

June/July 2013

Southern Cheese
Beyond Pimento

On the Hunt For
Everglades Outlaws

A Very Stylish
Delta Hideout

GARDEN & GUN

JUNE/JULY 2013

SOUL of the SOUTH

Perfect Summer Weekends

25 Getaways, Small Towns, Hidden Beaches, and Back Road Adventures

Jason
Isbell's
Next
Act

A Fly
New
Bonefish
Lodge

Take
Flight in a
Vintage
Crop
Duster

Relaxing
at the Moorings,
in Islamorada,
Florida

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GARDENANDGUN.COM

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a straw hat and a light-colored poncho with orange and white vertical stripes, stands on a wooden dock. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. In the background, there is a body of water, a small thatched-roof structure, and an American flag flying on a pole. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

News from...

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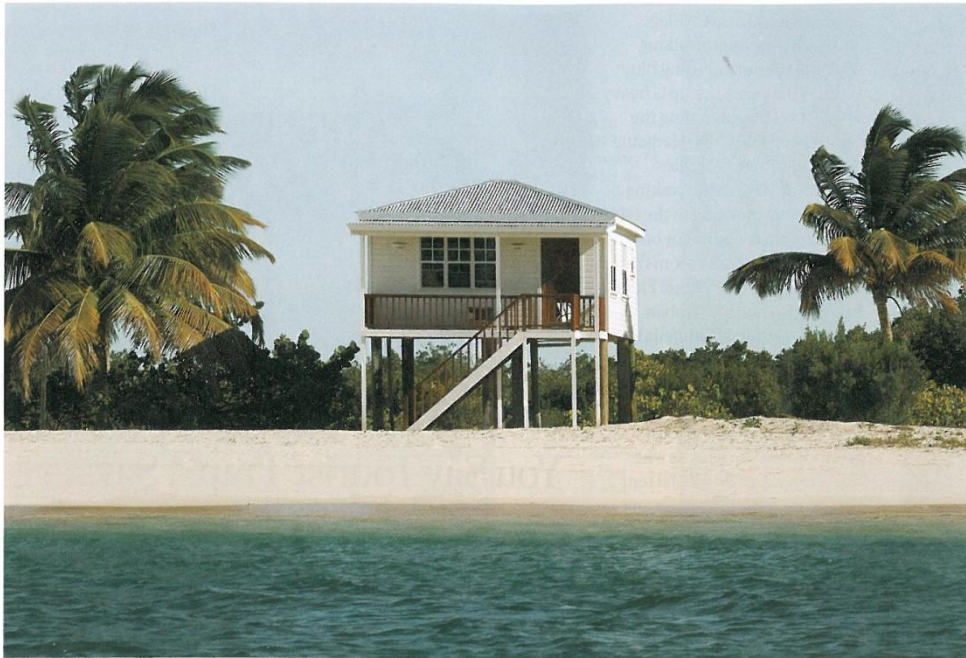
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**TROPICAL
RETREAT**

The Blue Charlotte plantation house, on the grounds of the Moorings Village & Spa in Islamorada, Florida.

Summer Escapes

Shoot skeet over the ocean at an offshore hotel. Paddle downriver to a hidden tree house. Take in bird dog trials and a pint of Guinness in the English countryside. Our travel guide is packed with fourteen unforgettable adventures—one for each weekend from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Plus: Southern beaches, warm-weather towns, and one very special tourist trap. **Start packing**



**PLAYING
CASTAWAY**

Left: Barbuda's North Beach cottages are a low-key alternative to the typical Caribbean resort.

**SHELL
SEEKERS**

Right: Shooters take aim over the marsh at Sea Island's sporting clays course.

temperatures hovering between 72 and 83 degrees.

► **WHAT TO EXPECT:** Strictly speaking, you won't really have the isolated and beachy West Indies island of Barbuda all to yourself; it'll just feel that way. North Beach is an enclave of five spartan cottages clustered on a remote, breezy peninsula ten sandy miles from the island's only real town, Codrington, and cooled only by steady trade winds, with turquoise warm-water shallows, untrammelled strand, and enough peace and quiet to cure whatever may ail you, and fast. All meals (think lots of fresh-caught lobster) and cocktails are provided on-site in the screened-in hut that passes for a dining room. A few kayaks and Sunfish sailboats await, should an adventurous mood strike, and you're likely to spot

sea turtles and stingrays just offshore, plus the occasional wandering donkey. The rest is up to you. Need a concierge, a hot stone massage, or four-star pampering? Book elsewhere.

► **TYPICAL DAY:** Indulge in a morning of aimless beachcombing, keeping an eye out for messages in washed-ashore bottles, a Barbudan specialty. After lunch—curried conch, maybe, washed down with rum punch—paddle over to the nearby mangrove estuary to spot juvenile game fish, or, if you're feeling energetic, out to the island's Frigate Bird Sanctuary, where a thriving colony of the angular, slightly pterodactyl-looking creatures swoop to snatch unlucky fish from the sea. Back at North Beach: another rum punch at dusk? Why not.

► **GETTING THERE:** First, book

a flight to Antigua. (A few major airlines, including American and Delta, offer either direct or connecting flights there.) From there, take a twenty-minute flight or a ninety-minute ferry ride to Barbuda, where you'll be just a twenty-minute boat ride away from North Beach.

barbudanorthbeach.com

11.

Shotgun Camp

**Sea Island
Shooting
School**

Sea Island, Georgia

► **WHEN TO GO:** Avoid the summer holidays if you want to

beat the crowds.

► **WHAT TO EXPECT:** Shots have been flying at the site of the Sea Island Shooting School since 1929, the year after Sea Island resort opened. Today, the sporting outfit is one of the most comprehensive in the South, offering skeet, trap, and five-stand shooting, as well as a ten-station sporting clays course tucked into the marsh just a golf-cart ride away. Four full-time instructors, the most junior of whom has been with the school for fourteen years, specialize in introducing beginners to proper form and shooting technique. Customized one-on-one and group lessons cater to all ages and skill levels: While adults can practice on the five-stand course, younger guests learn the basics on an air-rifle range that is one of the most consistently

popular youth attractions at Sea Island. "Parents come in all the time and tell me that it's all their kids have been talking about for the past year," says director of outdoor pursuits Jon Kent.

► **TYPICAL DAY:** Whether you're a seasoned pro or coming in for your first lesson, you'll need to call ahead and make an appointment. Lessons start at \$100 an hour, but the details and dura-

tion are up to you. Outfitted with state-of-the-art Beretta and Caesar Guerini guns, you can learn to hit your first clay pigeon, walk the course with friends, or shoot five-stand until your shoulder is sore. And, this being Sea Island, you can head straight to the spa for a massage—or to the beach for some cooling off—just as soon as you're done.

► **GETTING THERE:** While

the shooting school is one of the few facilities at Sea Island that is open to nonguests, it is conveniently located just a five-minute bike ride from the Cloister, the resort's flagship hotel. Fly into the Brunswick or Jacksonville airport (roughly twenty and seventy miles away, respectively) and take either a rental car or a prearranged shuttle to Sea Island. seaisland.com

12.

Hill Country Outpost

Sinya on Lone Man Creek

Wimberley, Texas

► **WHEN TO GO:** Texas is hot and sticky come August, but the evening breezes blow cool at Sinya, a collection of safari-style tents in the lush Hill Country.

► **WHAT TO EXPECT:** Communing with nature isn't always comfortable. But at four-year-old Sinya, inspired by owner Lynn Gallimore's travels in Africa, hikers, bird-watchers, and those looking to rough it in style can indulge their inner Hemingway, then scrub up in a refreshing outdoor shower. Or better yet, just relax on the veranda hammock with a glass of chilled Vermentino pressed from local grapes.

► **TYPICAL DAY:** Spend the morning admiring the eponymous creek, which wends through the five-acre retreat, or head down to the water for a dip. Sinya's hiking guests have found shards associated with the Native tribes who lived along the banks, but adventurers with an eye for more contemporary artifacts will want to make the quick trip to the First Saturday Market, a hotbed of collectibles and tchotchkes all mixed up in hundreds of booths. Since there's no restaurant at Sinya, you'll need to stock up on meal provisions as well. After a stop at Linda's Fine Foods for Whole Foods-style prepared salads and sides, head to Bella Vista Ranch for olives and homegrown oils to round out an open-air picnic back at the tent. If the water's



photograph by SULLY SULLIVAN