

TRAVEL + LEISURE



Nantucket

Corsica

Alaska

New Zealand

Escapes

Spain

Greek Islands

Mexico



Probably because I live in one of the most urbanized environments on the planet—New York City—in the summertime when the temperature rises there are few things that appeal to me more than getting out of town, closer to nature, to places where nothing matters so much as sunny skies and cool breezes. Of course, there is a long tradition of “summering” like this the world over, even if most of us no longer decamp for an entire season. It’s in that spirit that we’ve devoted this issue to places that are all about natural beauty, lazier rhythms, and the kind of ease that feels just right to us right now.

Michael Paterniti discovers the wilder side of one of the Mediterranean’s most intriguing islands, Corsica (page 72); Kevin West savors the creative food culture of New Zealand, built on some of the world’s purest and freshest produce (page 80); Simon Dumenco dives in to the still laid-back but increasingly high-powered summer scene on Nantucket (page 88);



while Sophy Roberts explores wide-open spaces where few have ever tread in Alaska’s remote Wrangell-St. Elias National Park (page 32). And don’t miss Aria Beth Sloss’s loving tribute to something so many of us cherish: the summer place of our childhoods (page 40).

As for me, at the time of this writing my summer plans still aren’t entirely set—I love the adventure of a last-minute jaunt—and the stories here serve as a reminder that there are so many great escapes out there, both familiar and not, just waiting to be experienced. What will yours be?

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From My Travels

Late last summer I had the good fortune of finding one of my new favorite summer getaways, the much-lauded **Ocean House** in Watch Hill, Rhode Island. A full-scale reconstruction of a 19th-century property that once stood on this site (it had fallen into disrepair and was deemed unsalvageable in 2003), the Relais & Châteaux resort has all the feel of a grand old seaside hotel, set on 13 landscaped acres fronting a lovely stretch of private beach. Although there’s fine creative cuisine, an excellent spa, and zippy Mercedes-Benz convertibles you can borrow for a jaunt up to Newport, to me the great fun of the place was indulging in the simpler pleasures of simpler times: croquet and squash, cocktails on the porch, curling up with a book on a wicker chair amid the voluptuous blooms of hydrangeas. Rooms are fresh and bright and eminently comfortable; I stayed in one of the Signature suites, the Morgan (*above left*), a showstopper duplex done up in the style of a vintage motor yacht. oceanhouseri.com; *doubles from \$1,145.*