and slightly sweet concoction has become a favorite around the world.

2 oz cachaça
1/2 lime, cut into wedges
2 tsp sugar



Piña Colada: A Tropical Delight Born in Puerto Rico

Transporting taste buds to the sandy shores of Puerto Rico since the 1950s, the Piña Colada's origin is a subject of debate. Two bartenders, Ramón "Monchito" Marrero and Ricardo García, both working at the Caribe Hilton in San Juan, claimed to have invented this tropical delight. Whoever the true inventor was, the Piña Colada became the official drink of Puerto Rico in 1978.

2 oz light rum
1 1/2 oz cream of coconut
1 1/2 oz pineapple juice
Pineapple wedge and maraschino
Cherry for garnish

Dark 'n' Stormy: A Taste of Bermuda's Sweet and Spicy Seas

Hailing from Bermuda, the Dark 'n' Stormy features a mix of dark rum and ginger beer, resulting in a balanced combination of sweet and spicy flavors. The name allegedly comes from an old sailor who compared the drink's appearance to a "storm cloud only a fool or a dead man would sail under."

2 oz dark rum
3 oz ginger beer
Lime wedge for garnish



Sex on the Beach: Peachy Pleasure from a Cheeky Campaign

This cheekily named cocktail gained popularity in the 1980s, and its origins are often attributed to a bartender named Ted Pizio. The fruity and colorful concoction was created as part of a marketing campaign to promote peach schnapps. Today, it remains a popular choice for beachside imbibing (among other beachside activities).

1 1/2 oz vodka
1/2 oz peach schnapps
2 oz orange juice
2 oz cranberry juice
Orange slice and maraschino cherry for garnish



Hurricane: A Spirited Storm of Flavors and History

We don't like uttering the "H" word around these parts, but in this case, we're talking about the deliciously famous cocktail, okay? The Hurricane was created in the 1940s at the famous Pat O'Brien's bar in New Orleans. During World War II, whiskey was in short supply, so bar owners were forced to buy large quantities of rum. To sell off the excess rum, Pat O'Brien crafted the fruity and potent Hurricane, which became a hit among patrons.

2 oz light rum
2 oz dark rum
2 oz passion fruit juice
1 oz orange juice
1/2 oz fresh lime juice
1 tbsp simple syrup
1 tbsp grenadine
Orange slice and cherry for garnish

UPDATE

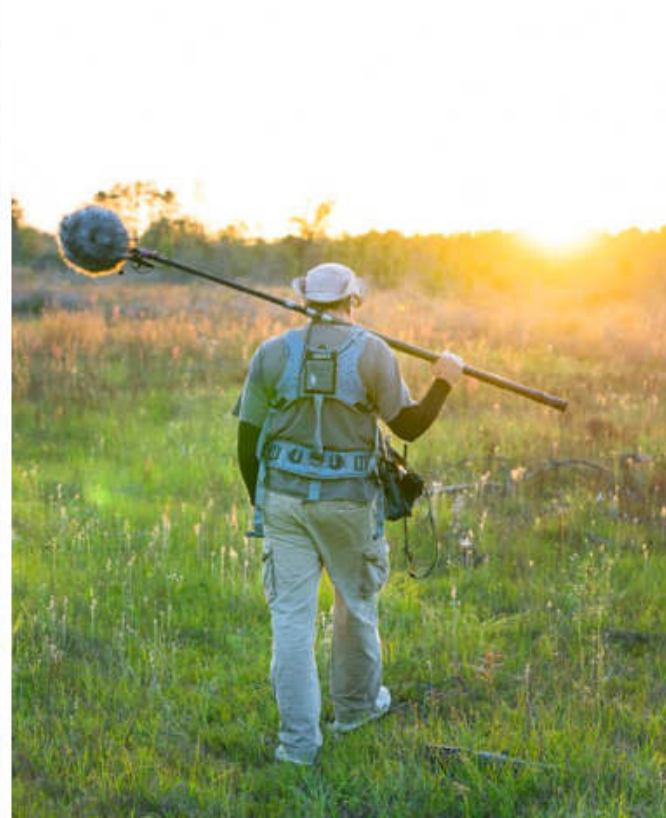
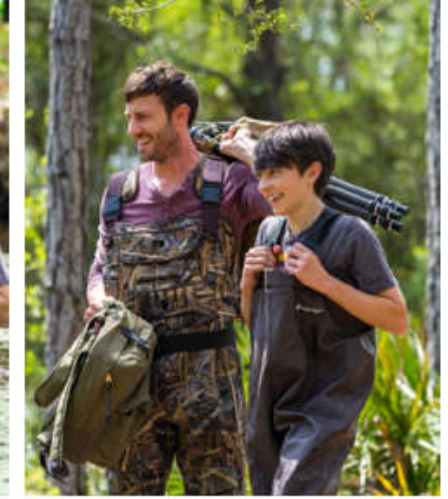
The Paper Bear

Preserving Florida's Biodiversity Through Film and Storytelling

By Sean Couch

The Florida Panhandle is a haven of biodiversity, boasting an incredible array of ecosystems, from pristine coastal dunes and lush wetlands to sprawling forests and freshwater springs. Each habitat is a treasure trove of diverse plant and animal species interwoven into a delicate tapestry of life. As one of the fastest-growing areas in the country and a hot tourist destination, the area faces several challenges in preserving lands and environmental ecosystems that are exceedingly rare. Our new non-profit, The Paper Bear, is approaching this challenge with the power of storytelling and years of filmmaking experience that will help inspire millions into action.

Last December, we announced The Paper Bear to the public with an immersive art gallery that shocked attendees.





Our co-founder, Arix Zalace, showcased up-close-and-personal images of black bears that most have never seen. He spent thousands of hours tracking through wetlands and forests to find these wild bears. He then spent countless more hours waiting for them to arrive daily and studied their behavior. His presentation sparked an overwhelmingly positive wave of support. Visitors understood that black bears hold the key to helping protect and restore countless endangered habitats and species. The momentum from that event has helped us make some exciting progress.

Arix and I have been at the helm of this remarkable endeavor for the last three years. We have poured our souls into crafting a nostalgic narrative that seamlessly intertwines adventure, discovery, environmental themes, and cultural trends. Our team set ambitious goals and recruited world-class talent to help us complete this project. Audiences will follow a coming-of-age journey with a father and son as they embark on a black bear tracking expedition into the Florida Panhandle wilderness. Through their journey, we showcase otherworldly natural wonders and provide mesmerizing perspectives with beautiful hand-drawn animations. Before we could finish the animation, we focused our attention on the live-action part of the film this spring.

Traditionally, documentaries have inspired change because they are powerful tools that convey information and raise awareness. Still, feature films have a unique ability to connect with audiences on a deeply emotional and immersive level. *The Paper Bear* feature film aims to weave a captivating story with well-developed characters around educational content and history that will evoke empathy and a stronger emotional response from audiences.

While documentaries often target specific interest groups or those already invested in the subject matter, *The Paper*



Arix Zalace - Director / Executive Producer, Sean Couch - BTS / Executive Producer, Savage Bell - Producer, Ryan Miningham - 1st AD, Brad Richard - DP, Erik Stapelfeldt - 1st AC, Holden Miller - 2nd AC, Scott Clements - Audio Engineer, Kevin Almodovar - Gaffer / Key Grip, Brandon Allen Perdue - Grip Best Boy, Bailey Miller - Prop Master, Matthew Kyle Guidry - Assistant Prop Master, Molly Todd - Hair / Makeup, Christin Gruber - Craft Services Manager, Devon Black - Craft Services, Jesse Rich - Craft Services, Shannon Piggot - Production Coordinator, Dylan Costa - DIT, Chandler Williams - Drone & Underwater Photography



Bear cub Max, the star of the film

Bear film will target a wider audience, allowing it to reach diverse communities, cultures, and demographics. This will increase the possible impact and potential for social change.

As we started recruiting talent to help us complete the live-action portion of this film, it became evident that the surrounding community had a deep passion for the subject matter and wanted to help bring awareness to the cause. Most of the team have local roots or a personal connection to the area, and this film has become a passion project for everyone involved. There was a serendipitous theme as we navigated the production process, and every crew member did a miraculous job of helping us complete the filming.

Cinematography is a critical component in capturing the essence and beauty of the Florida Panhandle for a feature film. It is pivotal in transporting viewers into the region's heart, immersing them in its natural wonders, and evoking a sense of awe and connection. To help us achieve this goal, one of our lead producers and native Floridian, Savage Bell, helped us recruit Brad Richard. For nearly 30 years, Brad has worked on some of the biggest television shows and films that have won numerous awards, including a project that won an Oscar for Best Picture. Brad was excited to return to his Florida roots with his team from Los Angeles and share a new perspective of his old home area.

Biodiversity is at the core of the film's narrative, and each real-world set was treated as a character that must be filmed carefully. Brad's team worked closely with Arix, the film's director, to capture intricate details of the region's richness and diversity through close-ups, wide shots, and dynamic camera movements. From the delicate dance of a butterfly flying over a field of pitcher plants to the sun breaking through the canopy of the long-leaf pines, these visuals become a testament to the vibrant life in the area, and audiences will be immersed in all of it.

To help bring our characters to life, we auditioned with over 1,000 boys and 1,000 men to play the leading roles of the father and son. For the father, we cast Jason Burkey, an actor with a diverse background in various roles on

successful television shows and films. For the son, we cast Max Ivutin, a young up-and-coming child actor who has already created an impressive work resume. Together, these two have tremendous chemistry that will lead audiences through various comedy, drama, and action story arcs.

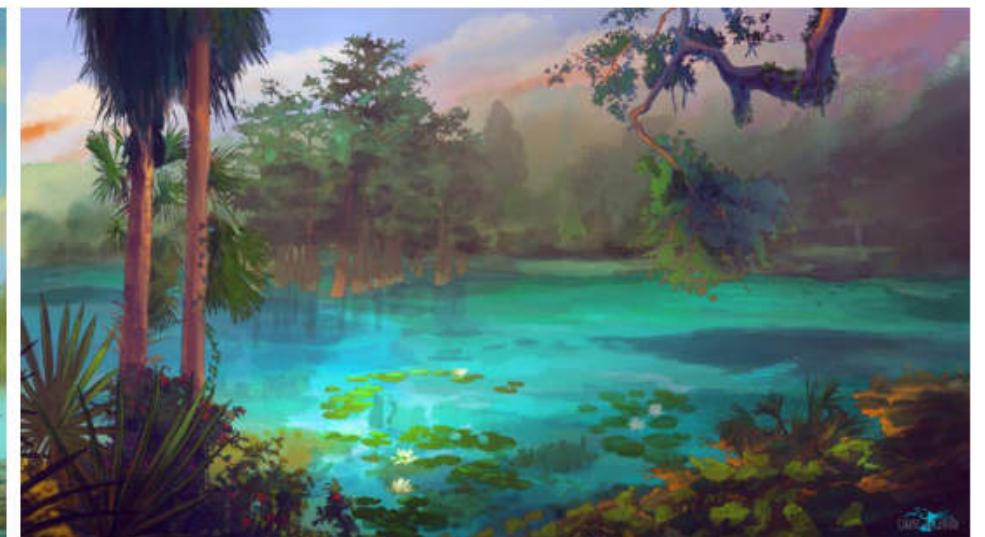
Every crew department played a specific role that helped us complete the live-action part of the film in three weeks across the Florida Panhandle. We filmed in various challenging locations that were difficult to access or known to only a few. All of it necessary to showcase beautiful gems in a way that has never been done before. We also navigated severe weather and successfully filmed in a controlled burn zone. The collaborative efforts have resulted in a visually stunning, emotionally resonant, and educational experience that will raise awareness and inspire viewers to protect and preserve the precious natural heritage of the region.

We have reached another milestone where we're asking for the community's support to help us complete this feature film. The animation will play a critical role and provide a beautiful perspective of the region that couldn't be shown otherwise. Families and, more importantly, children will fall in love with the characters we've developed and help foster a new generation of wildlife enthusiasts for the Florida Panhandle.

Once we have completed this film, we aim to submit it to various prestigious film festivals and get a distribution deal to help us create more content to inspire greater conservation action. We will do screenings at education centers, museums, schools, neighborhoods, and more for all to enjoy. Other merchandise, such as books, will become available that will continue the education process for years to come.



Scan to learn more or to make a contribution towards supporting The Paper Bear team in reaching their goals.



BOOZE-FREE



Summer sipping at Pacific'o on the Beach with zero-proof cocktails - the Restore, Stardust, and Butterfly-Tai.

BEVERAGES ARE ALL THE BUZZ

By Carrie Honaker

Enjoying the sun and the sand without alcohol has gotten a lot easier with a wave of nonalcoholic menus at restaurants and bars.

Shirley temples filled with maraschino cherries and virgin piña colodas are finding some competition at beaches everywhere as more restaurants and bars jump on the sober-curious wagon. The options blend sophisticated ingredients, modern techniques, and zero-proof spirits that rival boozy alternatives for style and flavor.

According to research by Nielsen, the desire for more conscientious drinking options, from abstaining completely to alternating no-alcohol drinks and regular strength cocktails, comes in response to younger generations looking for healthier alternatives when imbibing. IWSR Drinks Market Analysis reported in 2022, "Sales of no- and low-alcohol beverages grew by more than 7% across global markets, surpassing \$11 billion in market value."

As more bars and restaurants respond to this market shift with a wave of nonalcoholic menus, enjoying the sun and the sand without alcohol has gotten a lot easier.

In March 2023, Lily Hall (a once abandoned church, now a boutique hotel) made its Pensacola, Florida, debut. In the alley beside the hotel, a vintage rotary telephone hangs outside a door with the instructions "Don't knock, use phone" emblazoned. The sultry space's interior, lit by candles and red light, evokes images of Prohibition's illicit underground bars and classic cocktail culture. Creative beverages populate the menu, but bar manager A.J. Galecki also ensures some equally inspiring nonalcoholic options had space.

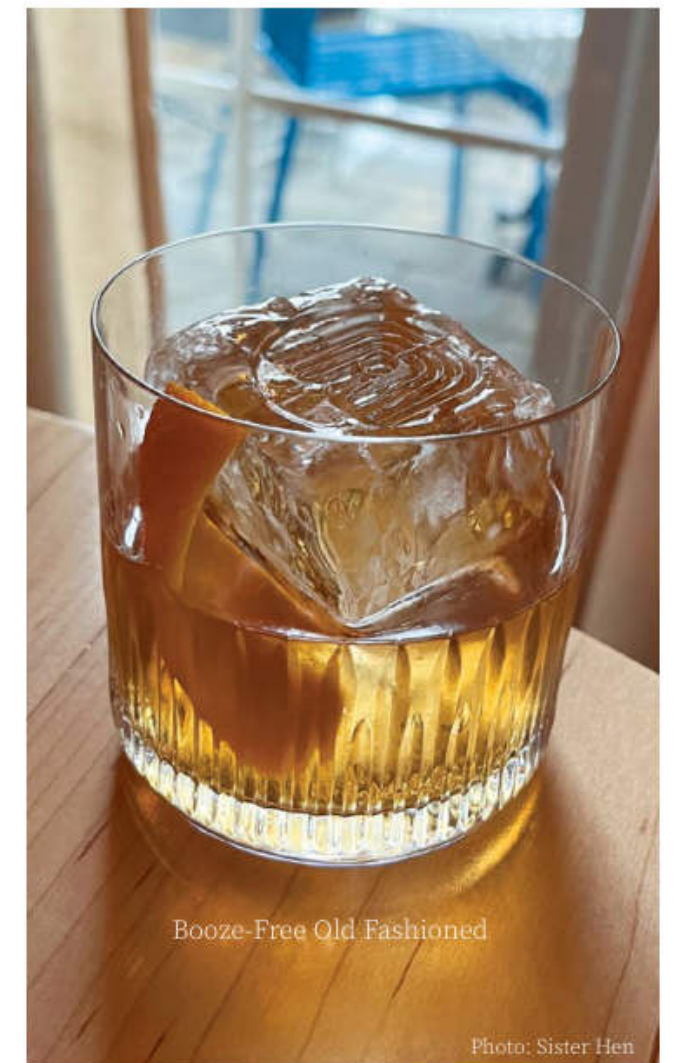
"The alcohol-free cocktail movement has been exploding in the last few years and seems to get bigger every year as more people are discovering they can still enjoy interesting cocktails without the booze. We want to offer people more than just sodas or "fancy lemonade" so we stock a few alcohol-free spirits, including Kentucky 74, which uses a reverse distillation process to make a non-alcoholic bourbon replacement. We pair that with peach bitters, a rich demerara syrup, and our large format ice cubes that are cut and stamped in-house, to deliver a delicious booze-free Old Fashioned," said Galecki.

Just a few years ago, this level of craft in a zero-proof beverage would not have been possible, but today, the field of non-alcoholic spirits and the meticulous attention to detail by bartenders make complex booze-free alternatives a reality.

Visitors seeking a sober experience on the Hawaiian Island of Maui will find a dozen beverage options to imbibe near the clear blue waters of Lahaina Beach. At Pacific'o on the Beach, bartenders utilize an onsite farm for inspiration for their zero-proof cocktails. According to Bar Manager Mari Howe, "A lot of people want to try a Mai Tai when they come to Maui, so we wanted an option for people who don't drink alcohol." The signature drink, the Virgin Butterfly-Tai, blends pineapple, Liliko'i, macadamia nut orgeat, and fresh lime with a float of butterfly-jasmine tea, giving the drink a gorgeous ombre look that rivals a traditional Mai Tai.

For the health-conscious kombucha crowd, Pacific'o created two drinks: the Vitalitea Kombucha Restore made with Maui Gold pineapple, Kolo Kai Farms organic ginger, and turmeric, and the Vitalitea Kombucha Stardust prepared with organic hibiscus, Kolo Kai Farms organic ginger and organic blue spirulina.

For Howe, the decision to offer creative non-alcoholic beverages came out of respect for her friends who abstain. "Some don't drink for personal and health reasons, others are pregnant, but regardless of the reason, I want everyone to be able to come to our restaurant and know we put just as much love and thought into our alcohol-free cocktails as we do our regular cocktail menu," said Howe. And if you're looking for the trendy Aperol Spritz, she has you covered with Pacific'o's whimsically titled "Not an Aperol Spritz." Howe uses Giffard's Aperitif Syrup, formulated to resemble the flavors of Campari. It feels and tastes just as chic and grown-up as the original.



Booze-Free Old Fashioned

Photo: Sister Hen

Kat's Cradle

Common Thread in Savanna, Georgia

Ingredients:

1 oz Giffard non-alcoholic syrup
.5 oz Jack Rudy tonic syrup
.25 oz lemon juice
.125 oz 2:1 simple syrup
Approximately 5 dashes of Bitter Truth celery bitters

Instructions:

1. In a cocktail shaker, combine all ingredients and shake. Pour over ice.
2. Stir a pinch of salt and top with Topo Chico seltzer.
3. Garnish with a celery stick and a sprinkle of celery salt.

Photo: Eastwood Media

Empowered Mocktail

Corazón Cabo Resort & Spa in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

Ingredients:

1 ½ cup of papaya puree
1 oz mango puree
1 ½ cup fresh pineapple juice
1 ½ cup orange juice
3 lemon wedges
Tajín powder

Instructions:

1. Place the papaya and mango purees into a cocktail shaker. Add pineapple and orange juice, squeeze the lemon, and shake well.
2. Dip the rim of a highball glass into lemon juice and then into the Tajín powder. Pour the beverage and add ice.
3. Garnish with a pineapple wedge.

Photo: Corazón Cabo Resort & Spa

ON THE SIDE



Cool as A at Wells in Tampa, Florida

It's not enough to populate a drink menu with creative non-alcoholic options. These days, bartenders are upping the game with garnishes sourced hyper-locally and crafted into visual works of art. For Howe, it's the knowledge that people drink with their eyes first; if a drink looks beautiful, it feels special.

At Pacific'o on the Beach, the farm plays a big part in their garnishes. Nasturtiums, marigolds, and dianthus grown on-site bring seasonality to the drinks. Iconic Hawaiian pineapple makes appearances in many of the menu offerings, but also as a garnish. "We love to use the pineapple fronds for a pop of green. It's nice to give the fronds a second life rather than throwing them out," said Howe. They also use dehydrated fruit, like the small oranges hanging on the fruit trees outside the restaurant, giving the citrus a longer life when in abundance while keeping waste at a minimum.

For Veronesil, garnishes can be a tricky enterprise. "I love a simple garnish to elevate the cocktail and not get in the way of it. Cross-utilizing ingredients that are already used in the drink is a way I tie things together." The pineapple gum syrup made in-house yields an earthy core which is then dehydrated and used as a garnish.

One of the biggest trends of the classic cocktail boom over the last few years is intricate ice work. At spots like Sister Hen, ice is hand-cut to order and then embossed with logos and designs, creating another visual spectacle in the glass. Some watering holes even include a bit of honeycomb in their Bees Knees sourced from a local apiary or you might be greeted with sprigs of lavender grown in window boxes outside the bar.

Whatever the garnish, the drink's finishing touch is no longer just a plastic sword of cherries. It is an extension of the drinking experience and another avenue for restaurants and bars to showcase their dedication to sourcing locally and move towards a more zero-waste model while curating one more way for guests to eat with their eyes.



Virgin Butterfly-Tai Recipe

Pacific'o on the Beach, Maui, Hawaii

Ingredients:
¾ oz Macadamia Nut Orgeat
¾ oz Pineapple Liliko'i (passion fruit) syrup
½ oz Fresh Lime Juice
3 oz Filtered Water
Float of "Butterfly" Jasmine Tea

Instructions for Butterfly Jasmine tea:
1. Add 1 gram of dried butterfly pea blossoms to 1 bag of jasmine green tea.
2. Let steep for 3-4 minutes then strain. Butterfly pea tea starts out naturally bright blue, but turns purple when it touches citrus!

Instructions for a single drink:
1. Add all your ingredients to a tall glass, add ice, then float the butterfly jasmine tea.
**For a larger batch, you can convert the oz to cups.

Photo: Pacific'o on the Beach

Inclusivity tops the reasons why restaurants and bars develop zero-proof menus. According to head bartender Matthew Veronesil at Willa's in Tampa, Florida, "Guests looking for non-alcoholic alternatives should be able to enjoy a mixed drink that is balanced and delicious, whether or not spirits are included." His latest addition to the menu, "Cool As A," utilizes their house tonic—a blend of lavender, cardamom, and cinchona bark, steeped for three days—as a base and is mixed with homemade cucumber syrup and fresh lime juice. It's a refreshing summer sipper that doesn't sacrifice quality or complexity for booze.

As bartenders will attest, creating zero-proof/spirit-free drinks requires the same level of craft as traditional cocktails. Many start with a quality non-alcoholic spirit and then the flavor is built from there, all while balancing acidity, sweetness, texture, and salinity. At Common Thread in Savannah, Georgia, bar manager James Nowicki builds drinks reminiscent of the classics like the Bandito—their n/a version utilizes a zero-proof cucumber, serrano, and lemon distillate (Amethyst from Bluffton, SC) mixed with fresh lime and orange juices to simulate the original and tap into a customer's nostalgia for the cocktail.

Experimentation and fearlessness with mixology is the backbone of the non-alcoholic program at Corazón Cabo Resort & Spa in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. According to marketing coordinator Igrayne Landeros, they are not afraid to try new ingredients or techniques to come up with a delicious recipe that will make a wide range of customers feel included in the cocktail experience. Nobody wants to be the one at the table who feels left out, and often alcoholic beverages are equated with celebrating. Whether the choice to abstain from alcohol has to do with sobriety, pregnancy, healthier alternatives, or you're the designated driver, you still want to feel like you are part of the crowd, not the afterthought glass of soda water with a wedge of lime.

For restaurants and bars, developing zero-proof menus that include mindful, creative drinks represents a nod to the generation of drinkers who demand something complex and delicious, even when it's not boozy. Crafting a collection of housemade tinctures and syrups, while stocking inventive zero-proof spirits, allows bartenders the flexibility to concoct a libation that pairs with a Michelin-starred meal, complements a relaxing day on the beach, or provides sophisticated "travelers" with something after strolling the streets of coastal cities at night, no booze necessary. 🍹

Glowing Mocktail

Corazón Cabo Resort & Spa in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico



Ingredients:
4 macerated strawberries
2 oz fresh pineapple juice
½ oz citrus lemon juice
½ oz cinnamon syrup
2 oz natural coconut water

Instructions:
1. Place the strawberries in a cocktail shaker. Add the pineapple juice, citrus lemon juice, cinnamon syrup, and coconut water, and shake well with ice.
2. Pour into a martini glass. Garnish with a rose petal and shredded coconut.

Photo: Corazón Cabo Resort & Spa



Summer in Alys Beach Town Center



- ALYS SHOPPE
- BAREFOOT PRINCESS
- BEBETTE
- CHARLIE'S DELIGHTS
- THE CITIZEN
- FONVILLE PRESS MARKET + CAFÉ
- GEORGE'S
- HOLIDAY CAFE
- MERIT
- NEAT
- PARASOL
- RAW AND JUICY
- RELI TITLE
- SUMMERSTORY

DA NANG, VIETNAM

Da Nang's coastline stretches over 30 kilometers and is home to some of the most beautiful beaches in Southeast Asia, including My Khe, Non Nuoc, and Bac My An. The soft, white sand, crystal-clear waters, and lush green mountains in the backdrop create a breathtaking landscape that draws visitors from all over the world.

The iconic Golden Bridge, situated in Ba Na hills



WHY GO?

The beaches of Da Nang offer a wide range of water sports and activities, including surfing, paddleboarding, jet-skiing, and snorkeling. The warm, calm waters make it an ideal destination for both beginners and experienced water sports enthusiasts. But Da Nang is not only about the beach. Visitors can explore the ancient ruins at My Son Sanctuary, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, or the Marble Mountains, a cluster of limestone and marble hills housing sacred Buddhist and Hindu grottoes. Perhaps most compellingly, Vietnamese people are famous for their warm hospitality and friendliness, making for a truly memorable experience.

WHERE SHOULD I EAT?

Vietnamese food is renowned for its fresh ingredients, vibrant flavors, and diverse dishes. Da Nang is no exception, offering visitors the opportunity to taste local seafood specialties, traditional Vietnamese dishes, and a fusion of international cuisines at beachfront restaurants and street food vendors.

Nén Restaurant – helmed by Chef Đặng Tuấn Phong – is one of Da Nang's top culinary destinations. It offers a contemporary Vietnamese fine dining experience, combining traditional flavors with modern techniques and presentation. The chef's tasting menu features dishes made from locally-sourced ingredients, providing a true taste of Vietnamese cuisine.

For an authentic local dining experience, Quán Bé Mặn is a popular choice among both tourists and locals. This casual eatery specializes in central Vietnamese cuisine, with a focus on fresh seafood dishes. Some of the must-try items include grilled fish, steamed clams, and squid stir-fried with pineapple.

If budget is not a constraint, and you can get a table, visit La Maison 1888. Located within the luxurious InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort, La Maison 1888 is a fine dining restaurant that offers a unique blend of French and Vietnamese cuisines. The restaurant's elegant setting is inspired by a French colonial mansion, and the menu is designed by world-renowned chef Pierre Gagnaire. Diners can enjoy a range of gourmet dishes, such as foie gras, lobster bisque, and wagyu beef, accompanied by an extensive wine list.



My Khe Beach



Discover the captivating beauty of Bai Da (Rockstone Beach) in Da Nang



Huyen Khong cave, the largest cave in the Marble Mountains and Da Nang region



The striking Lunar Castle, also known as Moon Castle

HOW DO I GET THERE?

There are no direct flights from the United States to Da Nang. However, you can take connecting flights from various cities in the US to Da Nang, usually with a layover in a major Asian city. Airlines such as Korean Air, Cathay Pacific, Japan Airlines, and Singapore Airlines offer flights from Los Angeles (LAX), San Francisco (SFO), and New York (JFK) to Da Nang (DAD), often with layovers in Seoul, Singapore, or Tokyo. While Vietnam Airlines does not operate direct flights from the US to Da Nang, you can fly from US cities to Ho Chi Minh City (SGN) or Hanoi (HAN) and then take a domestic flight to Da Nang.

WHERE SHOULD I STAY?

Da Nang has accommodations to fit every budget. Danang Backpackers Hostel (Address: 106 Nguyen Chi Thanh, Hai Chau District, Da Nang) is a budget-friendly option located close to My Khe Beach and offers dormitory-style accommodations as well as private rooms. There's free Wi-Fi, a rooftop bar, and a common area for socializing. The hostel also organizes tours and activities for guests to explore Da Nang and the surrounding areas.

Fusion Suites Da Nang (Address: An Cu 5 Residential, Vo Nguyen Giap Street, Man Thai Ward, Son Tra District, Da Nang) is a stylish and contemporary beachfront hotel near My Khe Beach. The hotel features a rooftop pool, a spa, a fitness center, and an on-site restaurant. Fusion Suites Da Nang is known for its "breakfast anywhere, anytime" concept.

If you're looking for luxury, look no further than the InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort (Address: Bai Bac, Son Tra Peninsula, Da Nang). This luxurious 5-star resort is nestled within the Son Tra Peninsula nature reserve, offering stunning views of the East Sea. The resort features a variety of lavish rooms, suites, and villas, each with elegant furnishings and top-notch amenities. Guests can indulge in several on-site restaurants, including the acclaimed La Maison 1888, a spa, a private beach, and multiple swimming pools.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

In Da Nang, visitors can enjoy a fantastic beach vacation without breaking the bank. Budget hostels and guesthouses can be found for \$5–\$15 per night, while mid-range 3-star hotels run \$30–\$60 per night. Luxury 4- and 5-star hotels and resorts cost from \$100–\$500+ or more per night.

Street food and local eateries serve delicious fare for \$1–\$3 per meal, with mid-range sit-down lunches and dinners running \$5–\$15. High-end restaurants will cost \$20–\$50 or more per person.

Transportation is also cheap. Taxis run \$0.50–\$0.70 per kilometer, with a starting fare of \$0.60–\$1. Motorbike rentals are \$5–\$10 per day, while bikes rent for \$2–\$5 per day.

Guided tours to popular sites such as My Son Sanctuary and Ba Na Hills will run \$20–\$50 per person, depending on the tour company.

Water sports, including surfing, paddleboarding and jet-skiing, will cost \$10–\$50, depending on duration and equipment.

One-stop DESTINATION



*If you're searching for
THE ULTIMATE VACATION EXPERIENCE
where relaxation, convenience,
and endless activities converge,
look no further than
EMERALD GRANDE
AT HARBORWALK VILLAGE.*

for a perfect getaway

By Rachel Velasquez

Located in the heart of Destin, Florida, this luxurious resort offers everything you need for a memorable and rejuvenating escape. From its spacious condos to its unparalleled amenities, Emerald Grande is a true one-stop shop for your vacation needs.

When you arrive at Emerald Grande, you can immediately feel the stresses of everyday life melt away. The resort's prime location overlooking the sparkling waters of the Gulf of Mexico creates a sense of tranquility that instantly puts you at ease. Whether you're traveling with family, friends, or a loved one, the Emerald Grande condos provide the perfect home away from home. These beautifully designed accommodations offer spacious layouts with multiple bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens, and balconies, giving you the freedom to cook in the comfort of your own room or dine at one of the exquisite restaurants in HarborWalk Village.

Speaking of amenities, Emerald Grande goes above and beyond to ensure that every aspect of your stay is exceptional. Indulge in a revitalizing experience at the Spa at the Emerald Grande, where skilled therapists will pamper you with a range of treatments designed to relax and restore your body and mind. If you prefer the sun and sand, the resort offers a private beach with a convenient shuttle service, allowing you to soak up the sun and feel the gentle breeze on your face. The pool deck is another popular spot where guests can lounge in the sun, sip on a refreshing drink, and take in breathtaking views of the harbor.

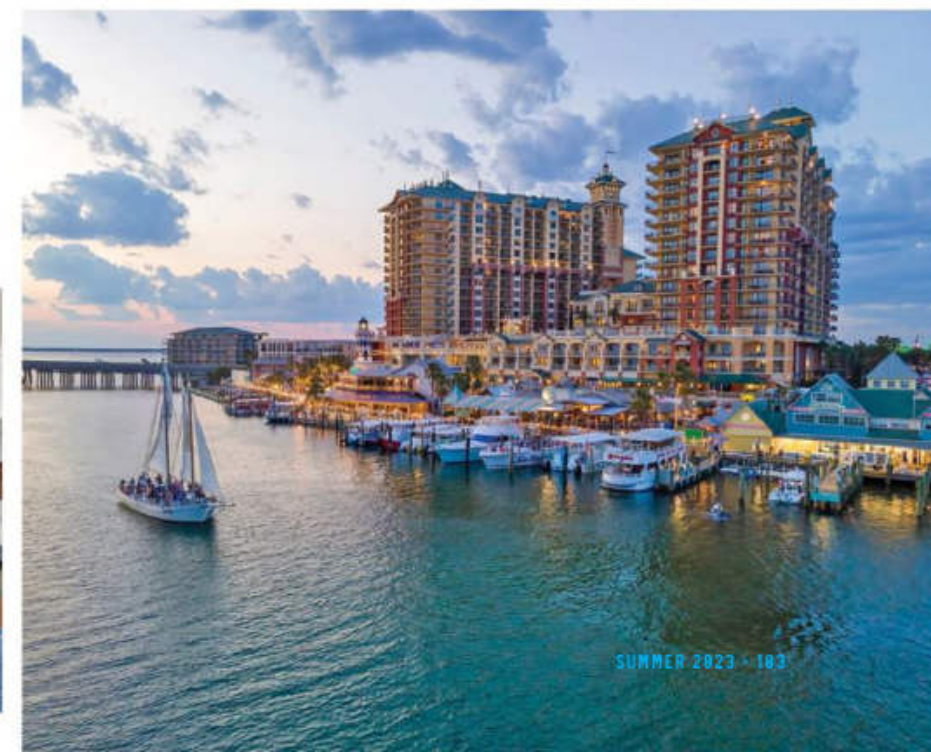
*One of the standout features of
Emerald Grande is its commitment
to providing a variety of summer
activities for guests of all ages.*

HarborWalk Village, situated just an elevator ride away, hosts a vibrant summer schedule of events that will keep you entertained throughout your stay. From live concerts and fireworks displays to arts and crafts festivals, there's always something exciting happening. For water enthusiasts, the focus is on a variety of thrilling water activities, including Boogies pontoon and jet ski rentals, dolphin cruises, and even a pirate cruise aboard the Buccaneer Pirate Ship, where you can embark on a swash-buckling adventure on the high seas.



The convenience and proximity of Emerald Grande to HarborWalk Village mean that you never have to venture far to find dining options, boutique shopping, or exciting entertainment. Stroll along the picturesque boardwalk, immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of the village, and discover a multitude of culinary delights from seafood to international cuisine. With numerous shops and boutiques, you can find unique souvenirs or indulge in a little retail therapy.

Emerald Grande at HarborWalk Village offers the perfect combination of relaxation, convenience, and endless activities. With its spacious condos, well-appointed amenities, and prime location, this resort truly is a one-stop shop for your vacation needs. Whether you want to unwind at the Spa at the Emerald Grande, enjoy the private beach, or explore the vibrant HarborWalk Village, you'll find everything you desire just moments away. Plan your stay at Emerald Grande and get ready to create unforgettable memories in the beautiful setting of Destin, Florida. Call 800-676-0091 for reservations or visit EmeraldGrande.com by scanning this code with your camera app.



10 Classic Beach Songs That Defined the Soundtrack of Surf and Sand

From The Beach Boys to Jimmy Buffett, these iconic tunes capture the spirit of sun-soaked days and coastal escapes.

The beach has long been a source of inspiration for musicians, offering an idyllic setting for songs about sun, sand, and surf. As the sound of crashing waves and the scent of salty air envelop the senses, the perfect soundtrack can elevate a beach day into a near-euphoric experience. Here are 10 classic beach songs that have made a lasting impact on the music industry and continue to evoke memories of sun-kissed days gone by.

1. "Kokomo" - The Beach Boys (1988)

The Beach Boys, synonymous with the California surf sound, whisk listeners away to a tropical paradise with their timeless hit "Kokomo." With its dreamy harmonies and enticing lyrics, this song transports beachgoers to an idyllic island getaway, leaving their troubles behind. As the epitome of the beach vibe, "Kokomo" remains a staple of beach playlists worldwide.

2. "Surfin' U.S.A." - The Beach Boys (1963)

Another gem from The Beach Boys, "Surfin' U.S.A." celebrates the iconic surf culture of America. With an infectious melody and an unmistakable homage to Chuck Berry's "Sweet Little Sixteen," this energetic tune captures the excitement of riding the waves and the camaraderie of the surfing community.

3. "Margaritaville" - Jimmy Buffett (1977)

The laid-back sounds of Jimmy Buffett's "Margaritaville" have become synonymous with beach relaxation. Conjuring images of sunsets, flip-flops, and tropical cocktails, this classic tune is an ode to the blissful escape offered by coastal living. As the unofficial anthem of beach bums everywhere, "Margaritaville" remains a fan favorite.

4. "Wipe Out" - The Surfaris (1963)

The Surfaris' instrumental hit, "Wipe Out," features an unmistakable drumbeat that has become synonymous with surfing and beach culture. The song's frenetic energy and wild guitar riffs perfectly capture the exhilaration of catching a wave and the daredevil spirit of the surf scene.

5. "Under the Boardwalk" - The Drifters (1964)

This timeless classic from The Drifters evokes a romantic rendezvous beneath the wooden planks of the boardwalk, where the beach's heat gives way to cool shadows. With soulful harmonies and a swaying melody, "Under the Boardwalk" has become an emblematic tune for summer love stories by the sea.

6. "Surfin' Safari" - The Beach Boys (1962)

The Beach Boys' early hit "Surfin' Safari" showcases their signature harmonies and highlights the thrill of the burgeoning surf culture in the early '60s. With its catchy hooks and youthful energy, this song invites listeners to embark on a wave-chasing adventure along the coast.

7. "Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay" - Otis Redding (1968)

Otis Redding's soulful masterpiece, "Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay," paints a poignant picture of quiet contemplation by the water's edge. The iconic whistling outro and gentle melody reflect the peaceful serenity found in watching the tide roll away, making it an ideal soundtrack for beachside relaxation.

8. "Escape (The Piña Colada Song)" - Rupert Holmes (1979)

The catchy chorus and playful narrative of Rupert Holmes' "Escape (The Piña Colada Song)" have made it a beach party staple. This tongue-in-cheek tune, with its tropical drink-inspired chorus, celebrates the desire for escapism and embraces the laid-back beach lifestyle. Despite its somewhat controversial storyline, the song remains a beloved anthem for sun-seekers everywhere.

9. "Surf City" - Jan & Dean (1963)

Jan & Dean's "Surf City," co-written by Jan Berry and Brian Wilson of The Beach Boys, captures the idealized surf culture and the search for the perfect wave. With its infectious hooks and sun-soaked harmonies, the song conjures images of surfboards, beach parties, and endless summers. "Surf City" continues to evoke nostalgic memories of a bygone era, when life revolved around the tides and the swell.

10. "Walking on Sunshine" - Katrina and the Waves (1985)

While not explicitly about the beach, Katrina and the Waves' "Walking on Sunshine" has become synonymous with sunny days and seaside escapes. Its upbeat tempo and feel-good lyrics make it impossible not to dance, whether on the sand or in the surf. The song's positive energy encapsulates the joy and freedom of a day spent basking in the sun's warm embrace.

For more classic and contemporary beach vibes,
tune into 30A Radio at 30Aradio.com



What You Get
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EMERALD COAST

By Jenny Etheredge

Welcome to the Emerald Coast, where the coastal communities along the Northwest Florida Gulf Coast from Miramar Beach to Pensacola have captivated residents and visitors alike since the early '80s. With its glistening emerald waters and pristine white-sand beaches, this region offers an irresistible

allure. Whether you seek an amenity-rich golf course community in bustling Destin or a tranquil retreat along Navarre Beach, you'll find a diverse array of atmospheres and architectural styles to choose from in these timeless Florida destinations. Meanwhile, in South Walton County, the 30A Beaches have flourished in

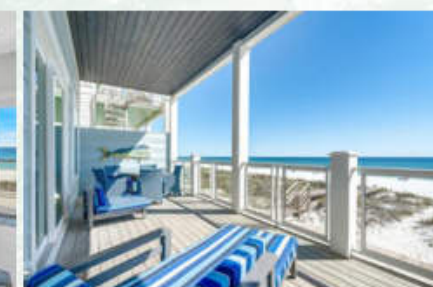
popularity and growth over the past two decades. Home to renowned beach towns like Seaside, Alys Beach, Rosemary Beach, and WaterColor, this area beckons with inviting New Urbanist designs that seamlessly blend first-class dining, breathtaking beaches, and a leisurely stroll along the Scenic Highway.

\$4,600,000



8315 Surf Drive - Panama City Beach
8 Bed | 9.5 Bath | 5,080 sq. ft.

Escape to the ultimate beachside paradise with "Soul Surfer," a breathtaking luxury vacation home that boasts 8 bedrooms and comfortably sleeps up to 24 guests. Unwind in this meticulously designed oasis that offers a true beachfront experience. Picture yourself lounging directly on the pristine



Emerald Coast, bidding farewell to the sunset from your poolside bed swing, or enjoying a delectable meal while listening to the gentle roll of the waves. With a private garage game room, indulge in endless entertainment options, making it the perfect home for those seeking the ultimate beachside retreat.





\$8,950,000

211 Pelican Circle - 30A
4 Bed | 4 Bath | 4,211 sq. ft.

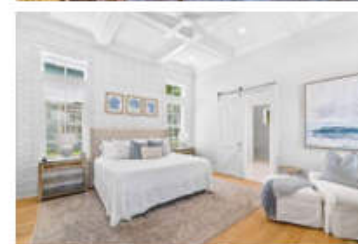
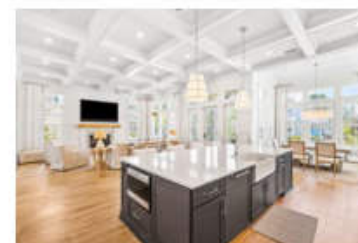
Indulge in the pinnacle of luxury living with this magnificent beachfront estate, where every detail has been meticulously crafted to perfection. Boasting an impressive 75 feet of awe-inspiring Gulf frontage, this stunning abode has been exquisitely remodeled by renowned architect Geoff Chick to provide the ultimate in refined coastal living. With private beach access just steps away, this is the epitome of opulent coastal living that you won't want to miss.



\$4,495,000

43 San Roy Road - 30A
7 Bed | 6.5 Bath | 4,503 sq. ft.

Pinch me! That's exactly what you'll say as the owner of this coastal beach home located in the heart of Seagrove Beach, south of 30A. This is pure luxury that affords views of the Gulf and one of 30A's coastal dune lakes, Eastern Lake. This property features a main house with six bedrooms, plus a carriage house above a three-car garage that boasts a seventh bedroom, with a full kitchen and living room. From its eclectic artwork to the cozy furnishings and thoughtful gathering spaces, every detail encourages conversation and relaxation.



\$4,625,000

431 E Royal Fern Way - WaterColor
5 Bed | 5.5 Bath | 3,887 sq. ft.

Luxury and privacy abound in this stunning, custom-built and beautifully decorated WaterColor home, with many elements from Serena & Lily. No details have been overlooked. The home has 5 bedrooms + office and 5 1/2 baths, with high-end finishes throughout, including Wolf appliances and a large wine fridge in the spacious kitchen. Sliding glass doors open to an incredible outdoor sitting area and summer kitchen with a screened porch and fireplace, overlooking the heated pool, hot tub, and nature preserve.

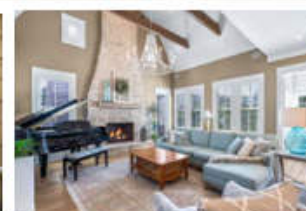


\$1,850,000



36 Bridge Water Lane - 30A
4 Bed | 3/2 Bath | 3,403 sq. ft.

A masterpiece union of design, comfort, and functionality, this custom WaterSound Bridges home, designed by architect Dawn Thurber, boasts 4 bedrooms plus a study/office, 3 full baths, 2 half baths, and a lushly landscaped backyard with a heated saltwater swimming pool, providing ample space for luxurious living. The home's interior spans an impressive 3,403 square feet of heated and cooled space, with an additional 1,432 square feet of porches and decks to enjoy the picturesque community and ocean views with the refreshing Gulf breeze.



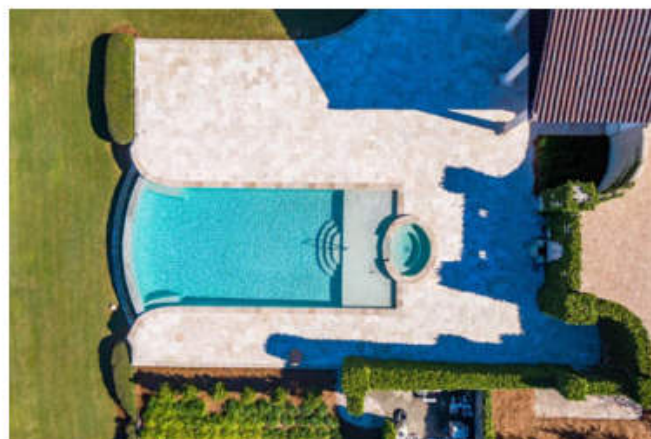


\$9,975,000

3730 Preserve Bay Boulevard - Panama City Beach
5 Bed | 10 Bath | 9,473 sq. ft.



This waterfront Panama City Beach residence presents a one-of-a-kind opportunity. Perched along the shores of the mesmerizing West Bay waters on the Northwest Florida Gulf Coast, the Villa Chimera evokes an imperial aura. Inspired by the classic Palladian villas of the Veneto in Italy, this residence was years in the making from planning to construction. It boasts an architectural integrity and authenticity rarely found in modern construction.



\$2,750,000



3591 Rosalie Drive - Destin
5 Bed | 4/2 Bath | 2,952 sq. ft.

Experience the epitome of luxurious beachfront living with this extraordinary new construction opportunity in the highly coveted Destin Pointe. This stunning coastal masterpiece has been meticulously designed to embody the perfect harmony of refined livability and exceptional rental potential. With a gracious ground floor that provides ample space for multiple vehicles and golf carts, this home also features an awe-inspiring inside/outside saltwater swimming pool, offering the perfect blend of shaded comfort and sun-soaked fun.



\$1,350,000



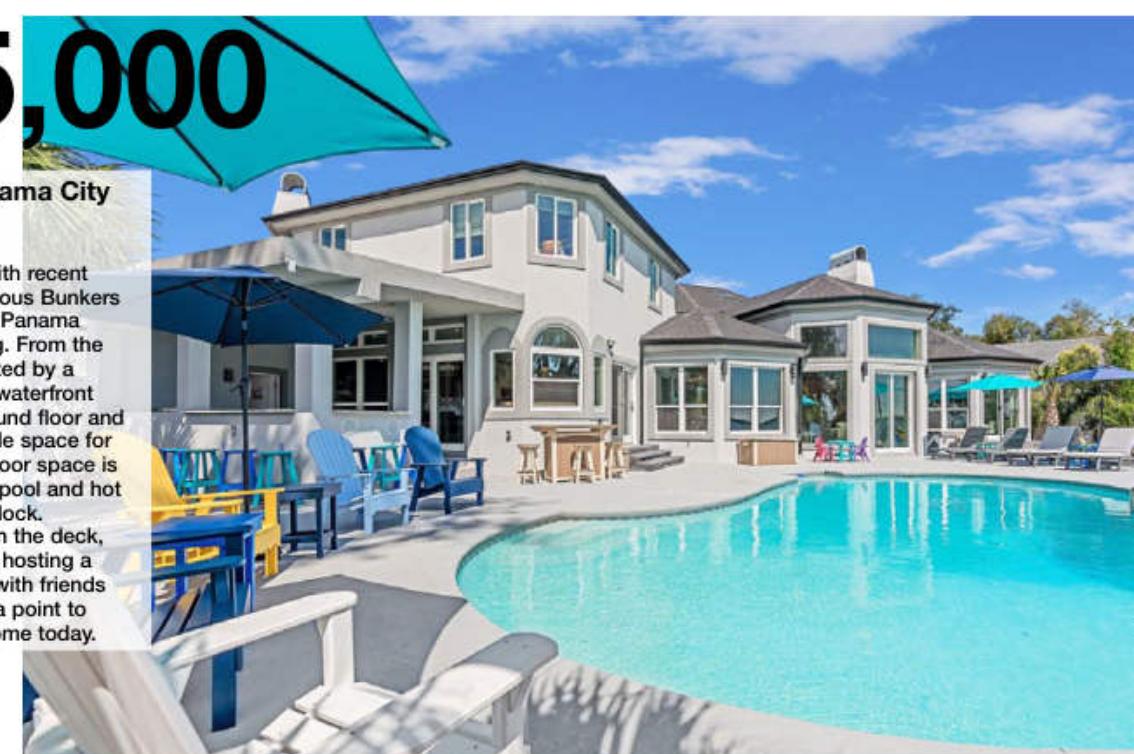
1419 Sonata Court - Navarre
3 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 1,946 sq. ft.

Escape to your own private slice of paradise with this stunning beach home boasting captivating water views. Fully furnished and complete with a coveted boat slip, this magnificent residence offers the ultimate in coastal living. Only 350 ft from the Gulf of Mexico beach access, this charming home offers expansive spaces with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, and a 2-car garage.

\$2,295,000

526 Bunkers Cove Road - Panama City
6 Bed | 5/2 Bath | 5,649 sq. ft.

This luxurious beach home is loaded with recent upgrades and is located on the prestigious Bunkers Cove Road in the historic Cove area of Panama City, and offers the best of Florida living. From the moment you step inside, you'll be greeted by a light-filled living area and breathtaking waterfront views. With three bedrooms on the ground floor and three upstairs, this home provides ample space for family and guests. The impressive outdoor space is just as stunning, featuring a waterfront pool and hot tub, outdoor kitchen, bar, and a 300'+ dock. Imagine enjoying an evening cocktail on the deck, watching the sun set over the water, or hosting a poolside barbecue with friends and family. Make it a point to see this stunning home today.





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BEER IS HERE.



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PERFECT IN SOUTH WALTON FOR 9 YEARS RUNNING