



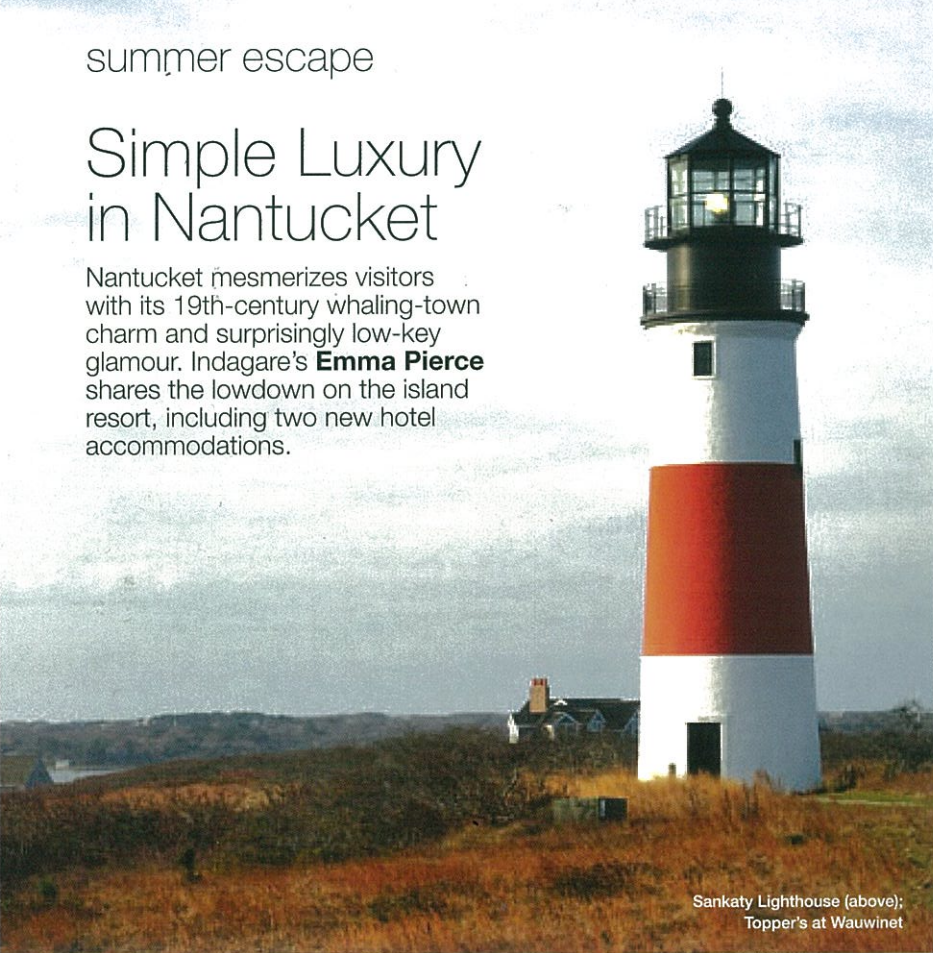
Indagare®

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Spain: Madrid, Andalusia & the Balearic Islands

Simple Luxury in Nantucket

Nantucket mesmerizes visitors with its 19th-century whaling-town charm and surprisingly low-key glamour. Indagare's **Emma Pierce** shares the lowdown on the island resort, including two new hotel accommodations.



Sankaty Lighthouse (above);
Topper's at Wauwinet



During the summer, the population of Nantucket swells from around 10,000 to around 50,000. They are all there to revel in the island's windswept elegance. Just fourteen miles long and three and a half miles wide, diminutive Nantucket is not much different today from the way it was during its heyday as one of the East Coast's whaling capitals. In particular, the town of Nantucket, with its white church steeples and mansions with widow's walks, looks much like the setting described by Herman Melville in *Moby-Dick*, which was

partially set there. The rest of the island is made up of windblown moors and sprawling cranberry bogs, plus miles of sandy beaches, nearly all of which are open to the public.

Where to Stay

To maximize time spent shopping and dining—two of Nantucket's biggest draws—visitors should stay in or just outside Nantucket town.

For a girls' trip: 76 Main

Despite its location on Nantucket's main thoroughfare, 76 Main is far enough removed from the crowds to provide a

chic retreat. With only twenty uniquely appointed rooms, it is a true boutique option, with all the charm of a small property. The outdoor courtyard is an attractive gathering space in the evening, and the small café serves freshly baked treats throughout the day. When its sister property, 21 Broad, opens this month, guests will be able to use its spa facility. **Who Should Stay:** The hotel is a good fit for low-maintenance couples or a group of friends looking to stay close to the island's best shopping and dining. *76 Main St.; 508-228-2533*



privacy. *19 N. Water St.*; 508-228-1500

For romance:

Wauwinet

There's something refreshingly uncomplicated about this gray-shingled hotel that is located on Nantucket's northern sliver of sand. No two of the thirty-two rooms are alike, and the on-site spa and the restaurant, **Topper's**, are so good that guests can, and often do, go a whole stay without venturing into town.

Who Should Stay: Couples looking for a private seaside escape that seems out of a time gone by. *120 Wauwinet Rd.*; 508-228-0145

For classic Nantucket:

White Elephant Hotel

The White Elephant's luminous sixty-six rooms (including suites and cottages), most with views of the bobbing boats docked in the harbor, are decorated in an understated nautical design scheme that's both appropriate to the setting and luxurious in its details. Although the hotel is traditional, it offers two stylish apartment-like lofts in the center of downtown, one of which comes with its own BMW. Overlooking the harbor but away from the bustle of town, the White Elephant has long been a favorite

with generations of visitors.

Who Should Stay: Those looking for traditionally luxurious accommodations and a hotel feel. *50 Easton St.*; 508-228-2500

Where to Eat

Like many East Coast resort towns, Nantucket offers an abundance of seafood and spots serving a mean lobster roll. The island is also teeming with fine-dining restaurants that provide visitors with unforgettable meals.

American Seasons

Just a few blocks beyond Nantucket's downtown fringe, American Seasons has the air of a longtime classic but the cuisine of a hip new spot. Foodies delight in the farm-to-table dishes, and its wine list of more than 500 titles makes American Seasons the perfect spot for a romantic evening. *80 Centre St.*; 508-228-7111

Black-Eyed Susan's

There's no easy way to get into this island favorite—reservations are accepted only for dinner—but visitors accept that lining up in front of the unassuming restaurant is part of the experience. The hearty breakfast, served until 1 P.M., is the most popular. *10 India St.*; 508-325-0308

For a family getaway:

Residences at the White Elephant Village

Sporting a modern look, with blue-and-white or red-and-white décor and airy living rooms, the one-, two- and three-bedroom residences each have a kitchenette, fireplace, washer/dryer and über-luxurious accents. The heated outdoor pool is a hit with guests of all ages, and although it has no restaurant or spa, guests can use those at the White Elephant Hotel.

Who Should Stay: Couples and families who appreciate a self-contained space and



Charcuterie at
American Seasons

Juice Bar

Patrons queue for delicious homemade ice cream and sorbets at this island classic. For the ultimate indulgence, get an ice-cream sandwich or try one of the fragrant house-made waffle cones. *12 Broad St.; 508-228-5799*

Òran Mór

Chef Chris Freeman made big news when he left Topper's to take over this romantic restaurant. Occupying the second floor of a historic house, Òran Mór has a diverse menu, a cozy bar and a lovely back dining room overlooking the garden. *2 S. Beach St.; 508-228-8655*

The Pearl

This island institution offers

a classic yet innovative dining experience. Serving coastal cuisine with an Asian twist, the Pearl is known for its salt and pepper wok-fried lobster. *12 Federal St.; 508-228-9701*

Topper's

The restaurant of the Wauwinet, Topper's remains at the top of the Nantucket dining scene. The innovative menu is mostly a riff on French cuisine, and the restaurant offers a shuttle from Nantucket Harbor. *120 Wauwinet Rd.; 508-228-8768*

Something Natural

The lunch standby prepares delicious sandwiches on tasty homemade bread. *50 Cliff Rd.; 508-228-0504*

Read More...

This report is an excerpt of Indagare's Nantucket coverage. Many more recommendations and reviews, including restaurants, shops and activities, can be found at Indagare.com. For help planning a trip, contact the Bookings Team: 212-988-2611 or bookings@indagare.com.

Island Style

Nantucket town is a wonderful place in which to hunt for unique finds. A word of advice: bring an extra bag or leave some room in your luggage.

Christopher's Home Furnishings

Filled with sumptuous items for the home—and overseen by a staff of interior designers who know their field—Christopher's may be more fun for people who are redoing their houses on the island, but browsing the chic collection can also turn up whimsical finds. *8 Washington St.; 508-325-0714*

Gypsy

Serious fashionistas will be in heaven at this emporium, which stocks a well-edited collection of creations from Lanvin, Thakoon and Isabel Marant. *20 Federal St.; 508-228-4404*

Nantucket Bookworks

This family-friendly independent bookstore has a carefully chosen selection, including numerous titles about Nantucket. There is also a delightful choice of stationery and cards. *25 Broad St.; 508-228-4000*

Parchment

With its exquisite handmade paper, stationery and cards, Parchment would be right at home on Paris's Left Bank. *11 Washington St.; 508-228-4110*

Peter Beaton Hat Studio

Sophisticated preppers have been scooping up the latest in hat fashion here since the store opened in 1996. Its signature straw hats are custom tailored and are packed up in chic black-and-white boxes. *16.5 Federal St.; 508-228-8456*