

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

By Diane Bair and Pamela Wright

GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

“And what are you celebrating?” asked the crewmember of Rum Runner II, on our “Lighthouses & Mimosas” cruise of Newport Harbor. “Umm, life?” was our response. “We’re having a mother-daughter getaway.” Nearly everyone else on our cruise was part of a bachelorette party, as evidenced by the matching personalized tank tops (“Kaley’s Crew! No champagne, no gain”), and eagerness to refill those mimosa glasses.

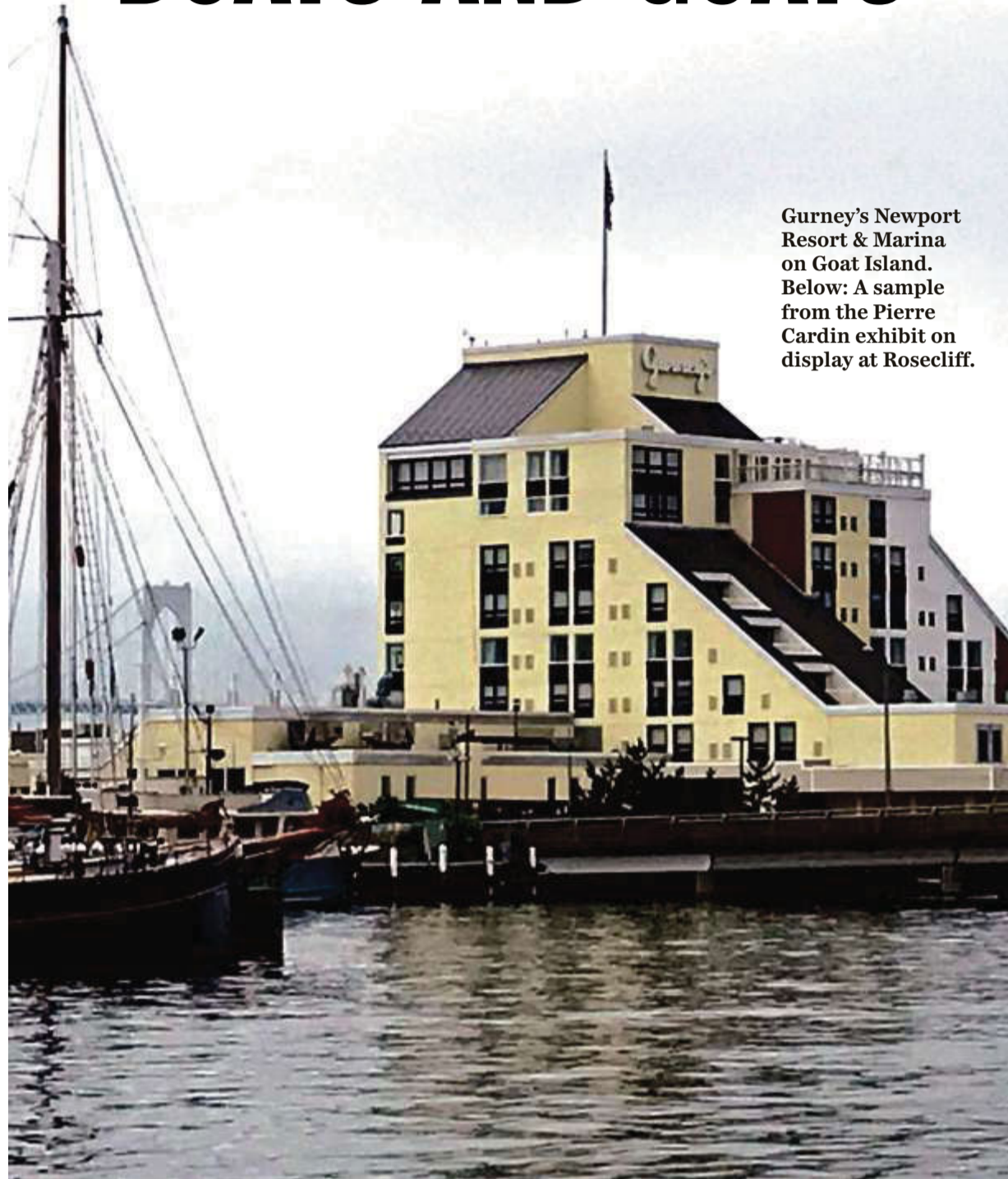
If you’re planning any kind of girls getaway, Newport is a great fit. This Rhode Island seaport is chock-a-block with boutiques, outdoor dining and drinking options, fun ways to get out on the water, a variety of tours (from history walks to haunted hotspots), mansions, and museums (we saw a Pierre Cardin exhibit at Rosecliff mansion), and opportunities to learn to sail and stand-up paddle. For that essential grab-and-go, sweet-and-salty snack: chocolate-covered pretzels at Kilwins on Thames Street.

A fun, waterfront base for these adventures: the recently launched Gurney’s Newport Resort & Marina on Goat Island. A sister property to Gurney’s Montauk in the Hamptons, Gurney’s Newport occupies the site of the former Hyatt Regency on the island — the quirky spot that looks like a giant brick pyramid rising out of Narragansett Bay (but was meant to resemble a sailboat, we’re told.) The reincarnated hotel will be open year-round, and it has undergone an \$18 million renovation. Those red bricks? They’ve been painted mellow yellow, and the design scheme is crisp and nautical, with a coastal color palette that allows the island locale to reign supreme. Nearly all of the 257 rooms and suites have a water view of Newport Harbor or Narragansett Bay. There’s also a lot of function space here, so don’t be surprised if you encounter bridal parties.

Public spaces also take advantage of the resort’s 10 acres of undisturbed views. The Regent Cocktail Club offers indoor and outdoor, three-level deck seating, clustered around 11 fire pits, a fabulous place to watch the sunset. Adirondack chairs overlook the bay and the picturesque Jamestown-Verrazano Bridge. Gurney’s fine-dining restaurant, the neo-Italian Scarpetta, has window seating along the water as well. You might know this one; there’s a Scarpetta at Gurney’s Montauk and a handful of other locations. You’ll definitely get a coconut-scented whiff of Gurney’s Montauk at The Pineapple Club, the poolside bar and restaurant; bedecked with day beds and music courtesy of a poolside DJ, it has the scene-y feel of its sibling resort. (Lots of couples and girlfriend groups, no

CHECK-IN

A GETAWAY AMID BOATS AND GOATS



Gurney’s Newport Resort & Marina on Goat Island. Below: A sample from the Pierre Cardin exhibit on display at Rosecliff.

PHOTOS BY DIANE BAIR FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

kids — maybe all the small fry were ensconced in the resort’s Kid’s Club.)

But the icing on the cake (or the chocolate on the pretzel) is the transportation. Parking in downtown Newport can be tricky (some lots give you only three hours) and pricey. We used the self-parking lot at Gurney’s (\$20 per night), and spent the rest of the weekend using their complimentary shuttle service. (A water shuttle operates from May through October, and Porsche house cars cover the other months.) Shuttles run frequently; the other option is to walk into town, over the causeway, probably 15 minutes at most.

Feeling flush? Take a chartered helicopter or yacht from Gurney’s Newport and pop over to the Montauk property. Rather sail yourself? Put on some Top-Siders and enroll in a sailing or cruising course at the onsite sailing school. Then you can join the yacht-y types who arrive to Goat Island by boat; Gurney’s Newport has a 22-slip marina that can accommodate vessels from small tenders to 125-foot watercraft.

About that name: Goat Island has a storied history that includes goat-grazing habitat and a munitions factory. Here’s hoping there’s nothing remaining of the later; as for the former, the property has two goats, Cornelius and William, who live in a replica of Newport’s Marble House mansion. (William Vanderbilt once owned Marble House, and Cornelius Vanderbilt built the Breakers.) Because, why not, it’s Newport!

Plan your girls’ getaway after Labor Day, and snag a rate of around \$299 per night (not bad for Newport.) Summer weekend rates begin at \$499. September is a great time to visit since the weather is typically lovely but the day-tripping crowds have thinned. Bring your mother, your daughter, your BFFs. Just please skip the matching tank tops, or if you can’t resist, at least make it a classy slogan.

GURNEY’S NEWPORT RESORT & MARINA

1 Goat Island, Newport, R.I.; 401-849-2600; www.gurneysnewport.com. Rates from \$299. For things to do and see in Newport, visit www.discovernewport.org.

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HERE

EGGS-CELLENT MUSIC AND FOOD FESTIVAL

Get ready for a rollicking good time at the 2nd annual Festival at the Farm, a weekend-long community celebration with live music, food and drinks, and experiences for all ages (Sept. 16-17, 1 p.m.-10:30 p.m.). Taking place at historic Prowse Farm in Canton, a 44-acre property at the gateway to the Blue Hills Reservation, the festival will feature two stages of nationally known artists alongside some of Boston’s best local acts, including the Wood Brothers, Martin Sexton Trio, and Session Americana. Enjoy yummy bites from locally-sourced food vendors, culinary workshops from local chefs, on-site farmers market, hands-on games, face-painting and caricatures, magic shows, family-festival yoga, craft vendor marketplace, and more. Presented by Pete and Gerry’s Organic Eggs, the festival includes all-day breakfast — with eggs, of course! Adult single-day \$45; adult two-day \$75; VIP \$110/\$200; ages 6-12, \$15; ages 5 and under, free. www.festivalatthefarm.com

ORLEANS WEEKEND CELEBRATES WATER



Learn about Cape Cod’s bays, ponds, lakes, marshes, creeks and beaches at Celebrate Our Waters weekend (Sept. 15-17). Organized by Orleans Pond Coalition Inc., the event promotes awareness and appreciation of the area’s water with more than 50 free family-friendly events and activities, including paddle boarding, kayaking, sailing, sand sculptures, nature walks, talks, tours, model sailboats, and a beach bonfire. www.orleanspondcoalition.org. As part of the festivities, Pier to Plate — a program launched by the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen’s Alliance to create demand for two types of “under-loved” fish, dogfish and skate — is hosting a one-hour event at the Corner Store in Orleans on Sunday, 2:30 p.m. Alliance members will speak about sustainable fishing, and store owner Steve Delenoardis will offer tasty samples from his menu that use Pier to Plate locally caught skate. www.piertoplate.org

THERE

LUXURY LODGE OPENS IN RWANDA

Who says wilderness trekking needs to be uncomfortable? Lovers of remote and spectacular landscapes — and so-

phisticated architectural design — may want to check out Bisate Lodge, a new premier camp in Wilderness Safaris’ catalog. Situated within the amphitheater of an eroded volcanic cone, next to the renowned Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda, Bisate’s six forest villas offer a luxurious base from which to enjoy morning gorilla treks, and an on-site indigenous reforestation project. Each villa’s spherical, thatched structure has a bedroom, reception area, and bathroom, all warmed by a central fireplace, and private deck with sweeping views of Karisimbi, Bisoke, and Mikeno volcanoes. The all-inclusive rate includes accommodations, all meals, drinks (excludes premium brands and champagne), complimentary in-room welcome massage, on-property guided activities, such as nature and birding walks, nursery visit and indigenous tree planting, vegetable picking at organic fields, sundowners with views of the volcanoes, and more. All bookings are through Wilderness Safaris’ partner and ground handler in Rwanda, Thousand Hills Africa. Seasonal rates, per person, per night, from \$1,100. www.wilderness-safaris.com/camps/bisate-lodge



ART AND HISTORY SHINE AT PERUVIAN HOTEL RENOVATION

Just in time to celebrate its 90th anniversary, the Country Club Lima Hotel unveils a redesign of its 80-plus rooms and suites, and elegant on-site Perroquet Restaurant, a five-time winner of the Summum Prize, a Peruvian version of Michelin. The beloved historic hotel, built in 1927 in the prestigious San Isidro neighborhood, combines architectural charm with modern comforts and technology. What makes the renovation interesting, especially to history and art aficionados, is that the hotel is decorated with more than 300 pieces of art and colonial furniture on loan from the Pedro de Osma Museum. Amenities include spa, gym, pool, business center, and exclusive agreement with the Lima Golf Club. Starting rates from \$215 per night. www.hotelcountry.com

EVERYWHERE

CAMO-STYLE WIRELESS SPEAKERS

Experience powerful sound in camouflage street-style with STORM Weatherproof wireless speakers. The palm-size, outdoor sport wireless Bluetooth speakers are easy to pack for beach, camping and other outdoor trips. Ad-

heres to IP67 protection standards, allowing it to work in rain or snow. The speaker’s 5W output of power delivers a full range of sound. Includes up to 8 hours playback time; charge and play in 3 hours via micro-USB port. If accidentally dropped in water, the speaker will float. Limited edition camouflage colors include Green Stealth, Blue Force and Red Desert. \$49.99. www.soulelectronics.com/products/storm-portable-waterproof-bluetooth-speaker?variant=24914452099

JUST SAY NAMASTE

It’s not easy to maintain an exercise regimen while on the road. CorePower Yoga, an intensely physical workout rooted in the mindfulness of yoga, is offering a new mobile app that aims to help travelers stay fit. Club members can download the app, and use it to locate a class at more than 170 studios in 20 states and 103 cities. Allows easy check-in with mobile scan card; and access to studio maps, hours and parking information. In addition to its five Boston-area studios, CorePower Yoga is opening two new venues in the Fenway and Seaport neighborhoods. www.corepoweryoga.com/content/mobile-app

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