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The STYLISH GETAWAYS ISSUE

The Local List:
*5 Inns and B&Bs to Love,
Right Here in Maine*

The Bright Spot:
*A Yarmouth-Based Designer
Adds a Splash of Color*

AND
*Dreaming of Summer
in Kennebunkport*

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SUMMER HITS

In a state brimming with resorts and rentals,
these getaway destinations aim for distinction

BY BRIAN SHUFF

At the time this issue went to press, we weren't sure what the world would look like when you picked this magazine up off a newsstand or collected it from your front porch. Would we still be sheltering in our own homes, leafing through magazines, and going online in search of virtual escapes? Or would the world be opening its doors again? One thing's for sure: Small businesses right here in Maine will need our support. In that spirit, here are five of our favorite places to stay, rest, and relax throughout our great state—so you can dream about them for now, and maybe plan a staycation for some summer weekend soon.

Inn at SUNRISE POINT

CAMDEN

PHOTOS BY JUMPING ROCKS PHOTOGRAPHY

REPEATEDLY, THE
WORD SANCTUARY
COMES TO MIND.
OVER AND OVER,
THE INN PROFFERS
CHANCES TO
UNPLUG, TO BE
STILL.

THE INN KEEPS A
QUIETER, MORE
CONTEMPLATIVE
PACE. THE
LIBRARY HAS A
CRACKLING FIRE
IN THE EVENINGS
AND HOUSES A
SELECTION OF FINE
SCOTCHES AND
BOURBONS.



THE COMBO
OF VIEWS,
LAWNS, AND SUN
WILL TURN YOU
TO PUTTY.



EACH
MORNING
EXECUTIVE CHEF
BRAD PURDY
PREPARES A LOAF
OF RUSTIC BREAD
TO SERVE AT
BREAKFAST.

THE INN AT SUNRISE POINT has all the amenities you'd expect at a large-scale commercial resort—a private deck, fireplace, wet bar, plush robes, “fancy bathrooms with the multiple showerheads and the tub you can practically swim in,” says owner Daina Hill Belair—but in a smaller, more tranquil package. “Imagine you’re in a quiet cottage with a wall of windows, set back about 10 feet from the edge of a bluff overlooking the ocean, and you’re watching the sunrise from your bed,” Daina says. “That’s who we are.”

She’s owned the inn since 2008, when retirement from the world of corporate law grew dull. Since then, Daina has built an impressive repeat customer base, and it’s easy to see why. She’s disarming, quick to laugh, and after years “traveling the world and staying at high-end places on my company’s dime,” has established for the inn an intoxicating ethos of *sanctuary*. “When I was working and traveling all day, I wanted peace and quiet when I got to my retreat. So, we work very hard to maintain that environment here. When the tourists in town or the people off the cruise ships

start to get to you, you can just drive a few miles back to the inn, down the gravel road to the water’s edge, and you feel like you’re on a private estate. You feel like you’ve found something no one else knows about.”

The gardens are lush and manicured to perfection, and lawn chairs beckon you to grab a whiskey from the library bar and watch the sailboats take off while you sip. “We have lobstermen who come haul their traps right in front of the inn. It looks like we posed it, but I swear we didn’t!” Daina says.

So much of the property feels imbued with her personal touches. Many of the art pieces are antiques from

her years living in Singapore and Hong Kong. When one senior innkeeper (much of Daina’s staff has stayed on for years) became an ordained minister, the inn began offering elopement packages. “We’ve had couples show up on our doorstep looking so young, we wondered if we should check their IDs, but also people in their 80s showing up saying they want to get married. It’s fun to shake up the routine,” she says. And there is one detail to which Daina draws particular attention: Every day, the bedsheets, individually embroidered with the inn’s logo, are machine-pressed. “I love delighting people,” Daina says. “I know that everything’s supposed to be about making money, but the

inn and what it offers has become very personal to me. I love creating a place where all those little courtesies and pleasures that people are nostalgic about are part and parcel. When I decided I was tired of practicing law and wanted a little something more out of life, I thought about the experiences I’d had on the coast of Maine and how I might share those—the experience of being in a quiet spot where you can just breathe the saltwater air and have a respite from what’s going on in the rest of the world, which is pretty stressful these days.”

top, left High-end bathroom amenities always include a personal touch. **above, left** Traveling the world as a corporate lawyer, with extended stays throughout southeast Asia, owner Daina Hill Belair relied on a place of comfort and serenity to which she could retreat at the end of long days. “Not so much elaborate or glitzy,” she says, “but comfortable and elegant. Clean lines—that sort of thing.” **opposite page, top, right** “We don’t run to fancy,” says Daina. “We run to comfort and visual pleasure. We run to personal.” **opposite page, bottom, right** The Inn at Sunrise Point has a tagline: Simple. Perfect. Luxury.