WHAT THEY’VE LEARNED
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH

David Hockney
Don DeLillo
Brian Wilson

Style Heroes
George Best and the coolest sportsmen of all time
An Esquire celebration

WHEN FOOTBALL WENT POP
Richard T’Kelly on the beautiful game, from Best to Beckham

AND CUP-WINNING WRITING FROM...
Will Self / AA Gill / Giles Coren / Tim Lewis / Tom Parker Bowles / Sanjiv Bhattacharya
The Atlantic coast summer playground of upscale New Yorkers and Bostonians is elite, eccentric and always entertaining.

The Cape Cod region has famously hosted the holidaying Kennedy clan... and Spielberg’s Jaws.
Apple-pie American, the beaches and postcard-perfect towns of Cape Cod and the Islands (Nantucket and Martha’s Vineyard) have long been the quintessential East Coast summer retreat for wealthy New Englanders plus US presidents from JFK to Obama. Under two hours’ drive from Boston, on a map Cape Cod looks like an arm doing a bicep curl, but there’s nothing remotely macho about this laid back location which had artist Edward Hopper hopping with joy. You may also recognize Martha’s Vineyard as Amity Island in Jaws. As you’d imagine, it’s all very insider, but consider this the key to its treasures. Tom Barber is a founder of the award-winning original-travel.co.uk

Stay
Even if you mean to explore all three centres, your best bet is staying on the mainland and the best new(ish) hotel is the Salt House Inn. Created by Brit David Bould (who worked for Schrager Hotels for years), this chic boutique sits pretty in the heart of the Cape’s best location, Provincetown. The rustic breakfasts are famously good. If you want to stay on the islands, then The Charlotte Inn on Martha’s Vineyard is clapboard quaintness personified and Nantucket’s White Elephant has a burgeoning empire of hotel rooms and apartments.

lighthouseinn.com;
thecarlottetleinn.com;
whiteelephanthotel.com

Lunch
Right on the harbourfront, Nantucket’s Cru is permanently packed with clued-in locals. Enjoy Cape classics such as lobster rolls, and oysters washed down with Cru cocktails of vodka, cucumber purée, lemon juice and sesame syrup. Eat, drink and repeat. cruongantucket.com

Why now?
Head to the Nantucket Whaling Museum before November 2016 to see the ‘The Voyage of the Whale’ exhibition. It chronicles how the local whale catcher was sunk by a huge bull sperm whale in 1820, inspiring Herman Melville’s literary classic, Moby Dick.

nwh.org

Dine
Those resistant to the seductive allure of seafood should try the Orleans-based Nauset Beach Club, purveyor of excellent Italian dishes. Order the Maine-sourced bisteca alla griglia partnered with a Piedmontese red from the extensive Italian wine list.

Drink
Oak Bluffs is where ferries from Cape Cod arrive into Martha’s Vineyard, and a short walk from the dock is the Offshore Ale Company, which serves a tasty selection of craft beers. The obvious choice for film buffs is the Amity Island Ale.
offshoreale.com

Party
Beachfront restaurant and raw bar by day, the Beachcomber (3) is a Cape Cod institution — US Figure declared it “one of the best bars in America”. It comes alive by night with live bands and beach bonfires, while the Goombay Smash, a rum-based cocktail, fuels the summer crew.

thebeachcomber.com

Shop
Buy into the preppy holiday look, particularly the trademarked Nantucket Red pants (trousers to you and me), from Murray’s Toggery on Main Street, Nantucket. You run the risk of appearing on the amusing lookatmyfuckingtrousers blog, but you will fit right in on the Cape. nantucketreds.com

Avoid
The massed ranks of East Coasters heading for the Cape on Friday afternoons in summer by flying in. There are regular light aircraft flights from Boston into Provincetown, Hyannis and the Islands, but you’ll need to book well in advance in peak season.

See
Visit some of the modernist houses (1) built among the dunes and forests during the mid-20th century. Designed by avant-garde architects such as Walter Gropius (of Bauhaus fame), they are inspired by the landscape’s elemental nature.

ccmhc.org

When in...
Make like the locals and harvest your own clams and oysters (2). A licence is needed, available in several of the towns, but foraging for your own shellfish, shucking and eating them fresh from the shell (ideally accompanied by a bottle of chilled white wine) is quintessential Cape.

Do
Explore by bike. Try the Cape Cod Rail Trail, which follows the old railway line from South Dennis to Wellfleet. For greater gradient, try the Provincetlands trail through 4,000 acres of dunes, cranberry bogs and saltwater kettleponds.
capecodbikeguide.com

Get there: BA and Virgin Atlantic both fly direct and daily to Boston: britishairways.com; virgin-atlantic.com