

October/November 2013

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# GARDEN & GUN

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2013

SOUL of the SOUTH

## Great Southern Homes

From the Perfect Porch to the Ultimate Party Kitchen,  
Step Inside the South's Finest Spaces

A modern  
river cottage on  
Folms Island,  
South Carolina

Alabama's  
Bird Dog  
Wizard

Madeira:  
The South's  
Original  
Libation

Sea Island's  
New Quail  
Lodge

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## Second Shot

Sea Island resurrects one of the South's earliest hunt clubs

by JED PORTMAN

THE SEA ISLAND SHOOTING PRESERVE was a 50,000-acre stretch of palmettos, pines, and wide-open fields when Bill Jones sold it in 1942. The founder of the nearby resort Sea Island, which was on wobbly ground following the Great Depression, Jones needed money to keep his business afloat. At the time, a pair of paper companies were more than happy to take the property off his hands.

In the mid-1990s, Sea Island CEO Bill Jones III heard that those companies were selling off some of their holdings, including pieces of the land that had belonged to his grandfather five decades before. And so he began purchasing and reconstructing the preserve. "They'd been logging it," Jones says, "but it was still beautiful land." He cleared fields, built food plots, and intro-

duced a strict management plan aimed at reducing feral hog populations and boosting those of white-tailed deer. He erected a lodge and kennels. And last November, 5,800 acres carved from the old property reopened to the public as the Broadfield sporting club and lodge.

Broadfield is a hunting compound straight from Jones's fantasies. It includes a five-stand, a rifle and pistol range, and two lakes stocked with bass and bream. There is a walk-in cooler for keeping game and a smokehouse for cooking it. Chef Jordan Potest, pulled from the main resort, oversees beehives, a chicken coop, and a substantial organic garden—all of which supply the kitchens at Broadfield and Sea Island's seven restaurants.

The Main House at Broadfield, which sleeps eight, is available for nightly rental, as is the smaller guesthouse, which sleeps four. Both come with Potest's full-time services. A small number of Broadfield mem-



berships, which include exclusive rights to deer, turkey, and dove hunting, are available each year. Most of Broadfield's visitors, however, are Sea Island guests who come out for a day, or a half day, to hunt. They come during the fall and winter to enjoy Broadfield's five hundred acres of quail habitat, traversing the old logging roads in open buggies. Or they come for the Continental-style pheasant shoots, scheduled about twice a month. Post-hunt, guests can take their birds back to the resort, where chefs will cook them to order.

What separates the retreat from most any other bird-hunting spot in the South is the falconry program. Guests don't just watch the birds fly. They pursue squirrel with Harris's hawks, quail with goshawks, and pheasant with peregrine falcons that come crashing down on their prey at speeds as high as 250 miles per hour. "I think of it as extreme bird-watching," says Jon Kent, Sea Island's director of outdoor pursuits.

The wealth of options on this patch of land in southern Georgia means that whether you're looking to hunt, to practice your shooting, or to watch others—predatory birds, maybe—do the hunting for you, you're likely to find something that suits your fancy. "It's all up to you," Kent says. "You tell us what you want to do while you're here, and we make it happen." 🦅

### ON THE MARK

Clockwise from left: Broadfield's Trophy Room; inside the Trophy Room; club manager Lee Barber and Rowan on foot and in a Bird Buggy.

## THE SOUTHERN AGENDA



### KEEPING SCORE

Georgia native Davis Love III plays host to some of golf's greats during his annual McGladrey Classic.

## Georgia

ON PAR

Sports fans know Davis Love III as a big-time professional golfer. He is also a hunter, fisherman, and barbecue connoisseur who is happiest on Sea Island among the palmettos and live oaks. The golfer's **McGladrey Classic** (November 4–10), held on neighboring St. Simons Island's Seaside Course, recalls the smaller, more relaxed golf tournaments of years past. With a limited number of tickets available, fans have the opportunity to get right up close to some of the best golfers in the world. And if ocean views and top-notch play aren't enough, consider the eats, including barbecue from Love's buddies at the popular local joint Southern Soul.

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