

Esquire

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Style & Substance

WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH

David Hockney
Don DeLillo
Brian Wilson

George Best
at Old Trafford,
Manchester United
for 3 limited-
edition covers

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 BARBER DOSSIER

Cape Cod and the Islands

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 recognise 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

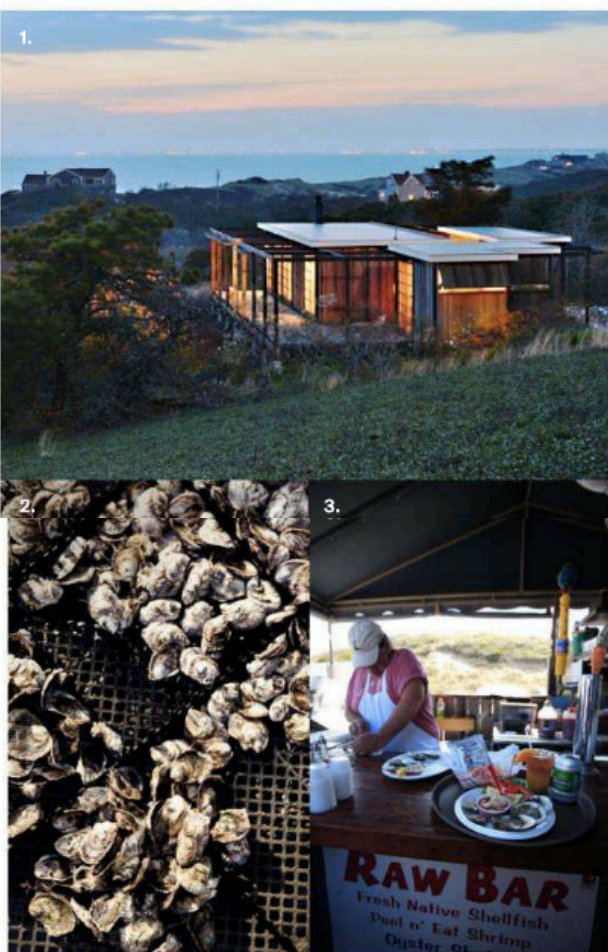
Even if you mean to explore all three centres, your best bet is staying on the mainland and the best new(ish) hotel is the Salt House Inn. Created by Brit David Bowd (who worked for Schrager Hotels for years), this chic boutique sits pretty in the heart of the Cape's best location, Provincetown. The 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. salthouseinn.com; thecharlotteinn.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 Crucomber cocktails of vodka, cucumber purée, lemon juice and sesame syrup. Eat, drink and repeat. crunantucket.com

Why now?

Head to the Nantucket Whaling Museum before November 2016 to see the *Stove by the Whale* exhibition. It chronicles how the local whaler Essex was sunk by a huge bull sperm whale in 1820, inspiring Herman Melville's literary classic, *Moby Dick*. nha.org



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. ccmht.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 *bistecca 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 *Esquire* 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 Reds pants (trousers to you and me), from Murray's Toggery on Main Street, Nantucket. You run the risk of appearing on the amusing [lookatmyfuckingredtrousers](http://lookatmyfuckingredtrousers.com) 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.

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 Provincelands 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