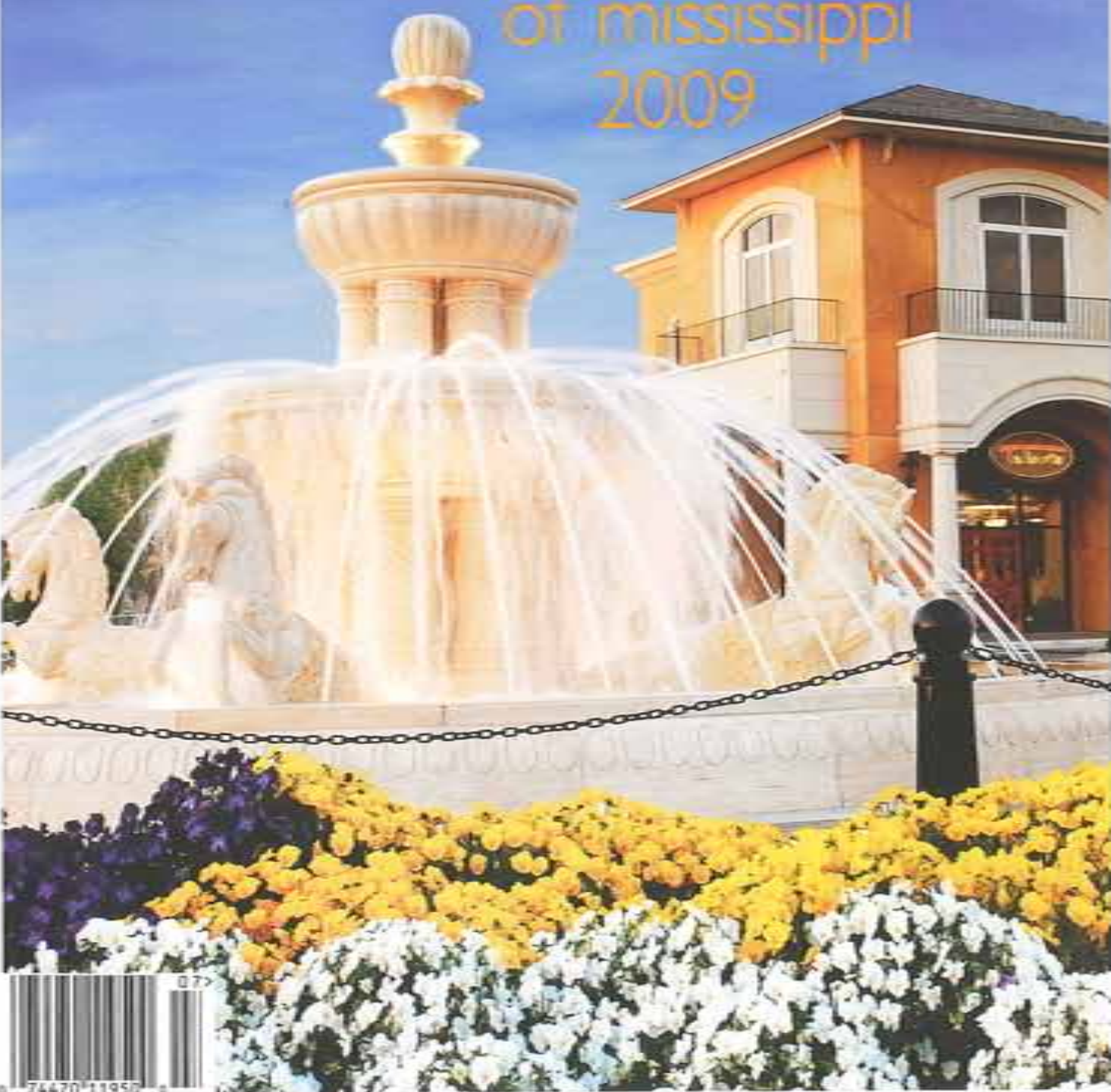


MISSISSIPPI

BEST
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2009



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ROSEMARY BEACH, 32461

A short drive from Mississippi, amidst wild rosemary, lies the perfect beach destination for the whole family.



by melanie m. ward photography by bonnie dickerson

Past the hustle and bustle of Destin, Florida, and just on the outskirts of Panama City Beach is the sweet life of Rosemary. Entering the city limits of Rosemary Beach, your senses are instantly captured by the tranquil sounds of waves, eclectic European and West Indies architecture, and the smell of lush wild rosemary.

For beach-seeking Mississippians, Rosemary is well worth the extra drive, and whether you are 8 or 80, you will easily surrender to the laid-back lifestyle that envelops you.

You won't find hermit crabs for a dollar and water-park kingdoms here. This place is special, and it invites you to settle in, turn off your cell phone, and pretend you are a local.

Rosemary Beach was established in 1995, and the entire town was orchestrated around the environment that surrounds it—there are strategic vista points throughout the

development and nine perfectly placed boardwalks leading you to the Gulf. The town, constructed of natural materials, was designed to be a "walking town," and all of the town's vital components are located within a five-minute walk.

Accommodations in Rosemary run the gamut. The *Penshore* is an affordable 11-room European-style bed and breakfast, and opening soon is *Hotel Saba*, a chic boutique-hotel. Rosemary also boasts studio lofts, carriage houses, and cottages ranging from 400 to 5,000 square feet—all enticing options for your getaway. Rental rates begin at \$150 per night (seasonal), and whether you are a couple looking for a romantic weekend or a large family needing a home for 10, you are certain to find the perfect fit.

A stay in Rosemary, like a stay in a luxury hotel, affords you such four-star amenities as concierge services, 3beds



toiletries, stocked Voss water and coffee setups, tennis and fitness facilities, and free DVD rentals.

But luxury amenities are just one of the delights of Rosemary Beach. Town activities are scheduled throughout the year, providing enjoyment for the entire family. Easter weekend activities, car shows, and Bocce tournaments are just a few of the annual events, and during the summer, things really swing into high gear. May through July, during the second full weekend of each month, visitors can enjoy the West Indies Market, and other scheduled activities include "Rock the Block" parties, and "Moonlight and Movies" on the green.

During the Fourth of July, the town pulls out all the stops. Rosemary beach residents and guests enjoy a bike parade, family field day events, a concert, barbeque, and fireworks.

If you are looking for less organized entertainment, you can always enjoy time on one of the fast-dry clay courts, at one of the four heated pools, or in the fitness center. And a trip to Solace, the town spa, is a treat.

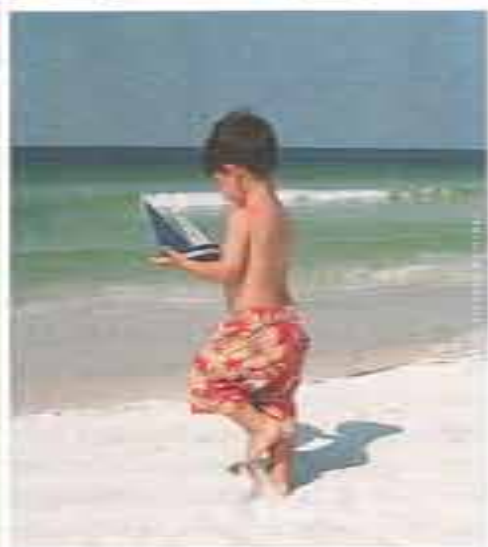
Families with children will delight in the many options that abound. In addition to the town-planned family activities, there is Camp Rosemary. Memorial Day through August 14th, camp is in session, and the camp's "Chief Play Officer" Kate Price runs an unmatched children's program. With a PhD in recreation and 23-plus years of experience, Price makes sure that only college students work with the campers and that the ratio of staff to children never exceeds 10 to 1.

"I only hire college juniors and seniors that need credit towards a degree in recreation. This is what sets us apart. I am teaching at the collegiate level in a real world setting," shares Price.

Price loves what she does, and it shows. "We are all about getting messy, having really great fun. We are all about creating that 'aha!' moment. We want kids to say things like, 'Wow! I can't believe I got to paint a real dead fish and stamp it on a shirt!'" exclaims Price.

Monday through Friday children can "go to camp" during the day for a nominal fee, and on Wednesdays and Fridays, parents can opt for "Kids Night Out" where children enjoy dinner, activities, and excursions. "The philosophy behind the program is 'do something that your parents won't let you do at home.' Wild, wacky, and zany is fine. You won't find anyone babysitting here," states Price.

With so many activities to keep you busy, you will work up an appetite. But don't look in Rosemary for your favorite fast food or retail chain. They aren't allowed. What you will find is an exceptional array of "mom and pop" businesses to appease your every whim. Children of all ages converge daily on The Sugar Shak where they delight in ice cream, shaved-ice, made-to-order cotton candy, and every other sugary treat their hearts desire. Even Fido can find handmade decorated cookies here. Remember to bring cash—credit cards are not accepted at the Shak, and asking a child to put back her yard



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Town building codes maintain Rosemary's feel for the West Indies and European architecture. The Town Hall and Post Office are regular stops for residents. The Fessenden Bed & Breakfast is located at the end of the town's main thoroughfare. The interior of Canal-Park Cottage—available for rent—is a relaxing mix of cool colors. The emerald green waters and white sand beaches are one reason visitors flock here throughout the year. Children at Camp Rosemary get a little wild, wacky, and zany. All of the homes in the town are built around the many boardwalks. Nine boardwalks run through the town—each leading to the Gulf's sandy white beaches.

of bubble gum usually doesn't end well.

Dining out options include everything from upscale gourmet to burgers and fries. Restaurant Paradis is the newest addition to Rosemary's restaurants. The owner of Sandestin's Bistro Bijoux is the brains and owner behind this fine dining sensation.

Looking for more casual dining? Stop in Cowgirl Kitchen, where they will rustle up a fantastic pizza, salad, or sandwich. If you can't stay, prepared dips and casseroles are available to take home. Other fantastic dining options include the Italian-inspired Onano Neighborhood Café (one block from the beach), Wild Olives for tapas or quick bites to go, and Summer Kitchen for the area's recently awarded "Best Burger."

Don't miss Mississippian Bryan Krutz's Courtyard. His fondue, selection of cheese plates, and meats make the perfect afternoon snack after a long day on the beach. Krutz purchased the business, formerly known as Medusa Rouge, and took over in April of 2005.

"My parents bought here in 1999, and with my folks buying a place, it ultimately brought my wife and me to Rosemary Beach," states Krutz.

"In 2003, after three years of vacationing here, it got to be our favorite hangout," he continues. "One night during a conversation with the previous owner the idea to purchase the business came up." Since taking over, Krutz has expanded the space and added a more developed menu.

Shopping opportunities are around every corner in Rosemary. Krutz's wife Cindy, a Columbus native, co-owns Willow Chic Boutique, a high-end women's clothing store, with Celia Roberts. The pair met while working together in Destin, and they just celebrated the store's second anniversary.

Walk into MoonPie and you will hear a distinct Louisiana accent from owner Donna Pelous. MoonPie is shoe heaven, and with each purchase Pelous throws in a complimentary MoonPie. Parents and children alike will enjoy a trip to Gigi's Fabulous Kids' Fashions and Toys. If the train circling the ceiling doesn't enthrall them, then the well-stocked toy department will definitely entertain them. The selection of funky children's clothing will have kids outfitted in style.

Many other shopping delights include Pish Posh Patchouli, an apothecary boutique where you can create custom fragrances; Tracery Interiors, with unique home furnishings and accessories; and the Rosemary Beach Trading Company for all of your logo-wear needs.

Take the short drive from the Magnolia State, move in for a while, and get to know your new neighbors in Rosemary. You won't find prettier beaches, and the whole family will feel like they are home.

ROSEMARY BEACH

restaurants



Cowgirl Kitchen

Not in the mood to utilize the kitchen while on vacation? Mosey into Cowgirl Kitchen, where you can find prepared dips, spreads, casseroles, and more for easy snacks and dinners. Cowgirl serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner, including a healthy mix of sandwiches, salads, and soups. Don't forget about their pizzas—the Fancy Cowgirl is made of white sauce, portobellas, feta, and truffle oil. Call 850.393.0788 or visit www.cowgirlkitchen.net.



Summer Kitchen Café

Rosemary's original restaurant is now a metamorphosis of itself. What started out in a little red shack has become a bigger and better version. Summer Kitchen is the place to grab a quick bite breakfast, lunch, or dinner. If you are looking for the best burger in South Walton County (they are the recent recipients of this title), then this is the place. The daytime fare is more traditional while the evening menu is more formal. Visit www.theskcafe.com or call 850.231.6264.



Wild Olives Market-Deli-Bakery

Forgotten necessities, a worldly selection of bottled waters, and delicious bakery items might draw you here at some point during your stay, but their traditional tapes menu, sandwiches, and pizzas will have you stopping by for a meal. With a vast array of grab-and-go items, this is a fantastic stop on the way to the beach. Visit www.wildolivesmarket.com or call 850.231.0665.



Onano Neighborhood Café

Located on the bottom floor of the Pensione Bed and Breakfast, you will find a delightful neighborhood café. The restaurant's Northern Italian cuisine is served breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Enjoy their Cloppino, Lobster Ravioli, and other classic Italian dishes in the dining room or outside where you can hear the gentle roll of the gulf waves. Call 850.231.2436 or visit www.onanocafe.com.



Restaurant Paradis

Newly opened, Paradis has a posh décor that is superbly complemented by its menu. Dine on Tempura Lobster Rolls, French Escargot, and Ahi Tuna, but don't forget dessert. The Key Lime Crepes are delectable and the perfect ending to an exceptional meal. Visit www.restaurantparadis.com or call 850.534.0400.



The Sugar Shack

The best place for sugary treats near the sugar-white sands of the gulf. Stop in for fresh-squeezed lemonade, shaved ice, ice cream, and candy galore. Kids will delight in watching their made-to-order cotton candy being spun. Call 850.231.3655, www.sugarshak.com.



Courtyard

Mississippian owned, this old-world artisan cheese shop features all of the necessary trimmings for the perfect beach picnic or alfresco dining. A vast selection of cured meats, cheeses, breads, and oils can be found here. Dining out? Grab a seat in the courtyard, and the Brie and Smoked Bacon Fondue will tempt your appetite. Occasionally, you can even enjoy live music while you dine. Call 850.231.1219 or visit www.courtyardwineandcheese.com.

ROSEMARY BEACH

shopping



Willow Chic Boutique

Owned by Cindy Krutz of Columbus and Celia Roberts, this upscale women's clothier features brands like Tory Burch, Milly, Velvet, and more. Visit www.willowchicboutique.com or call 850.231.0433.



World Six Studio Gallery

Unique acrylic art sculptures by Justin Gaffrey can be found in his on-site studio. Call 850.267.0038.



Gigi's Fabulous Kids' Fashions & Toys

Funky, fun, and trendy children's clothing can be found amidst the infinite selection of toys, books, costumes, and more. Visit www.gigisfabkids.com or call 850.231.0110.



Moonpize

Anyone with a shoe fetish will believe Moonpize is paradise. A unique and comprehensive selection of handbags and footwear is available. Call 850.231.1930.



Rosemary Beach Trading Company

This centrally-located store offers frames for your new beach photos, t-shirts, tumblers, and other logo-wear. Call 850.231.2410.



Fish Posh Patchouli's

At this apothecary boutique, you will find everything from luxury hair care to customized fragrances. Call 850.231.2005 or visit www.patchoulis.com.



Tracery Interiors

Simple furnishings with old world character are perfect for your beach home or your Mississippi home. Visit www.traceryinteriors.com or call 850.231.6755.



Bamboo Beach & Bicycle Company

While at Rosemary, outfit the family with bikes to tool around the town. Rentals begin at \$20. Forgot your sunscreen or need a boogie board? This is the place! Call 850.231.0770. ●

FOR MORE
INFORMATION REGARDING

Rosemary Beach, Florida

OR VISIT US AT www.rosemarybeach.com

Camp Rosemary

With your first-time visit, you'll discover a beautiful, small beach community with a variety of amenities and services. Call 850.231.0770 for more information.