

# WORD OF MOUTH

THE DESTINATION ISLANDS HAVING A MOMENT RIGHT NOW. EDITED BY ERIN FLORIO

## THREHOMEGROWNHEROES

THE L.A. WEEKENDER

### CATALINA ISLAND, CALIFORNIA

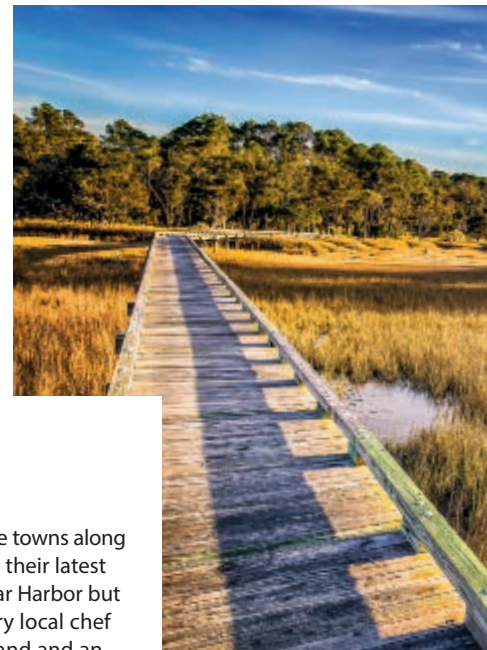
Los Angeles and gridlock are virtually synonymous. But in Avalon, a hamlet of 4,000 people on Catalina, built a hundred years ago by chewing gum magnate William Wrigley Jr., you're more likely to find yourself riding in a golf cart (there's a 25-year wait list for a vehicle permit). Or take an ATV tour through the rugged interior with the hopes of spotting the island's herd of wild bison. Many Angelenos, who on a clear day can see the green- and yellow-grass-covered speck 30 miles off the coast, think of Catalina as little more than a place where Boy Scouts go camping and rich people dock their sailboats. But this year brings new reasons to catch the 60-minute ferry from Long Beach. In August the seaside Hotel Atwater reopened after a restoration that brought back much of the familial character Wrigley imbued it with in 1920, when he hoped to turn Catalina into a world-class holiday destination. Sweet rooms have beds in corals and teal and cozy comforters, while the lobby holds

Wrigley family albums and heirlooms. Nearby, the Catalina Island Museum has an exhibition devoted to the tycoon's influence. You can also head around to the coast to dive with bat rays or zip-line through a lush canyon—though for all of Catalina's natural beauty, there are still reminders of Hollywood's proximity: Avalon is home to one of the first talkie theaters, where Cecil B. DeMille hosted lavish preview parties, and the Art Deco rotunda Catalina Casino, where Benny Goodman's big band played in the 1930s. Even those bison have silver-screen cachet; rumor has it that they're descended from a few menacing extras who broke free from the set of the 1925 Western *The Vanishing American*. MAXWELL WILLIAMS

PHOTOGRAPH: SAMANTHA HALL PHOTOGRAPHY

PAVALON BAY, AT CALIFORNIA'S CATALINA ISLAND

## WORD OF MOUTH



### THE FOODIE FIX

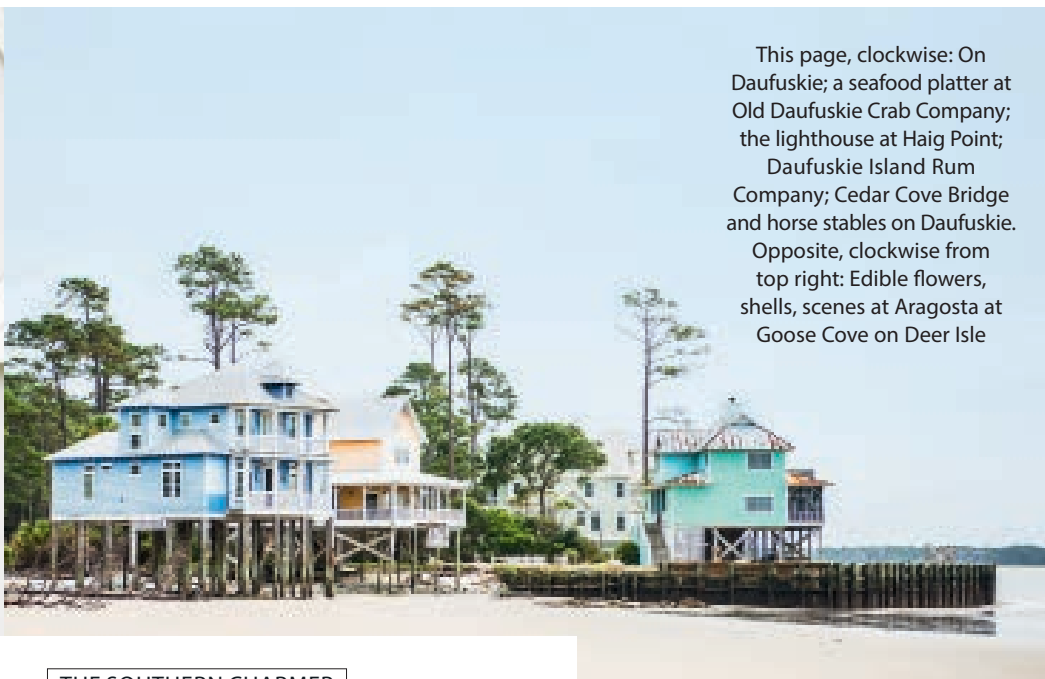
#### DEER ISLE, MAINE

Culinary pilgrims have been trooping to sleepy little towns along Maine's mid coast for several decades now, and their latest destination is Deer Isle, about an hour south of Bar Harbor but with none of the tourist razzle-dazzle. In January local chef Devin Finigan bought 21 acres of coast-front land and an abandoned old hotel, then spent the better part of the year transforming it all into the instantly classic Aragosta at Goose Cove. There are 11 snug cottages looking toward the Atlantic, but the selling point is the dreamy restaurant. It's local in ethos:

The salt on the little tables comes from the seawater just outside, the duck from Bagaduce Farm in Brooksville; and the Maine organic-farming legend Eliot Coleman might pop in to drop off the carrots as you tuck into Finigan's sublime lobster casoncelli. The cooking style is more relaxed down the road at four-month-old Fin & Fern, with its steamy bowls of mussels in tomato broth and excellent clam chowder. All the ingredients are here for the next New England epicurean capital, which may be why Ryan McCaskey of the two-Michelin-starred Acadia in Chicago recently set up his second restaurant, Acadia House Provisions, on the island. Fittingly, it's in the space that was home to Finigan's former restaurant before she closed to restart at Goose Cove. MELISSA COLEMAN







This page, clockwise: On Daufuskie; a seafood platter at Old Daufuskie Crab Company; the lighthouse at Haig Point; Daufuskie Island Rum Company; Cedar Cove Bridge and horse stables on Daufuskie. Opposite, clockwise from top right: Edible flowers, shells, scenes at Aragosta at Goose Cove on Deer Isle

## THE SOUTHERN CHARMER

### DAUFUSKIE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Though it's just 14 miles from Savannah as the crow flies and one nautical mile from Hilton Head, laid-back Daufuskie knows nothing of those destinations' crowds. On this pine-dense island there are no stoplights or hospitals. Only 400 people reside within its eight square miles, roughly a quarter of them Gullah—descendants of African slaves who toiled on Low Country plantations. One is Sallie Ann Robinson, a cookbook author and tour guide who takes visitors to the old schoolhouse referenced in Pat Conroy's enduring autobiographical novel *The Water Is Wide* (Robinson was the inspiration for Ethel, one of the fictional students). She also drives guests down bumpy dirt roads to show them restored Gullah shotgun homes, some of which now serve as vacation rentals. Those aren't the only historic places to sleep on Daufuskie—there's the 1873 Haig Point Lighthouse and the 1910 Strachan Mansion—and late next year two brand-new cottages will open to the public at Haig Point, a residential and golf community. Also opening in 2020 is Daufuskie's fourth restaurant, a yet-to-be-named reboot of Marshside Mama's, which recently closed after a 21-year run. It'll join favorites like Old Daufuskie Crab Company, an open-air seafood joint famous for its deviled crab. Don't leave before horseback riding on the beach, keeping an eye out for bottlenose dolphins somersaulting above the waves. Toast your trail ride with drinks at the Sportsman's Lodge, a preppy new gathering spot debuting next year. ALLISON WEISS ENTREKIN

