

DEPARTURES

A photograph of a canyon with layered rock walls and a view of a valley with hills and trees. The canyon walls are reddish-brown and show distinct horizontal geological strata. In the distance, a valley opens up to reveal rolling hills with similar layered rock formations under a blue sky with light clouds. Some green trees are scattered across the landscape.

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THE
UNITED STATES
OF
DISCOVERY

Exploring America from Malibu to Miami

contributors



TINA CHAI
LOS ANGELES: RODEO DRIVE,
MELROSE PLACE

The New York-based stylist often writes mini-guides to cities—Havana, Paris, Tokyo—to give to her friends. For this issue she turns to shopping in Los Angeles, which she visits roughly ten times a year. "I feel I've grown to appreciate the unique gifts that L.A. has to offer," she says. "The Sunset Tower, Sushi Park, and Ana, the amazing tailor from Denim Revival who has reconstructed my jeans to perfection."



MARCUS NILSSON
THE INCREDIBLE FLAVORS
OF SANTA FE

Born in Sweden, Nilsson moved to New York in 1997 to work as a chef. He quit after a few years to attend art school, where he discovered photography. Today many of his shoots involve food and travel. While in Santa Fe for this issue, he was happy to have a free moment to hike the trail around the Tent Rocks National Monument.



CARI GRAY
LAKE POWELL BY HOUSEBOAT

"The surreal otherworldliness of Lake Powell really intrigued me. It's so beautifully desolate," says the founder of Gray & Co., a niche tour operator specializing in active journeys, who explored the area with her four-year-old daughter. Gray and her team are currently crafting new trips to the wilds of Patagonia, medieval cities in Tuscany, and the beaches of Uruguay, to name a few.



BENJAMIN PERCY
THE SHAKESPEARE
OF NIGHTMARES

"As corny as it sounds, Stephen King is my hero. Rarely a day goes by where I don't think about his stories," says the Pushcart Prize-winning novelist and comics writer, who pays tribute to the famed master of horror in this issue. "King's work ethic and Mad Hatter imagination inspire me at my own keyboard."



JON MEACHAM
THE NASHVILLE CODE

Five years ago, the Pulitzer-winning presidential historian returned to his native Tennessee after spending two decades in New York and Washington, D.C. "I arrived in Nashville just as the city was beginning a remarkable post-Great Recession renaissance," he says. For this issue Meacham considers Nashville's prosperity and how visitors can sample the city's cultural riches.



HOLLY PETERSON
THE INSIDERS' HAMPTONS

The author of the novel *It Happens in the Hamptons* (William Morrow) has been going out to Long Island's east end for 30 years. "I pack my house with guests, tons of food, and colorful cocktails to keep things festive," she says. "Everyone glamorizes the Hamptons, but I spend most of my time in my yoga pants or my favorite old wet suit readying for a surf in the glorious Atlantic."



THE DEPARTURES GUIDE

THE INSIDERS' HAMPTONS

The Hamptons are as much a state of mind as a place, a retreat on the eastern tip of New York's Long Island where power brokers, solace seekers, artists, and families can find their version of paradise. **Holly Peterson**, author of the delicious new summer beach read *It Happens in the Hamptons* (William Morrow), introduces us to those in the know and uncovers their secrets.

The lobby at the Surf Lodge, in Montauk



Aerin weekender bag and cashmere scarf, aerin.com

What to Pack

Aerin Lauder, founder of the Aerin brand, on what she brings out east

Your namesake lifestyle line typifies the Hamptons chic-and-casual look. **What's in your weekender?** A Lisa Marie Fernandez one-piece pink terry bathing suit, a Talitha white cover-up, my Aerin cashmere silk solid fringed scarf in lilac, a Lola hat with beige trim, and Oliver Peoples tortoise sunglasses. **What are your summer sandals?** My Aerin T-strap in gray. **Any other packing necessities?** Swedish Fish. **Hamptons favorites?** Lunch at Duryea's Lobster Deck, dinner at Crow's Nest, and berry pies from Loaves & Fishes.

FROM BEACH TO TABLE

In every Hamptons town, from East Hampton to Montauk, there's a hangout to suit any mood.

CHIC AND COOL

Lively places for anyone up for the buzz

BARON'S COVE

The draw at this Sag Harbor mainstay is the outdoor terrace and terrific rosé, baronscove.com

BAY KITCHEN BAR

The dock-to-table menu at this Springs haunt relies on local clammers, lobster, and fisheries, baykitchenbar.com

CROW'S NEST

You'll see an array of fabulous types—wealthy moms, surfers, and hipsters—mingling by the outdoor fire and down by Lake Montauk while they wait for a table, crowstnestmtk.com

GURNEY'S

Guests sip drinks on the Montauk beach—the only full-service shoreside resort in the Hamptons, gurneysmontauk.com



The terrace at Baron's Cove

NAVY BEACH

On a private beach in a calm bay, this relaxed Montauk eatery is ideal for a big family dinner, navybeach.com

RUMBA

This Hampton Bays boîte serves Caribbean-inspired dishes and colorful cocktails. The fish tacos and chips and guacamole are a must, rumbahamptonbays.com

SUNSET BEACH

People who take their boats to this Shelter Island spot for pricey margaritas seem to momentarily believe they've docked in St.-Tropez or Capri, sunsetbeachil.com

SURF LODGE

There's good music here, but Surf Lodge, in Montauk, can be slammed at night and certainly on weekends. Visitors crowd in for music on the deck at sunset, thesurflodge.com

QUIET AND LOVELY

When you need a break from the scene

HARBOR BISTRO

A more affordable option for a nice dinner, this hidden gem in East Hampton's Three Mile Harbor has a patio and balcony that faces the marina, harborbistro.net

PRIDWIN HOTEL

The Petry family has owned and managed this idyllic Shelter Island inn on the bay for two generations. It serves elegant yet rustic fare overlooking the sound, pridwin.com

RAM'S HEAD INN

This quaint Shelter Island hideout with a country aura would be a good setting for a romantic novel. There's a rolling lawn, a gazebo for drinks, and dining both outside and near the fireplace inside, theramsheadinn.com

A GOOD MATCH

Dave Sokolin, president of the Bridgehampton-based Sokolin wine dealers and a part-time Montauk resident, suggests wines to pair with the best Hamptons dishes. These bottles can all be purchased from sokolin.com.

RED BAR

APPETIZER

Wedge salad

WINE PAIRING

2015 Domaine Claude Riffault Sancerre les Chasseignes, Loire, \$25

ENTRÉE

Cioppino

WINE PAIRING

2010 Louis Latour Corton-Charlemagne, Burgundy, \$110; redbarbrasserie.com

DURYEA'S

APPETIZER

Lobster cobb salad

WINE PAIRING

2016 Bedell Taste Rosé, North Fork L.I., \$20

ENTRÉE

Clambake

WINE PAIRING

2014 JM Pillot Chassagne Montrachet Les Chaumes, Burgundy, \$80; duryealobsters.com

TUTTO IL GIORNO

APPETIZER

Chilled lobster with avocado and crispy polenta

WINE PAIRING

2013 Vincent Girardin Puligny Montrachet Les Referts, Burgundy, \$65

ENTRÉE

Grilled whole fish

WINE PAIRING

2015 Carbonnieux Blanc, Bordeaux, \$30; tuttoligiorno.com

BOBBY VAN'S

APPETIZER

Colossal Crab Cocktail

WINE PAIRING

2014 Shafer Chardonnay Red Shoulder Ranch, California, \$40

ENTRÉE

Porterhouse

WINE PAIRING

1995 Château Calon Ségur, Bordeaux, \$140; bobbyvans.com



Duryea's clambake



The crab spread at Lulu Kitchen & Bar

New in Town

Steven Jauffrineau on his wildly popular Lulu Kitchen & Bar, in Sag Harbor

Lulu Kitchen feels high-end but casual at the same time. How do you achieve that? All of the food served here is wood-fired fare. We have the most fun when we aren't worried about what we are wearing. You come as-is and feel right at home. What makes your restaurant stand out from the pack? I just look at all the fancy Hamptons stuff as not what we do. Best dishes to order? Surf and turf—short ribs wood-fired and lobster. You live in the Hamptons full-time now. Are you an authentic local? I have a 1992 Jeep with fishing poles in the front. Our favorite thing is to park by a bay or a bridge and fish organically, lulusagharbor.com

MATT LAUER'S TOP GOLF HOLES

Golf is a mix of jokes, epic frustrations, and one shot providing a lifetime's loop of happy memories. NBC's Today host spoke with us about the most confounding and challenging Hamptons holes.

SHINNECOCK HILLS GOLF CLUB, HOLE 11

Insiders know Shinnecock as the hardest Hamptons course. It prides itself on hosting the U.S. Open every ten years or so. Even though the 11th hole is a par-3, it's considered the shortest par-5 in America. The green is a postage stamp; a small target with severe, unforgiving slopes. If you miss the green, you are in for difficult bunkers or the rough.

NATIONAL GOLF LINKS OF AMERICA, HOLE 4

This plays like a tricky Scottish course, and it takes local know-how to succeed. The fourth hole, a Redan, is a par-3 modeled after the 15th hole at North Berwick, Scotland, which slopes strongly from right to left. A member calls it "a great dinner companion who is amusing every second but doesn't snap at you."

MAIDSTONE CLUB, HOLE 10

A Hamptons favorite, the Maidstone has picturesque bridges over the water and ocean views. Jackie Kennedy's father, John Vernou Bouvier III, was a member. "It's the hardest shortest course in America," one member says. "On a windy day, it can bite you in the ass. The tenth hole is a killer with a fast-sloped green. You could be putting for a birdie, and then suddenly be putting for a six."



The 11th hole at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club

▶ Matt's take

"You just had an Arnold Palmer and a peanut butter Ritz. You tee off on hole 11 and hold your breath. Am I dead? Your nightmare or surprise waits."

▶ Matt's take

"Hole 4 looks simple, but it is anything but. If you hit well and happen to get to the bar, it's the best party around."

▶ Matt's take

"I got addicted to Southsides at the Maidstone bar years ago. Hole 10 is difficult because it has an elevated green that is penalizing and very hard to hold."

SEBONACK GOLF CLUB, HOLE 2

The Peconic Bay course was designed by Jack Nicklaus and Tom Doak. Hole 2 is beautifully laid out, but long and brutal, and it's difficult to hit the green. "Beware the sand traps," one member says. Regulars adore it; newcomers think it's overly tricky.

FRIAR'S HEAD, HOLE 18

A Coore & Crenshaw design, Friar's Head has links-like terrain. Hole 18's second shot is its hardest. If you're short of the green by five yards, it will roll 50 yards into a gully. One member says, "If you're not a good golfer, you're screwed. Actually, you're screwed even if you are a good golfer."

ATLANTIC GOLF CLUB, HOLE 10

A newer course built on undulating hills, the Atlantic is set on 204 acres of former farmland where the morning and afternoon light can mystify the mounds and moguls. Sudden ocean breezes make an array of shots necessary. Hole 10 is a long, narrow par-4, where trouble looms everywhere. You can be out of bounds on one side and in bunkers on the other.

▶ Matt's take

"If you shoot a left drive, you'll have a blind shot. If you're right, you'll be near a bunker. If you're short, it's trouble; if you're long, it's death. If you're to the right, it's death riding a gorilla."

▶ Matt's take

"By your second shot on hole 18, you're hitting through tears running down your face."

▶ Matt's take

"On hole 10, you can think you've hit a good shot, but the wind can be blowing, and you watch it blow out of bounds."

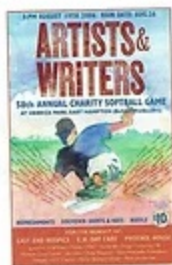


Pizza-Oven Mania

Chef Katie Lee on the Hamptons' coveted cooking appliance

You're a pizza-oven connoisseur. What's the best current model?

I have a Wood Stone, and it's fantastic. My oven is a combo: It can run fully on gas, or I can add wood to it. **What recipe do you use?** I am a fan of margherita (above), but sometimes I add corn out from the cob and it adds this little burst of sweetness. In the fall, I'll do shaved Brussels sprouts or roasted butternut squash with Fontina. **Your favorite summer cocktail?** I will never turn down an Aperol spritz. **What do you like to do outside in the summer?** I learned to surf in the Hamptons in 2009, and it is still my favorite place to surf. A home break is the best break.



A LITERARY SLUGFEST

For decades, on August's third Saturday, Hamptons locals have met up in East Hampton to watch well-known writers and artists play softball. The players' potential for humiliation is high. "If you strike out twice, you probably have to go into therapy," says *Washington Post* columnist Richard Cohen, who has watched but not played. "You ruin your life playing sports or running off with your masseuse—it's the same thing." awgame.org

THIS IS FARM STAND COUNTRY

SoulCycle master instructor Stacey Griffith, who spends her summers teaching at indoor-cycling studios in East Hampton and Bridgehampton, has a request: Eat local.

Support your local farmer. That's my Hamptons motto," says SoulCycle guru Stacey Griffith. "It's really important to me that those of us who spend the summers in the Hamptons give back to our neighbors. I recommend **Pike Farms** (pikefarms.com), in Sagaponack, and **Babinski's Farm Stand** (160 Newlight Ln.), run by Lisa and Bill Babinski in Water Mill. **Round Swamp Farm** (roundswampfarm.com), a country market, used to be only in the Springs, but now there's also a location in Bridgehampton. It has the best selection of prepared meals and side dishes, and fresh fruits and vegetables. Yes, even though I'm a fitness instructor, I know it also has awesome cinnamon buns."



*Pike Farms' stand in Sagaponack

Artist to Know

Michael Dweck on his fine-art photography

Your photographs capture people enjoying the sand, sea, and salty air. Is the seduction of the flesh particular to Montauk? No, it's not specific to a town. My work is about summer youth and blends idealism and documentation. Your book *The End: Montauk, N.Y.* is more a story than pure photography. My artwork is like a film. You escape and go on a journey that idealizes surfing subculture. How has money changed Montauk? The main street still has no traffic light, and there are dunes that are still the same. The sun and water are what I come for.



Michael Dweck's *Mermaid 30* (2007)

BOOK SMART

The four top local bookstores



SOUTHAMPTON
With readings and signings, **Southampton Books** mixes the rare with the new. southamptonbooks.com

SAG HARBOR
Literary and artsy, **Harbor Books** is lined with shelves that make the shop feel like a living room. harborbooksgfh.com

EAST HAMPTON
BookHampton is where tourists, locals, authors, and readers congregate. bookhampton.com

MONTAUK
A Tale of Two Sisters has the small-town vibe that many in Montauk are trying to preserve. 631-238-5999

THE PERFECT SATURDAY

"The first thing I do, after coffee and yoga, is make breakfast," says jewelry designer Jennifer Fisher, who weekends in East Hampton with her husband and two children—and with another couple and their four children. "While they're at Tracy Anderson I make poached eggs and pancakes for the kids." Fisher describes summer life as a "primal hunter-gatherer thing" and "antisocial": "We don't go out at night much. *Maaaaybe* Dopo La Spiaggia. We stay in—otherwise you just see everyone you see during the week in the city!"

Platinum in the Hamptons

American Express is hosting several By Invitation Only events in the Hamptons this summer that are open only to Platinum Card members. There will also be SoulCycle classes taught by Stacey Griffith (see above) and the EMP Summer House, a pop-up restaurant from chef Daniel Humm and his team at Eleven Madison Park in New York City (which is closed for renovations). Visit americanexpress.com/byinvitationonly or call 800-321-7787 for more information.