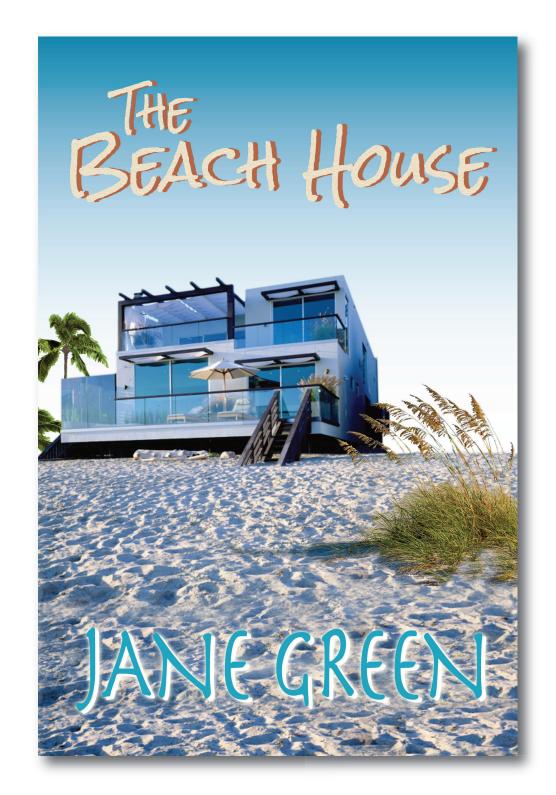
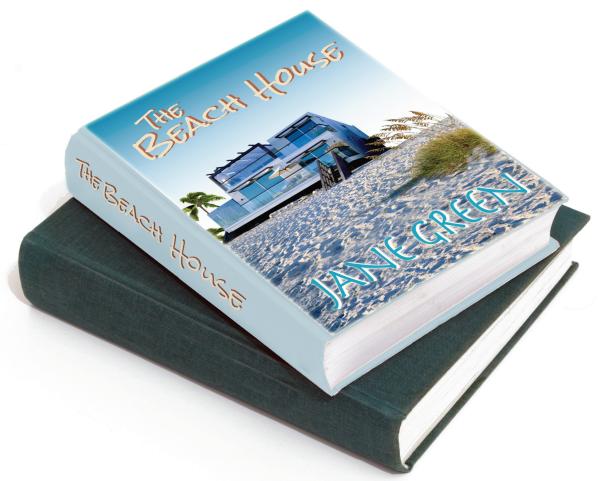
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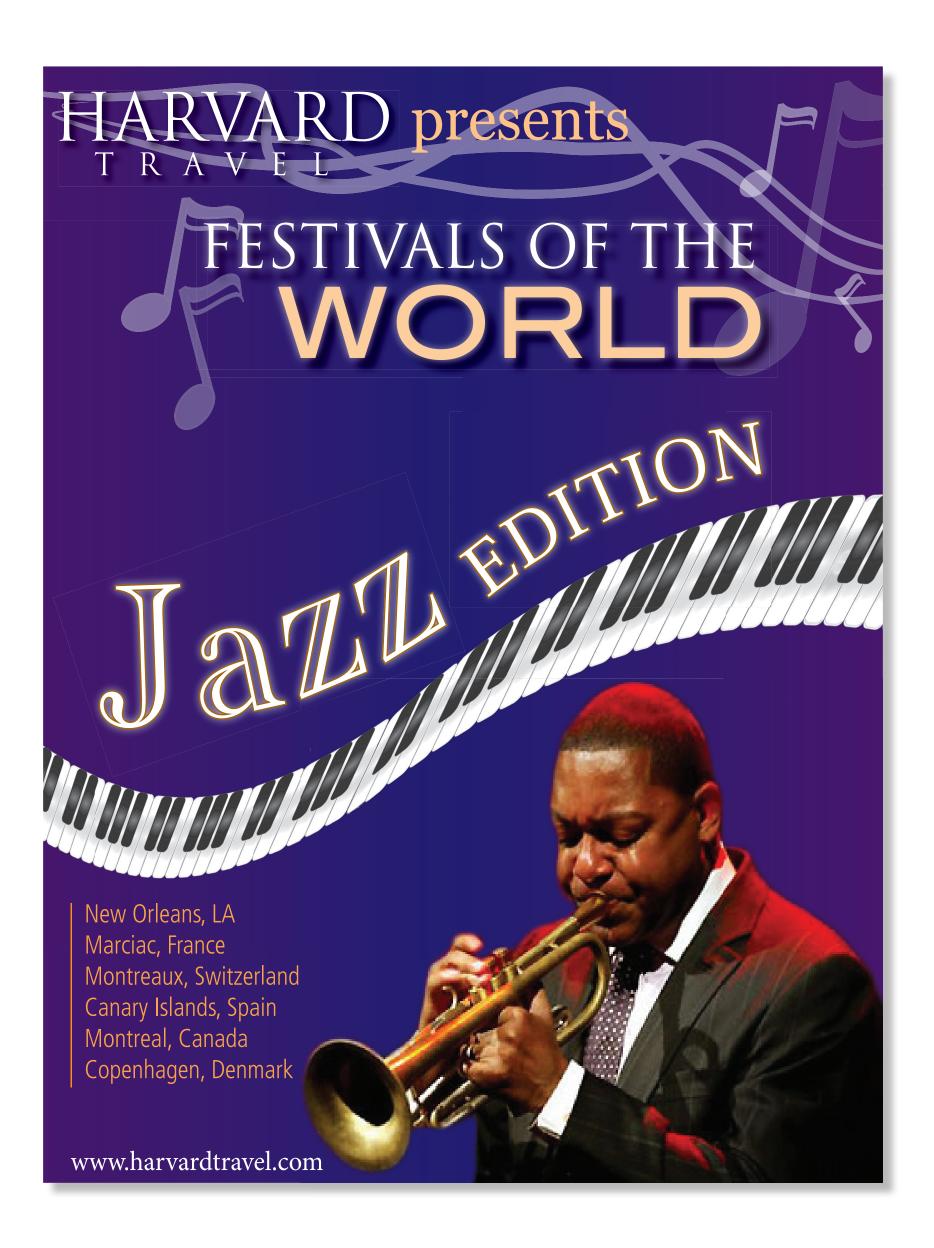
"We believe in the evolutionary and moral kinship of all animals and declare our belief that all sentient creatures have rights to life, liberty and natural enjoyment.

We therefore call for the protection of these rights." - Universal Declaration of Animal Rights



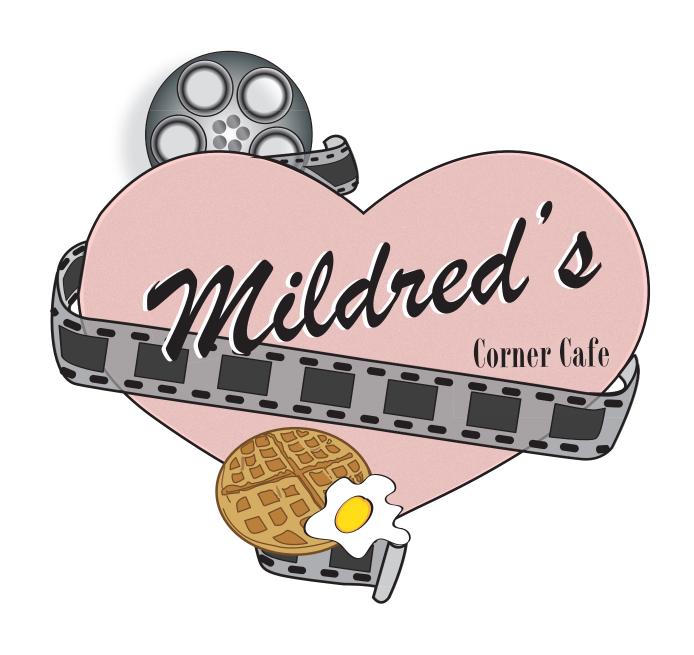








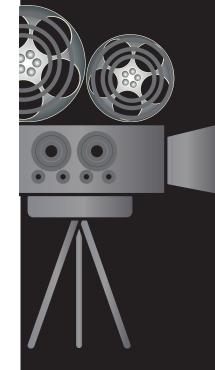








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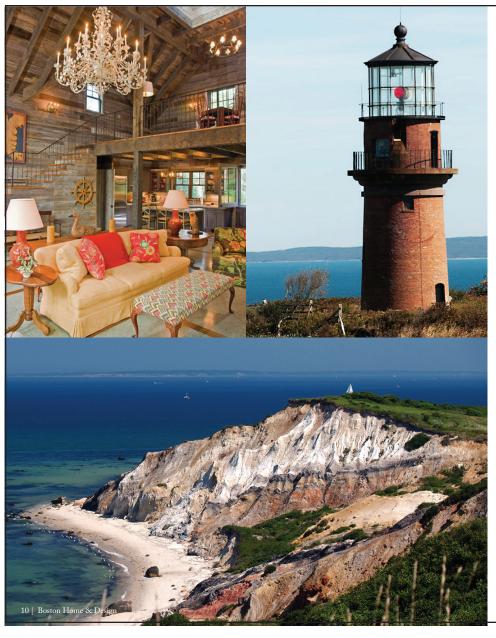
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There are times on Martha's Vineyard when you are liter-Vineyard when you are mea-ally walking on rose petals, when the roses that line the streets of Edgartown, decorate the vards of Vineyard Haven, that grow wild along the beaches of Oak Bluffs, Chilmark and Aquinnah and that sprout unexpectedly in the fields of West Tisbury at the site of a long-disappeared house, all sprinkle their petals in a cool Island breeze.

Those are the moments when buying a house or property or renting a summer home on an island seven miles off the Cape Cod coast of Massachusetts and accessible only by water or air makes perfect sense.

Martha's Vinevard has been a destination for adventurous voyagers for 10,000 years, when it was still seventy-five miles from the beach. The Vineyard has for 150 years been a resort community, first attracting Methodists to summer religious revival meetings under the oaks of Edgartown (now

Today, it is the home of about 15,000 year round residents, a number that swells to roughly 100,000 in summ when those who either own or rent real estate return for

magical weeks to enjoy the Vineyard's beaches, six towns, ocautitul water and inland vistas and to find entertainment that is quintessentially "Island." beautiful water and inland vistas,

Most of these visitors arrive by car ferries run by the Nan tucket/Martha's Vineyard Steamship Authority that leave Woods Hole, MA, and regularly arrive and depart on the Vineyard from Oak Bluffs or Vineyard Haven (also known as Tisbury). Others take the passenger-only New England Fast Ferry from New Bedford, MA, or convenient commercial or private flights to the Vineyard's small but fully-appointed airport. If visitors don't bring a car, they can rely on both the Vineyard Transit Authority system that traverses all of Martha's Vineyard, as well as taxis and rental agencies for bikes, cars and mopeds.

But don't be fooled by the word "island" - Martha's Vineyard is 100 square miles, almost nine miles wide and twenty-three miles long. Although the Island is bike-friendly and there are a series of bike paths through the most developed parts, much of it is rolling terrain that can challenge all but the strongest bikers, and the towns themselves are miles apart.

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The Living Space

The living area contains a matching love seat and queen sleeper sofa with solid lodgepole wood frames, made by InterMountain furniture of Utah, a chenile throw and coordinated pillows. Decorations include wases, decoys, moose and bear figures, a hand carved bear, wooden moose, planter, pine cones, a potpourri bowl, coasters, glass table tops, etc.







Kitchen Area

This counter also provides an alternative place to eat and overlooks both the kitchen, living and hot tub areas.

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the last thing restaurateurs Cathal and Meshelle Armstrong would want to do on their day off, but on Sunday afternoons between May and September, the couple can often be found doing just that in their home.

Meshelle is no amateur when it comes to design makeovers. She and Cathal met in 1992 when both worked at Cities Restaurant in Adams Morgan, she as the dining room manager and he as a cook-roles that foreshadowed their successful future together. While at Cities, Meshelle utilized her experience as a window designer for Le Château and Bergdorf Goodman to redecorate the restaurant every six months as a new locale: Havana, Mexico City,

"It's the same aesthetic I use to this day for our restaurants and our living spaces," she explains. "I design rooms as vignettes." For example, the cozy living room with its eye-catching, Beardsley-esque paisley curtains and linen Ro-

an shades is the black-and-white room. The front parlor, with a piano and wall-to-ceiling cases filled with books, Cathal's photography and Meshelle's sculptures, is the self-expres-

"We bought this house the day we saw it because it had a greenhouse and a pool. We just knew it was right for us." It didn't hurt that the brick colonial, built in 2000, stood on a registered historic property, the site of George Washington's stable grounds.

Meshelle has never used a decorator. Instead, she works with talented people who understand her vision, including Jeff Albert and David Chenault, owners of Decorium and D2 Interior Design in Old Town Alexandria. "Jeff and David totally understand me," she says. "When I first walked into their store, I felt like I was at home." The pair recently redid the Tasting Room at Eve and also had a heavy hand in the interior design of Virtue Feed and Grain, the Armstrongs' new Alexandria res-

taurant, which opened in early June. They're now consulting on Society Fair, a specialty food market and wine shop due to open on South Washington Street in the fall.

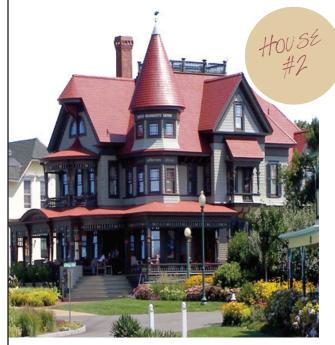
Since buying the home, the couple has definitely made it theirs. From the moment you enter, there's a sense of warmth, openness and family, and a complete lack of pretension. The foyer features a 25-foot ceiling, a prodigious wrought-iron chandelier and a Palladian window that showers the entrance with light. The hardwood floors are stained light; the color palette reflects creamy beiges and swaths of goldenrod separated by crisp white wainscoting.

What guests remember is heaping platters of crusted, smoked brisket; colorful heirloom tomatoes and corn-on-the-cob enjoyed around backyard dining tables, where wine and good-natured conversation flow freely.

Who could ask for a more satisfying day off?



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he magnificent home has witnessed a steady stream of cultural, diplomatic and political activity over the years. But recently, Villa Firenze has been infused with a fresh and glamorous new look—as well as the laughter of bambini-since Italy's new ambassador, Giulio Maria Terzi di Sant'Agata, Antonella Cinque and their two-year-old twins moved into the home last fall.

While the architecture is Tudor in style, the interiors are decidedly Italian. "The house is really



"The house is so strong emotionally, with its story and tradition," says Cinque. "I loved it immediately."

a meeting point of two traditions and two cultures," says Ambassador Terzi on a recent tour. Cinque agrees, "When Americans come to the house, they love it, and so do Italians."

Visitors are ushered into a large foyer that opens to a grand, three-story hall complete with enormous arched windows and elaborate timber beams. A large Flemish tapestry hangs above the dramatic staircase. The hall opens on one side to a formal salon with teak parquet floors and on the other to a large dining room. European antiques, 17th- and 18th-century Italian art and custom Murano glass chandeliers adorn these public rooms.

The twins enjoy daily jaunts through the grounds of Villa Firenze and will soon be playing on the estate's very first swing set. Ambassador Terzi also plans to upgrade the home's out-door areas. "We want to make better use of the verandas that we have on the north and south sides, which we use for



he journey that brought Harry and Mary Ellen Simon to Edgartown has been a circuitous one. From the time they met in 1989, they've vacationed up and down the coast. But one summer day in 1993, with a full tank of gas and no place to be, Mary Ellen drove west. When she arrived at Edgartown, she immediately called Harry and said, "This is it."

The couple returned in 1994 and then every summer since. They spent years looking for just the right piece of land on which to build their dream vacation and retirement home. Mary Ellen could have gone for a remote setting, but Harry longed to be close to town. When they found their property just north of town in 2000, Mary Ellen remembers sitting on the tailgate of their truck astonished by what she saw.

"Our journey here has been about finding home and finding out where you really belong, as opposed to where you're from," says Mary Ellen. "I'm not a city girl. I like a small-town



"There was nothing else like it in

our area, and we thought, 'Well, why not?'" Mary Ellen says.





"The vibrant, airy space is indicative of summers on Martha's Vineyard—full of life and beauty."

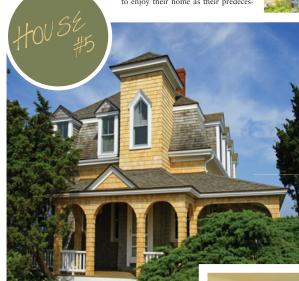
The owners adore this house. They have devoted years to seeing it restored, but, life being what it is, they are aware that family obligations may call them away some day. If so, they will become part of the home's long history. All along, one challenge of the project was accessing the site. There is a 35-foot ledge wall on the street side of the home, so during construction a temporary road had to be built to bring in equipment. The wife says, "We knew we couldn't get in here and do it again, so I wanted the house to be timeless. I wanted it to work for us, but also," she adds with apparent regret, "for a subsequent owner."



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hen the couple who own this home share their address, people sometimes say, "Oh, I've slept there." Although the homeowners have never spoken with Paul Newman, Christie Brinkley, or Billy Joel, rumor has it that these celebrities, too, have snoozed under their roof. So it goes when you own a 122-year-old home that was operated, for at least some of those years, as a much beloved bed-and-breakfast, site of summer vacations, seaside weddings, and birthday celebrations.

For many years, the couple was happy to enjoy their home as their predeces-



"When I first saw the house, I thought, 'Snow White should live here."

sors did, gathering in the "Ocean Room" that overlooked a protected cove, sitting on the deck that cantilevered over the water, swimming at the small beach, and taking advantage of its proximity to a park for hikes and to downtown Bar Harbor for blueberry-pancake brunches. The husband and wife liked the fairy-tale feel of their home: its flared rooflines and walls of stone, stucco, and timber. "When I first saw the house," says the wife, "I thought, 'Snow White should live here."

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t isn't often that grand homes in established Martha's Vineyard summer communities come onto the market. At least, it didn't seem so in the late 1990s to one couple who frequently vacationed in the state. In their experience, such places were handed down from generation to generation, rarely leaving a family. One day, though, when they were picnicking at a club in one such established summer community, they heard about a nearby home. Apparently, the owner was childless and divorced—there was no one in the family to whom she wanted to leave her home—and she was ready to sell. The couple went to have a look. The property consisted of an impressive home, sitting high on a rock ledge overlooking the sea and complete with a turret on which (they would come to learn) an eagle sometimes liked to perch. The house was dark. The grounds were overgrown. Still, the couple fell in love.

sea... We wanted that to be the focus."

Now, twenty years later, that house is a bright, light-filled residence, done up in an elegant cottage style that showcases an exceptional collection of art. "For us," says the wife, "The vineyard is all about this rugged, beautiful landscape and the sea. We wanted that to be the focus." She wanted nothing in her house to detract from the view, which is, indeed, spectacular: taking in a small cove, an island, and the open ocean. To keep the emphasis on the outdoors, the homeowners minimized the ground-floor window treatments and chose interior colors that mirror what's outdoors: blues and whites, soft pinks, yellows, and greens.

In a summer morning ripe with sunlight, before the day's heat has settled in, Johanne Pérusse and architect Carol Wilson stand on the balcony of Johanne's beach house. "You can see the roof—it's right over there," Johanne says, the sound of surf between her words. She's pointing to the house that she and her husband, Pierre, rented when they first came to Martha's Vineyard twenty years ago. Johanne was pregnant at the time, so their connection to this place is as old as their youngest daughter. "We got lost on the way in, and then we stumbled upon this gorgeous home," recalls Johanne. "It was perfect." And, like clockwork: "We fell in love."

"We loved it—the place, the people, everything." Eventually,



Kitchen of our Dreams
This spacious kitchen equipt with
a marble top island and stainless steel appliances is perfect for

the owners of their annual rental house decided to sell it.

"At the time, we had just bought our house in Montreal," says Johanne. They didn't want to overextend themselves

with two properties, so they decided to pass. Over the years, they got to know the new homeowner and told her to let

them know if she was ever interested in selling, "We liked

the location. It was perfect for the kids and it wasn't too

small" says Johanne. In 1999, the couple's wish finally came

true: the homeowner was ready to sell, and in keeping with

her promise. Johanne and Pierre were the first people she

called. "We were very lucky. Her mind was set on selling to



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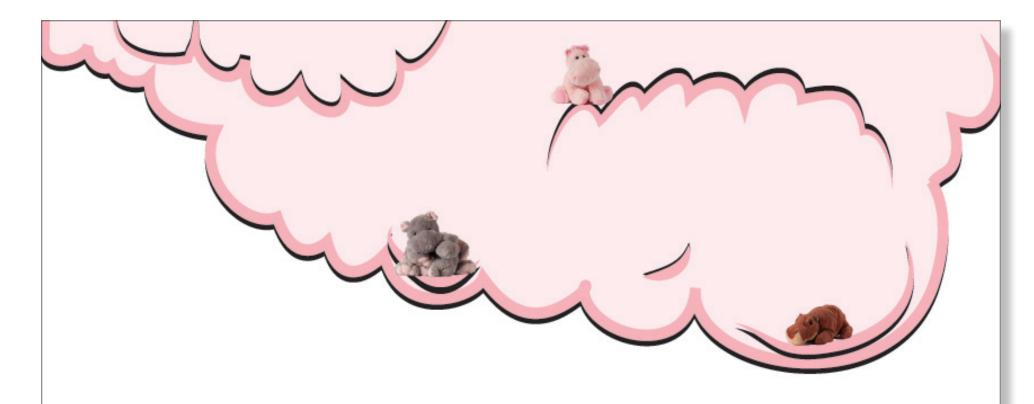












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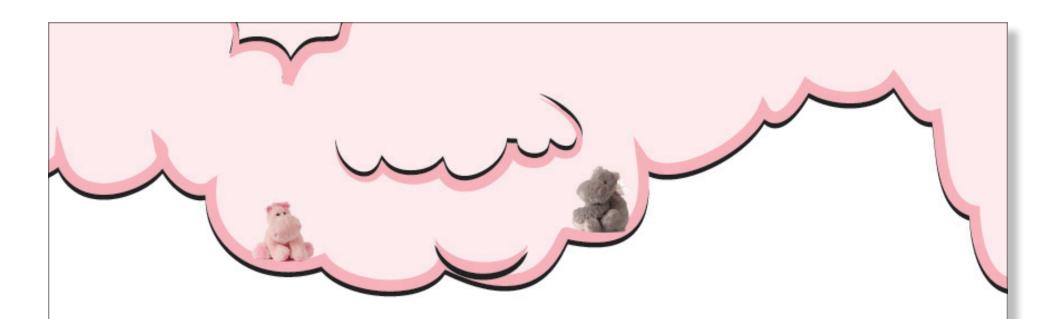


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