

THE SOFT SIDE OF ALASKA: WHERE TO RELAX AND RECHARGE

COASTAL LIVING[®]

THE NEW SIMPLICITY

The best beach style from Florida, California, Mexico, and more!



DREAM KITCHENS
How to get our favorite looks

plus
23 FEEL-GOOD GETAWAYS

MARCH 2010



The inn sits above some of the few sandy beaches in the state.

Gasparilla Inn & Club

Boca Grande, Florida

Claim to fame: One of the largest surviving historic resort hotels in the state, Gasparilla Inn & Club epitomizes old-time Florida. Until recently it had never advertised, but the resort has been frequented by every swell from Henry Ford to the Rockefellers.

Then and now: The gleaming property recently made it through a top-to-bottom refreshment by West Palm Beach design firm Kemble Interiors. The 140 rooms, suites, and cottages are invitingly decorated in crisp, cool colors. The Beach Club has a spa, beauty salon, and casual dining room.

Restaurant redux: The splashy green and white Main Dining Room offers such fare as potato-crust local grouper drizzled with lobster sauce, and herbed rack of lamb with boursin-rosemary polenta.

When to go: The inn opens October 22 and closes June 27. (A few cottages are available for rent in summer.) Rooms from \$245; 800/996-1913 or gasparillainn.com 🌴

Black Point Inn *Scarborough, Maine*

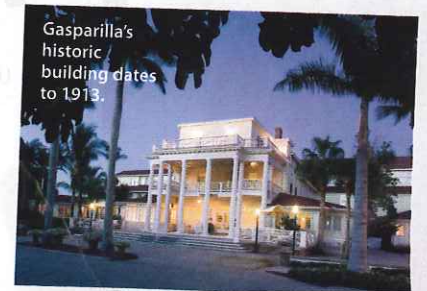
Claim to fame: Surrounded by water on three sides and overlooking pretty beaches, the Black Point Inn sprawls along Prout's Neck south of Portland. Immortalized by Winslow Homer, whose studio was steps away, the rocky peninsula and its beloved hostelry have been a summer destination since 1878.

Then and now: Removing two unsightly, 1950s motel-like wings and rehabbing all accommodations have brought the 25-room building back to its original beauty.

Restaurant redux: Two refreshed dining rooms include The Point, which is white tablecloth formal for dinner, and the Chart Room on the "sunset side" for more casual meals. The classic coastal fare includes fresh local fish and lobster, as well as berries picked on a nearby farm. Don't miss the peekytoe crab and homemade chowders.

Shore bets: Save an hour for the breathtaking Cliff Walk above the sea. Stop by Homer's studio, picnic at Ferry State Park, play golf, or grab a rocker and watch boats scuttle by.

When to go: Open from Mother's Day weekend through late October. Rooms from \$250 per person (includes breakfast and dinner); 207/883-2500 or blackpointinn.com



Gasparilla's historic building dates to 1913.

La Valencia

La Jolla, California

Claim to fame: Local architect Reginald Johnson integrated the fine elements of Spanish architecture in the hotel's Mediterranean design, and the place became a hideout for glittering stars from Greta Garbo to Groucho Marx.

Then and now: A recent refreshment has updated all 113 rooms, suites, and villas.

Restaurant redux: Note the beautifully restored mural in the Whaling Bar, and sample light fare in The Mediterranean Room and Tropical Patio. In the Sky Room, light California cuisine is served at just 10 tables with 180-degree Pacific views.

Shore bets: Explore the town's tempting boutiques, art galleries, and restaurants. Black's Beach is best for strolling, while Windansea Beach is great for surfing.

When to go: Whenever you can! Weather's mostly wonderful year-round. Rooms from \$275; 800/451-0772 or lavalencia.com



Views extend over lush gardens to the Pacific.



La Valencia opened as an apartment hotel in 1926.



The Beach Club pool

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY OF BLACK POINT INN, GASPARILLA INN & CLUB, AND LA VALENCIA