From my earliest memories of growing up near the beach as a kid, I always knew the ocean was in my blood. As a result I've never really strayed too far from the shore, except when my addiction to skiing led me to the University of Colorado (1,000 miles away from the nearest ocean) for college. But even then, I'd make the 36-hour drive from Boulder back to the warm breezes and my beloved beaches of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, as soon as my last class was complete. It was like I was being pulled by some invisible force. And while it's been way more than a few years since college, the force that pulls me back to the ocean is as powerful today as it was back then.

In fact, it may be even more powerful now that my wife and I are lucky enough to be able to share the wonders of having a house on the ocean with our curious little five-year-old.

As you'll see in this issue, many homeowners feel the same way--nothing tops the joy of being able to share their ocean homes with family and friends.

Take the stylish Manhattan Beach home that's featured in our Shelter section (page 22). It was designed and built specifically so a close-knit family of five (with three teenagers and all of their friends) could live and enjoy the beach in style and comfort. Pretty much the same criteria applied to the Nantucket home that's featured on page 74. The design brief called for an interior that had to work for "three teenage children and a boatload of summer visitors."

And since there's nothing quite like celebrating summer on our family-friendly featured destination--Nantucket--we asked the ultimate island insider, Holly Finigan of the Nantucket Blackbook (nantucketblackbook.com), to shed some light on where to go and what to do in one of the country's most exclusive summer destinations (page 68).

Meanwhile, our painstakingly researched annual Top 10 Homes story (page 52), which celebrates the most exclusive ocean homes in the country, is way more than just a collection of the most expensive properties on the market today. Of course, they're expensive, but the properties that made our list, like the 63-acre private estate in Connecticut that has been in the same prominent family since it was built in 1902, are truly special. You'll find stunning oceanfront properties in unique areas of the country made the list as well as an additional 10 properties we've posted online.

So we hope you enjoy the beautiful homes, boats, and summer fun captured in this issue. And we hope you get a chance to relax and make memories with family and friends at your beach house this summer. If your beach house is anything like ours, the memories you'll make (like going out for ice cream in our powder blue 1967 Lincoln Continental convertible pictured above) will be priceless. 01H

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WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU
Send your ideas and comments to editor@oceanhomemag.com or visit oceanhomemag.com.
ARTFUL ACCOMMODATIONS

CELEBRATE SUMMER AT ANY OF THESE CLASSIC, QUIRKY, AND EXCLUSIVE NANTUCKET HOTELS

words by Bill Springer
The lawn at The Wauwinet on the east end of the Island is not the only place to watch the sunset on Nantucket. But with its classic wooden lounge chairs and close proximity to Truppers Bar and Restaurant, it may just be the best.
THE WAUWINET
No other island reveres and revels in its history quite like Nantucket. And no other hotel on the island is quite like The Wauwinet, which has been attracting vacationers to its special stretch of sand between the Head of the Harbor and the open Atlantic since 1875.

Of course, The Wauwinet has had a few upgrades since then. But one thing hasn’t changed: guests come for the lawn, the beach, the dock, the dining, and most of all to unwind away from the hustle and bustle of town.

In addition to the genuine warmth of the attentive staff, highlights from my first stay at this special hotel earlier this season include: seeing wild deer on the lawn while drinking my morning coffee on the porch, running for miles along the utterly uninhabited beach out to Great Point Light, and eating a fabulous dinner at Topper’s restaurant.

There’s no shortage of sailboats, bicycles, and stand-up paddleboards for those who want to get some exercise, but cruising around the harbor on the Lady Wauwinet with Captain Rob and relaxing on the lawn can be pretty transformative too. wauwinet.com

WHITE ELEPHANT
Simply put, the White Elephant hotel is a Nantucket institution. It has over 60 luxurious rooms and suites but doesn’t feel big. It’s close to town, has stunning views of the harbor, and its spa and the Brant Point Grill restaurant are top notch. But as I found out for myself recently, select guests also get to enjoy a unique driving experience. Thanks to a long-running partnership between Nantucket Island Resorts and BMW, select guests of the White Elephant, White Elephant Village, and the Wauwinet receive complimentary use of a brand-new BMW for the length of their stay.

The fleet of available cars includes large 7 Series sedans, hybrid X5s, and the all-electric i3. All guests at the White Elephant and White Elephant Village have access to a courtesy BMW car service for jaunts in and around town. But when it comes to classic top down cruising out to Sconset and beyond, nothing compares to the fun of driving the 6 Series convertible in the the fleet. whiteelephanthotel.com, whiteelephantvillage.com

CLIFFSIDE BEACH CLUB
Independently owned and operated by the Currie family since 1958, the Cliffside Beach Club is a one-of-a-kind Nantucket retreat that’s a boutique hotel and private beach club combined. That means in addition to its 22 rooms and suites that are right on the beach, Cliffside
also has a spa, café/bar, and a pool that are only open to members and guests. Situated only a mile from town, it's just close enough for guests to enjoy the shops, restaurants, and quaint cobblestone streets but far enough away to unwind in the peace and quiet of an oceanfront room. cliffsidebeach.com

GREYDON HOUSE
On an island known for its history, Greydon House stands out because it's so new...well, sort of. The original building was built for one of Nantucket's many master mariners in 1850, and the current hotel stayed true to this original aesthetic but also underwent a massive renovation that spared no expense. The result is a "new" boutique hotel offering 18 sophisticated in-town rooms and suites and a restaurant. greydonhouse.com

THE SUMMER HOUSE COTTAGES
Located in the historic village of Sconset, the timelessly elegant Summer House Cottages are almost too cute to be true. When you really need to unwind, there is nothing more soothing than the Summer Houses' simple stand-alone cottages, ocean beach, heated fresh water pool, and lively Beachside Bistro nestled into a dune just below the bluff. summerhousecottages.com

NANTUCKET HOTEL + RESORT
The Nantucket Hotel & Resort is an all-season, full-service resort that really does have something for everyone. Of course, it offers upscale accommodations (rooms, suites, and cottages), killer spa services, two heated swimming pools (one for kids and one for laps), kid-friendly programs, and impeccable service. But it's also a prime location for weddings, meetings, and events. Meanwhile, the new "Nantucket Supper Club" held in their Grand Ballroom features a changing lineup of live bands and a three-course fine dining menu, cocktails, and dancing. thenantuckethotel.com

Clockwise from top left: Cliffside Beach Club, Greydon House, The Summer House Cottages, and Nantucket Hotel + Resort