

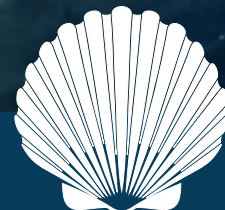
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**MORE NEW TROLL SCULPTURES
BY THOMAS DAMBO
4 WAYS TO BIKE SOUTH COUNTY
6 WINERIES & VINEYARDS TO EXPLORE**

**10 PLACES TO
DINE BY THE SEA
10 WAYS TO GET
ON THE WATER**

FOR THE WATER LOVERS

**6 THINGS TO DO WITH KIDS
5 UNIQUE STAYS
5 SCENIC HIKES**



**SOUTH COUNTY
RHODE ISLAND**

President's Note

FLOAT MAGAZINE - ISSUE 6

Dear Visitors,

There's a certain feeling that washes over you the moment you arrive in South County. Your shoulders relax. Your breathing slows. The pace of everyday life seems to fade away.

Maybe it's the salty sea air drifting in from our 100 miles of coastline. Maybe it's the quiet beauty of our forests, nature trails, and wildlife preserves. Or perhaps it's simply the fact that here, there's room to breathe, room to explore, and room to reconnect with what matters most.

No matter the reason, South County has a way of making you feel at ease.

This year brings even more reasons to visit. We're thrilled to welcome two additional troll sculptures by renowned Danish recycle artist Thomas Dambo. These whimsical giants have taken up residence in Arcadia and North Kingstown, inviting visitors of all ages to discover them hidden among the natural landscape. Arriving this summer and fall to Ninigret Park will be a series of bronze sculptures by British-Australian artists Gillie and Marc.

Nature lovers will find plenty to explore beyond the trolls. South County's forests and preserves offer miles of scenic trails, abundant wildlife, and unforgettable views. If you're looking for inspiration, be sure to check out our guide to the region's most scenic hikes and picturesque photo locations.



Cover photo by Tandem

Inside cover photo: Patty J by Stacey Doyle

FLOAT MAGAZINE - ISSUE 6

As the sun goes down, another natural wonder awaits. Did you know that Charlestown boasts the darkest stretch of night sky between Boston and New York City? Every Friday evening, Frosty Drew Observatory welcomes visitors for stargazing. Standing beneath a sky filled with stars is a reminder of just how small we are in this giant universe.

Of course, no South County visit would be complete without spending time on the water. With 20 public beaches and endless opportunities for kayaking, paddleboarding, surfing, sailing, and more, getting out on the water is part of the South County experience. Whether you're looking for adventure or relaxation, you'll find both here.

And after a day of exploring, there may be no better reward than enjoying fresh local seafood overlooking the ocean. From waterfront restaurants to locally harvested oysters and farm-fresh produce, South County's dining scene celebrates the best of land and sea.

Inside this issue, you'll also find ideas for biking adventures, winery visits, seasonal events, new attractions, and plenty of ways to make the most of your time here.

While summer draws visitors from near and far, I encourage you to experience South County in the fall as well. The ocean often remains warm enough for swimming right into October. The quieter pace of autumn reveals a side of South County that many locals consider their favorite season of all.

Whether you're visiting for the first time or returning to a place you already love, I hope these pages inspire your next adventure.

We'll see you in South County.

Warm regards,

Louise D. Bishop

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Louise D. Bishop".

President, South County Tourism Council





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Welcome to

South County

South County is the southernmost region of Rhode Island and, in many ways, the reason Rhode Island proudly carries the nickname “The Ocean State.” With more than 100 miles of coastline, 20 public beaches, miles of hiking and biking trails, pristine waterways, and vast protected forests, South County is a destination where nature takes center stage.

Outdoor enthusiasts will find endless opportunities to explore. Hike or bike through lush forests and wildlife preserves that stretch toward the sea. Paddle quiet salt ponds and inland waterways that lead to hidden coves and secluded sandbars. Watch migratory birds as they travel along the Atlantic Flyway, or spend the day relaxing on some of New England’s most beautiful beaches. Whether your idea of adventure is kayaking at sunrise or strolling along a windswept shoreline, South County offers a landscape that invites exploration in every season.

South County is made up of eleven distinctive towns, each with its own character, history, and attractions.

In Coventry, history comes alive. The town is home to the homestead of General Nathanael Greene, the youngest major general and second-in-command to George Washington during the Revolutionary War. Visitors can tour Greene’s restored homestead or enjoy the scenic Coventry Greenway and Trestle Trail, which extend toward Connecticut.

Neighboring West Greenwich is a sportsman’s paradise, where nearly 80 percent of the landscape is woodland. Outdoor adventures range from horseback riding and camping at Stepping Stone Ranch to fishing, hiking, and rock climbing throughout the region’s rugged natural areas.

East Greenwich has earned a reputation as Southern Rhode Island’s dining destination. Its vibrant Main Street features an impressive collection of restaurants, boutiques, and bridal shops, while attractions such as the Varnum Memorial Armory, Varnum House Museum, and New England Wireless and Steam Museum preserve the area’s rich heritage.

In North Kingstown, visitors are drawn to the historic waterfront hamlet known as Wickford Village. Frequently recognized among America’s best Main Streets, Wickford is beloved for its charming shops, waterfront dining, seasonal festivals, and picturesque holiday displays.

Rural Exeter is home to the expansive Arcadia Management Area, a 14,000-acre outdoor recreation area offering hiking, camping, fishing, boating, and stunning autumn foliage. Families also enjoy skiing, snowboarding and snow tubing at Yawgoo Valley Ski Area – the only ski area in the state – and cultural experiences at the Tomaquag Museum.

Known as Rhode Island’s best-kept secret, Charlestown boasts miles of unspoiled beaches and natural beauty. Visitors can explore the whimsical Fantastic Umbrella Factory, with its bamboo forest, artisan shops, and greenhouses. Giant trolls by renowned recycle artist Thomas Dambo await to greet those who trek through Ninigret Park. Paranormal enthusiasts and history buffs alike will thrill when visiting or staying at The General Stanton Inn.

South Kingstown combines scenic beaches, working farms, and historic villages. Downtown Wakefield, situated along the revitalized Saugatucket River, offers unique shopping, dining, and a welcoming small-town atmosphere.

Recognized for having some of the finest beaches in the Northeast, Narragansett is one of South County’s most iconic destinations. The landmark Towers stand as a reminder of the town’s Victorian-era grandeur, while nearby Galilee serves as one of New England’s busiest commercial fishing ports and the gateway to Block Island.

In Hopkinton, visitors enjoy golf, paddling, fishing, and wildlife viewing along the beautiful Wood-Pawcatuck watershed. The town is also home to Long and Ell Ponds, Rhode Island’s only designated National Natural Landmarks.

Richmond offers rolling countryside, excellent golf courses, and outdoor recreation. It is also home to The Preserve Sporting Club & Residences, a luxury sporting destination featuring accommodations, dining, golf, shooting sports, a world-class spa, and magical hobbit houses.

At Rhode Island’s southwestern corner lies Westerly, home to the beloved seaside communities of Watch Hill, Weekapaug and Misquamicut. Historic downtown Westerly, anchored by the beautiful Wilcox Park, has been recognized as one of the nation’s most distinctive destinations. Enjoy fine dining and live music or movies at the revitalized United Theatre. Nearby Watch Hill offers stunning beaches, boutique shopping, waterfront dining, and timeless coastal charm. It’s also home to South County’s Forbes triple five star rated hotel, the Ocean House.

Together, these eleven towns create a destination unlike any other in New England – a place where history, nature, culture, and the ocean come together. Whether you come for the beaches, the trails, the food, the wildlife, or simply the slower pace of life, South County offers an authentic Rhode Island experience that keeps visitors returning year after year.



New & Notable

See what's new in South County since the last time you visited!

There are new places to stay such as Shayna's Place B&B, new places to dine like Birch & Bay, Matunuck Atelier, St. Charbel and the re-opening of old favorites, such as The Cooked Goose. Many new cafes have sprung up like Arabella's, Drift, Piccolino Provisions and new shops such as Coastal Vibe, Noon, Windy's and more. Don't miss the latest experiences and events such as the Atlantis Rising International Sand Sculpture Competition returning in June of 2027, new Thomas Dambo trolls, and new sculptures.



Westerly Museum of American Impressionism

Food & Drink

- Arabella's Coffee House
- Birch & Bay
- Back Road Creamery
- Bucket & the Bean
- Buttercup Flower & Wine Bar
- Caf Bar (Charlestown)
- The Cooked Goose (reopened after fire)
- Drift Cafe
- Finn's Harborside (reopened after fire)
- Good Days Grocery & Cafe
- Green Line Apothecary Ice Cream
- Jack's Place
- Kind Spirits
- Kristen's Kreation's Bakery
- Longshore Coffee
- Main Sail Kitchen
- Matunuck Atelier
- NY Bagels of RI

- Piccolino Provisions
- Quinn's Meltdown Cafe
- St. Charbel
- Tavern 265
- Therapy Coffee
- TNT Tacos & Tacos

Accommodations

- Shayna's Place B&B
- The Sheldon (Spring 2027)

Shops

- Bubba & Lolo's Thrift
- Coastal Vibe Boutique
- Farmgirl's Front Porch
- House of Seefari
- My Paris Maison
- Nauti Girl Boutique
- Noon Designs
- Old Mill Crossing
- The Pearl

Things to Do

- Sauna On Location
- Thomas Dambo Trolls - Two new Trolls in South County
- Westerly Museum of American Impressionism
- Zen Salt Cave



Drift Cafe, Narragansett



Matunuck Atelier

4 Ways to Bike South County



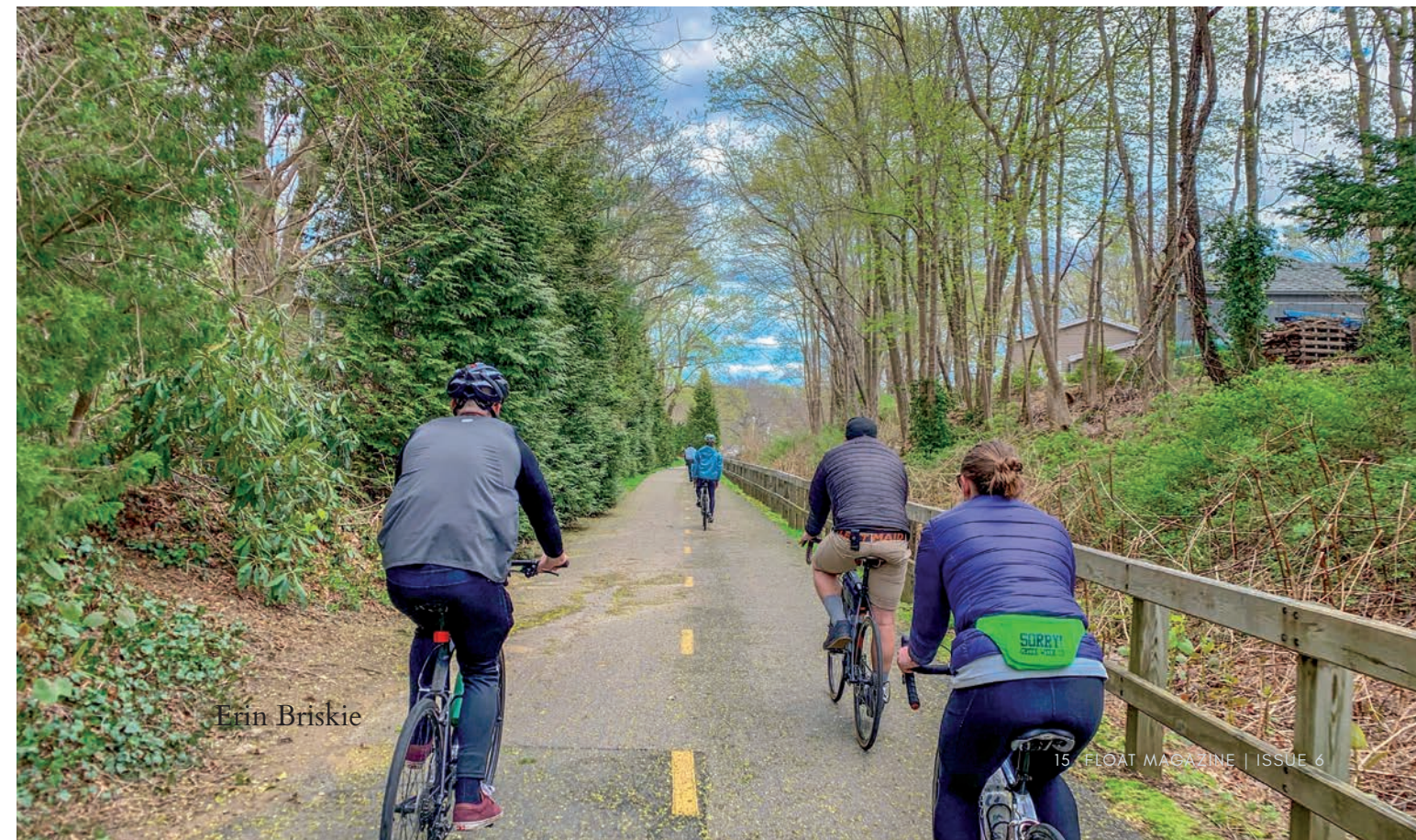
Advertisement

1. Arcadia Management Area Arguably the best mountain biking area in RI. Thirty miles, all color coded (green dot- easy, blue square -moderate and black diamond -difficult). Whether you are looking for easy riding or difficult with elevation, enter this pine forest which winds its way to the edges of pretty and secluded ponds and you will be treated to a day of beauty.

2. Coventry Greenway and Trestle Trail A converted railway, this five-mile, paved greenway is popular with many hikers and bicyclists as a great way to enjoy the outdoors. Three miles of the trail have been designated as the first Rhode Island segment of the East Coast Greenway, which will span from Maine to Florida. West Warwick line to Station Street is complete and open year-round.

3. Quonset Bike Path The path runs 2.5 miles from Route 1 (Post Road) through the Quonset Business Park to the Calf Pasture Point nature area, managed by The Town of North Kingstown. The bikeway is entirely off-road.

4. The William C. O'Neil Bike Path Formerly known as the South County Bike Path. It is located on the former Narragansett Pier railroad, which connected a collection of villages in South Kingstown, going from Kingston, south through Peace Dale and Wakefield.



Erin Briskie

5 Unique Stays

From treehouses to glamping and more - here are some of the most unique places to stay in South County.

1. Sleep in the trees

This treehouse by the sea in South Kingstown is a lofty studio that sits on the second story, up in the trees. It's peaceful, bright, and cozy, walkable to downtown Wakefield, and you can bike to the beach! Book this via AirBnB by looking up Treehouse by the Sea in South Kingstown, RI.

2. Why camp when you can glamp?

Glamp Frogmore offers two rustic retreats on 35 acres of private property adjacent to the Maxwell Mays Audubon Wildlife Refuge in Coventry, RI. The Pines sleeps up to six people and The Ferns sleeps up to four. Unplug completely while still being close to civilization. Enjoy hiking in the wildlife refuge, s'mores by your firepit as you stargaze or go for a paddle in the pond with the rowboat provided. Book your stay at glampfrogmore.com.



3. Lavender fields forever

Stay in a luxuriously rustic farm suite on a lavender farm. In season your view will be lavender fields as far as the eye can see. Meet the farm animals including Humphrey the camel and more. You can also book a lavender-inspired dinner with Chef Lauren as part of your stay. The dinner is an optional add-on. Book your stay at lavenderwavesfarm.com.

4. Stay like an influencer

South County House is a 1500 square foot home that sits on nearly an acre of land, 3/4 of a mile from the beach, bordering a forest preserve and across the street from a small family farm. It has been featured in **Vogue**, **Architectural Digest**, **Travel+Leisure** and more. Amenities include a hammock, fireplace, bathtub, outdoor shower, deck, bikes, soft-top surfboards, vintage stereo systems, a curated record collection, Tivoli bluetooth speakers and radios and more. Book South County House on airbnb.com.

5. Why not shack up?

A cozy little shack, known as the Shuck Shack located on Ninigret Pond is named for the abundance of oysters available in the pond. Bring your own boat or kayak to fully experience the salt pond and paddle out to one of the nearby beaches. Don't have a boat? You can rent one from a number of nearby marinas. Oysters can be delivered to your door courtesy of the owners, just place your order and don't forget to pick up wine to pair with them! Book the Shuck Shack on airbnb.com.

For more places to stay scan the QR Code:



SCAN ME



Photo: Erin Swain



It's amazing how just by getting out of the city, the sky opens up and you can see so many more stars. Stargazing is a favorite pastime in all of South County, but the town of Charlestown lends itself to the best stargazing around. That's because Charlestown boasts the darkest stretch of night sky between Boston and New York City.

Tucked into the 227 acre Ninigret Park which was the site of the former Naval Auxiliary Air Academy is the Frosty Drew Observatory, named for Edwin F. "Frosty" Drew, a Brown University graduate, who began his career as a writer. He soon became actively involved in major efforts to preserve and protect the natural environmental heritage of RI. He particularly worked to sustain Ninigret Park in

Charlestown, where the Frosty Drew Nature Center is located, and was instrumental in preventing the construction of a nuclear power plant in the town.

Frosty Drew Observatory welcomes visitors on Friday nights all year long. Hours change according to seasons and weather so it's best to consult their website prior to visiting. Sometimes they open for special astronomical events as they happen, such as eclipses, comets and meteors.

Visitors can expect a magical and romantic experience of stargazing under the darkest stretch of night sky within 225 miles.

Star Struck



Photo: Fredson Delgado

Charlestown, RI boasts the darkest stretch of night sky between Boston and New York City.

deep

blue

sea

10 ways to Get on the Water in South County, Rhode island

Photo: Dave Sarazen

SOUTH COUNTY, RHODE ISLAND Most visitors come in the summer and hugs the southernmost coast of the state. With a 100 miles of coastline and 20 public beaches, opportunities to get out on the water and explore abound.

Here are ten easy ways for you to make the most of your vacation no matter what time of year you visit South County. Keep in mind that the ocean never sleeps and fishing charters, boat charters and activities such as para-sailing on ice and ice fishing are happening here in the winter and are quite the experience.

there are so many ways to explore the water. Kids will enjoy learning to dig for clams and how to catch crabs in the salt ponds. Paddling out to a sandbar for a private picnic is ideal for those looking for a little romance.

Adventure seekers can dive with sharks while leisure cruisers can set sail for a tour of iconic light houses, wind farms or Block Island.

So read on and discover how you'll explore the sea in South County, Rhode Island.

1. 20 Public Beaches

Find your perfect beach whether you're looking for big waves, a quiet cove or a long stretch of sand.

2. Paddle On

Canoe, kayak or paddle board whether out in the open or ocean or on a calm salt pond or rippling river. There are many places to rent canoes, kayaks or paddle boards.

3. Hang Ten

Always wanted to learn how to surf? Take lessons! Warm Winds Surf Shop (you'll see their van at Narragansett Town Beach) offers surfing lessons for those looking to ride the waves.

4. Live Your Yacht Rock Dreams

Whether you choose a little speed boat, a family sized pontoon or a fancy yacht, you can live out your dreams of boating, by just chartering a boat for the day. Drive it yourself or rent one with a captain and sit back and enjoy.

5. Get Hooked!

The port of Galilee offers many opportunities to catch your own fish. Whether baiting squid by night or hooking bass by day, set

out to catch your own and then ask one of the nearby restaurants, like George's of Galilee to cook it up for you.

6. Island Hopping

Take a ride over to Block Island on the Ferry. It leaves daily from the port of Galilee. Go for the day or a spend a night or two on the island.

7. Go Cruising

See light houses, wind farms, whales or seals depending on the season. Several different types of cruises are available all year long. Narragansett Bay Cruises will take you to by 10 different lighthouses in Narragansett Bay. Frances Fleet will find you whales in July and August, while Fish 'n Tales Adventures and Save the Bay will take you seal watching from November to April. Wind farm tours are available via the Block Island Ferry or via private charter.

8. Set Sail

Learn to sail no matter what age you are. Lessons for kids and adults are available at Greenwich Bay Sailing Association.

9. Jet Set

We don't think there's anything more fun than jetting across the

water on jet skis. The Purple Ape in Westerly and INZ Jest Ski Rental in Narragansett will make your jet ski dreams come true. The Purple Ape also has hydro bikes for those looking for a less intense thrill.

10. Shark Bait

For extreme thrill seekers, boy do we have a treat for you! Go shark diving and get up close and personal with these creatures of the deep. Twilight and night diving are available for experienced shark divers and daytime trips are available a couple of times a month for those daring enough to try this. Marine photographers will be thrilled with the photo opps.



“Most sharks are only curious about divers and will leave them alone ... Of the 375 species worldwide, only about 30 have been identified as attacking a human.” [source: National Shark Research Consortium, Shark Attacks]



ATLANTIS RISING

South County's international sand sculpture competition, Atlantis Rising, returns to Ninigret Park. Over three days, artists from around the world compete to win cash prizes and bragging rights by sculpting works of art out of sand.

Come see what they will create in the summer of 2027 and bring the whole family! There will be food trucks, local artisan vendors, live music, sand sculpture lessons and entertainment for the kids.

Tickets will be available at the gate.



A South County wedding can be anything you dream. From beachy vibes to fairytale castles complete with soaring towers, there's an aesthetic for every couple. Have a traditional wedding at a luxury seaside resort. Prefer a venue with sweeping New England lighthouse views or a location with ocean side vistas? Maybe you'd rather opt for a rustic woodland affair - South County has it all. Did we mention we believe love is love and all are welcome here?

Keep in mind that beach weddings require permits. Before planning, visit the events tab on RIParks.com and follow the instructions for hosting an event. In order to help you plan your event, we have lists of vendors such as caterers, photographers, florists and more on our website, SouthCountyRI.com under weddings. A list of venues available for ceremonies, receptions and rehearsal dinners are also available there.

If you have questions, feel free to reach out to us at info@southcountyri.com or 401-789-4422 and we'll be happy to help you however we can to make your dream day a reality.

*From beachy vibes to fairytale castles
complete with soaring towers...*



SCAN ME

*Say
"I Do"
in
South County
Rhode Island*

Photo: Susan Sancomb

Top 10 Restaurants for Seaside Dining in South County

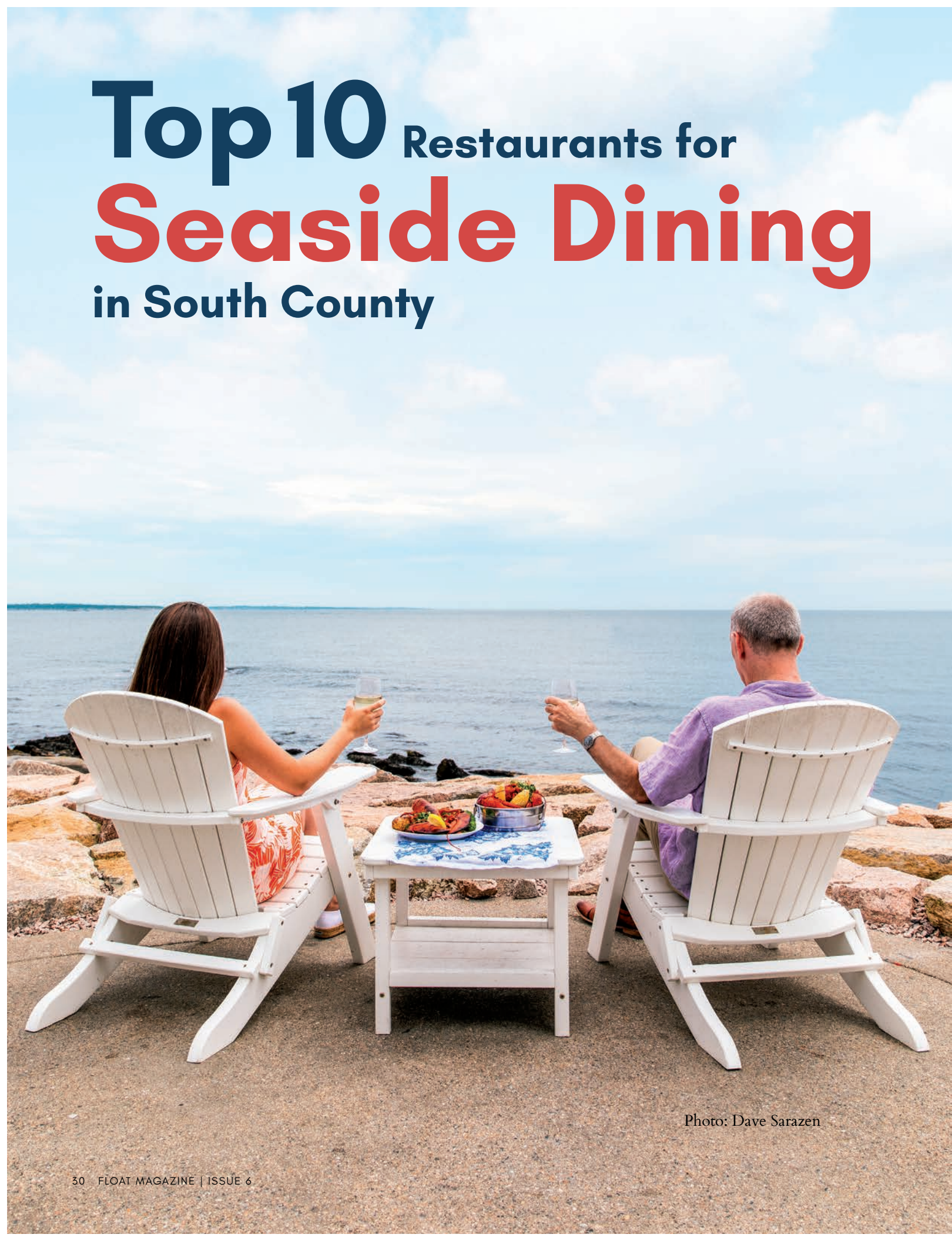
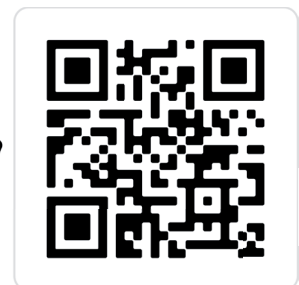


Photo: Dave Sarazen

Listed below in **alphabetical** order are the Top 10 restaurants for seaside dining in South County according to our visitors:

1. **Chair 5** in the Break Hotel in Narragansett - stunning ocean views from the rooftop deck.
2. **Coast** at Ocean House - gaze out at the ocean from this luxury hotel's fine dining restaurant.
3. **Coast Guard House** in Narragansett - breathtaking views of Narragansett Town Beach.
4. **George's of Galilee** - sit inside or outside, even right on the beach at this longtime favorite.
5. **Maria's Seaside Cafe** in Westerly - Hotel Maria's restaurant sits across from Misquamicut Beach.
6. **Matunuck Oyster Bar** in South Kingstown- technically on a salt pond, but definitely a lovely view and a visitor (and local) favorite.
7. **Paddy's Beach Club** in Westerly - dine with your toes in the sand right on Misquamicut Beach
8. **Sea Craft** in Narragansett - the restaurant inside The Shore House Inn offers ocean views from their lawn seating.
9. **Water Street Kitchen** in East Greenwich offers delicious dishes in a marine setting.
10. **Wickford on the Water** in North Kingstown - serving breakfast, lunch and dinner with a waterfront view of Wickford Harbor.

For more places to dine in South County, scan the QR Code:



SCAN ME



Photo: @brookegerman

6 Things to do with Kids



1. Atlantic Beach Park

A landmark, waterfront park with a historic carousel, rides, bars, snacks & soft-serve ice cream. Family owned and operated since 1921.

2. Biomes Marine Biology Center

Biomes is the only private marine education facility in New England. Their hands on aquarium teaches children and adults about the marine animals of Narragansett Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. It's a great activity for a rainy day.

3. Adventureland Family Fun Park

From mini golf to go karts, bumper boats and more, this fun family destination has something for all ages.

4. The Fantastic Umbrella Factory

It's not really an umbrella factory. What is it then? It's an artisan marketplace with a collection of shops selling original creations. There are gardens everywhere, including a bamboo forest for selfies for the 'gram and a collection of animals for the kids to feed and pet such as emus, ducks and chickens.

5. Living Sharks Museum

This is the first shark history museum in the country. A collection of artifacts from all over the world tell the story of the shark. The collections aim to educate from an unbiased perspective featuring exhibits of shark history, science and conservation. Admission is free.

6. South County Museum

The South County Museum has preserved the rural history of Southern Rhode Island for nearly 90 years. Eight acres house a number of buildings including a print shop, blacksmith shop, carpentry shop, exhibit hall and carriage barn. On the fourth of July every year, the official Rhode Island Red hens hatch their chicks and it's a fun experience for kids of all ages.

5 Unique Dining Experiences

1. The Maker's Mark Hobbit House at The Preserve

Nestled into hillside boulders, our two Hobbit House getaways are surrounded by lush landscapes with tree trunks incorporated into the architecture. No matter which Hobbit House you dine in, you'll feel like you've entered a magical place where a well-worn path leads you to an intricate round wooden door that swings open to reveal an intimate interior with stone floors and artfully stacked stone walls. The flicker of candlelight and charming decorative details complete this transporting experience. Whether dining for lunch or dinner, each course is thoughtfully prepared using Le Creuset, the original enameled cast iron cookware that remains an iconic tabletop style statement. Gather around a custom-designed Maker's Mark wood table—repurposed from former whisky barrels—for dinner and pairings, then unwind around the fire pit under the stars.

2. The Nordic

This is the ultimate buffet! Set in the woods, by a lovely lake, you can eat til you're feeling nappy and then go lay in a hammock and relax. Enjoy unlimited lobster, crab, prime rib, filet mignon, shrimp, oysters, appetizers, salads, fresh fruits, gourmet dessert bar and a Haagen Dazs ice cream bar. Delicious food, a full bar and amazing service in a beautiful wooded lakeside setting await.

3. The Igloos at the Cost Guard House

Dine outdoors no matter the weather! These beautifully appointed igloos look out over sweeping ocean views under the majestic Narragansett Towers and create a cozy dining experience in the off season. Each igloo has its own unique style with cozy lighting for an intimate setting. Watch snow falling on the beach from your own private igloo as you dine in style.

4. The General Stanton Inn

The restaurant and tavern at The General Stanton Inn offer diners a unique blend of New England hospitality, elevated American cuisine, and nearly three centuries of history. Originally established in 1740, the inn is considered one of the oldest operating colonial inns in America and has welcomed notable guests including George Washington, Theodore Roosevelt, and George H.W. Bush. The inn is also known for its legendary ghost stories. Guests and staff have reported encounters with the spirit of General Joseph Stanton, sightings of a young girl in period clothing, and even a mysterious ghost cat said to roam the dining rooms and hallways, making the historic tavern a favorite destination for both history buffs and paranormal enthusiasts.

5. The Olympia Tea Room

"Famous not Fancy" is their motto. This former soda shop from 1916 serves up delicious food with a unique ambiance. Husband and wife owners Jack and Marcia Felber have kept some of the original fixtures such as the bar/soda counter and added their own flair with pink walls decorated with Marcia's original art work. The restaurant offers an award-winning wine list paired with incredible views of the harbor and spectacular sunsets.



Photo

Opps

Photo: Fredson Delgado

15 Places to take stunning pictures in South County, Rhode Island

1. Narragansett Town Beach

Shoot photos of surfers riding killer waves or seals lounging on rocks.

2. The Towers

This magnificent Narragansett landmark arches over Ocean Road like a fairytale castle. It is the perfect backdrop for selfies and portraits.

3. Point Judith Lighthouse

This beacon for sailors from another time makes for stunning surfer pics,

selfies and beautifully frames the moon.

4. Black Point

The ruins of an old stone carriage house and the cliffs on this seaside hike lend themselves to striking photos.

5. Narragansett Indian Monument

Take a selfie with this 23 foot sculpture carved from a single Douglas Fir by Peter Toth. It is one of 74 in the country honoring the American Indian.

6. Shannock Falls

These small but pretty horseshoe falls in Richmond are beautiful in every season.

7. Stepstone Falls

These low falls in West Greenwich were named as the #1 falls by the Weather Channel. The Falls River cascades over gray ledges to form a picturesque landscape.

8. Kinney Azalea Gardens

These six enchanting acres of over

1000 species of azaleas and rhododendrons in South Kingstown peak in mid-May through June.

9. Napatree Point

This sandy trail to the ocean favored by hikers and bird watchers in Westerly is the best place for sunset photos.

10. Watch Hill Carousel

This is the oldest continuously operational flying horse carousel in the country. Photograph the kids as they reach for the brass ring!

11. Port of Galilee

There is no better place to capture the fishing boats, fishermen and lobstermen than this working fishing village in Narragansett.

12. Wickford Village and Harbor

This historic village in North Kingstown with its quaint shops and harbor is always picturesque but in October it's spooktacular.

13. The Fantastic Umbrella Factory

This unique spot in Charlestown is not an umbrella factory at all, but a farm with a petting zoo, cafe, a bamboo forest and lots of shops selling goods

by local artisans. Take a selfie in the bamboo forest with a sasquatch.

14. The Farmer's Daughter

This South Kingstown farm is stunning all year long, but at it's best in late summer when the dahlias are in bloom and in the fall when the pumpkins arrive.

15. Frosty Drew Observatory

Nothing beats the night sky photography at this Charlestown spot.

A Day in Watch Hill

The village of Watch Hill in Westerly, Rhode Island, has long captivated visitors with its beauty and charm. Once a lookout point during the French and Indian War, it later became a favored retreat for Gilded Age tycoons and Hollywood legends including Jean Harlow, Clark Gable, and even Albert Einstein. Today, the seaside enclave is perhaps best known as the summer home of Taylor Swift. Yet Watch Hill is much more than a sanctuary for the rich and famous. Its pristine beaches, timeless elegance, and breathtaking coastal scenery make it one of New England's most memorable destinations.

Perched on a sandy peninsula overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, Watch Hill offers sweeping views that, on a clear day, stretch all the way to Long Island and Fishers Island. The protected waters of Little Narragansett Bay shelter miles of white-sand beaches, while the historic Ocean House, first opened in 1868, remains a symbol of the village's enduring luxury.

Begin your day with a cold brew from Sift before heading toward the beach. Stroll past the historic Flying Horse Carousel, a National Historic Landmark and the nation's oldest operating flying horse carousel. Just beyond, a sandy path lined with fragrant beach roses leads to a beautiful public beach where clear, calm waters invite swimmers while gentle waves keep things playful.

After a refreshing swim and some time relaxing in the sun, make your way to Watch Hill Light. Unlike many lighthouses, it was originally built to warn local residents of approaching naval attacks rather than guide ships at sea. During the summer season, visitors can explore the small museum housed within the station.



Photo: Dave Sarazen

When lunchtime arrives, head to the historic Olympia Tea Room, which has been “famous, not fancy” for more than a century. Rumored to be one of Taylor Swift’s favorite local spots, the restaurant charms visitors with its blend of old and new. Original dark wood booths and black-and-white tile floors contrast beautifully with cheerful pink walls and a restored soda fountain turned cocktail bar. Local mussels served in a garlicky broth and a lobster salad croissant with French fries make for a quintessential coastal lunch.

The afternoon is perfect for exploring Bay Street, Watch Hill’s charming shopping district. Browse boutiques, galleries, and specialty shops offering everything from designer fashions to original artwork by local artists. Rhode Island’s exemption on original artwork purchases makes taking home a unique piece especially tempting.

No visit to Watch Hill is complete without experiencing the Ocean House. Even non-guests are welcome to enjoy the grand lobby, relax in a rocking chair on the sweeping veranda, or sip a cocktail overlooking the ocean. For a sweet treat, wander down to Below Deck for house-made gelato and warm mini donuts, or opt for a more casual ice cream cone from nearby St. Clair Annex.

Before leaving town, take a walk to Napatree Point. Just beyond the village shops, this protected wildlife refuge stretches into the sea, offering an idyllic landscape favored by birdwatchers, beachcombers, and photographers. As the sun begins to set, the sky often transforms into brilliant shades of pink, orange, and gold. With waves lapping at the shore and sea breezes drifting across the dunes, there may be no better place in Rhode Island to end a perfect day.

Watch Hill is a beautiful, luxurious day or weekend trip for beachcombing, shopping and dining.



Photo: Abby Capalbo



5 Scenic Hikes



Photo: Corey Favino

South County is full of lush forests and wildlife preserves ideal for hiking, biking and bird watching. Trails range from easy to difficult and are listed in no particular order. Some will bring you deep into the woods, while others will take you out to sea.

Here are five of the most scenic:

1. Black Point Trail

This scenic, fairly easy trail in Narragansett will lead you past the ruins of an old stone carriage house and out onto Scarborough State Beach.

2. Whale Rock Trail

This easy trail also in Narragansett is a quick walk through the woods and continues onto a beach where you will discover the remains of an old lighthouse.

3. John H. Chafee Nature Preserve

There are various loops at this North Kingstown preserve where you can spot seals in the fall and spring.



Photo: @racheloleary

4. Long Pond Trail

This is a more challenging trail in Hopkinton and is known not only for its beauty, but also from the film "Moonrise Kingdom."

5. Napa Tree Point

There is no better place to watch the sun set than this coastal trail in Westerly. This intermediate/easy trail brings you by the beach, up and down the dunes and allows for beautiful ocean views and bird watching.

For more outdoor recreation scan the QR Code:



Photo @dylan_bochichio

5 Summer Fairs and Festivals Not to Miss

Summer in South County means there are many fairs and festivals that provide fun for the whole family. Whether you're a foodie who wants to sample the local seafood, a music lover who wants to dance, or an art collector, there's a festival or fair for you.

Here are five fairs and festivals you can't miss:

1. Charlestown Seafood Festival

Named a "Top 100 Event in North America" and listed as one of 10 Best Summer Seafood Festivals in the Northeast, this festival of seafood, music and more is held the first weekend in August at Ninigret Park in Charlestown, RI.

2. Narragansett Tribe August Pow Wow

Every August, the Narragansetts open their Pow Wow up to the public. Come experience indigenous culture, food, and more.

3. Rhythm & Roots Festival

This annual music festival closes out the summer in South County over Labor Day weekend. Camping, dancing, food and various vendors make this a fun experience for everyone.



Photo: Katherine Gendreau



Photo: Seth Jacobson Photography

4. The Washington County Fair

This agricultural fair in August provides something for the whole family. See livestock, taste locally grown products, play games or go on rides. It's a great way to experience the real, local South County.

5. Wickford Art Festival

Every July since 1962 art enthusiasts travel near and far to discover some of the best fine art by renowned artists from Rhode Island, New England and across the nation while strolling through the classic seaside village of Wickford.

For more events scan the QR Code:



Photo Charlestown Chamber



Summer Lingers

Longer in South County

Faye Brown

The warmest swim

I ever had in New England was well past Labor Day, on the last day of September in South County, Rhode Island. As a born and bred New Englander from north of Boston, I'd been swimming in the chilly Atlantic waters since birth - from coastal Maine to Cape Cod. Growing up I never understood why the Rhode Island license plates declared it as "the ocean state." Until, in my late 30s, my husband-to-be brought me on a tour of Little Rhody and I spontaneously jumped into the water at Captain Roger Wheeler State Beach in Narragansett. "It's so warm!" I exclaimed. "I can't believe tomorrow is October 1st and the water is so warm." After a coastal drive around South County, I understood why Rhode Island is known as "the ocean state."

Photo @bellepoppydigital



Photo @LilaDelman

Twenty public beaches line the hundred mile coastline in South County, Rhode Island. Tucked in between them are other more secret beaches only the locals really know and those visitors who return year after year and have discovered them, either by chance or by sheer determination to find them. Look around and you'll find people exploring the water any way they can - paddling, whether by kayak, canoe or stand-up

paddle board. Paddle out to a sand bar and you have your own private oasis - perfect for a romantic picnic. Catch some live music down at the Ocean Mist in Matunuck or take the kids to the oldest continuously operated flying horse carousel in the country in the village of Watch Hill. While you're there, hike Napa Tree Point and watch the sunset.

Miles of hiking and biking trails weave their way through lush

Miles of hiking and biking trails weave their way through lush forests and wildlife preserves...

forests and wildlife preserves. In the spring and fall you might glimpse rare, migrating birds stopping for a rest on their way north or south. All year long you can see owls, eagles and other osprey. South County has so much natural beauty to take in. Hikes range from easy to difficult, woodsy to coastal. You can easily explore a new trail every day you're here.

It's New England so don't expect perfect weather every day, but even on the not so

sunny days, there's plenty to do. Brush up on history and tour one of the museums, such as the birthplace of Gilbert Stuart whose portrait of George Washington graces the dollar bill or visit the Tomaquag Museum and learn about indigenous culture from descendants of the native Narragansett tribe. In Narragansett tour the Towers - the remains of the Narragansett Pier Casino and Resort from the late 19th century. The stunning building arches across Ocean Road and is now a popular





During a storm,
when the sea is rough,
is the best time to watch
surfers ride the waves
on Narragansett
Town Beach

Photo Kristin Martino



wedding venue. During a storm,
when the waves are high is the
best time to watch surfers on
Narragansett Town Beach.

Dine on fresh, local seafood
as often as you can. At the
famous Matunuck Oyster Bar,
the oysters are harvested right
from the pond outside and the
vegetables are all organically
grown on a nearby farm. The

Coast Guard House offers
breathtaking ocean views and
fresh seafood as does George's
of Galilee.

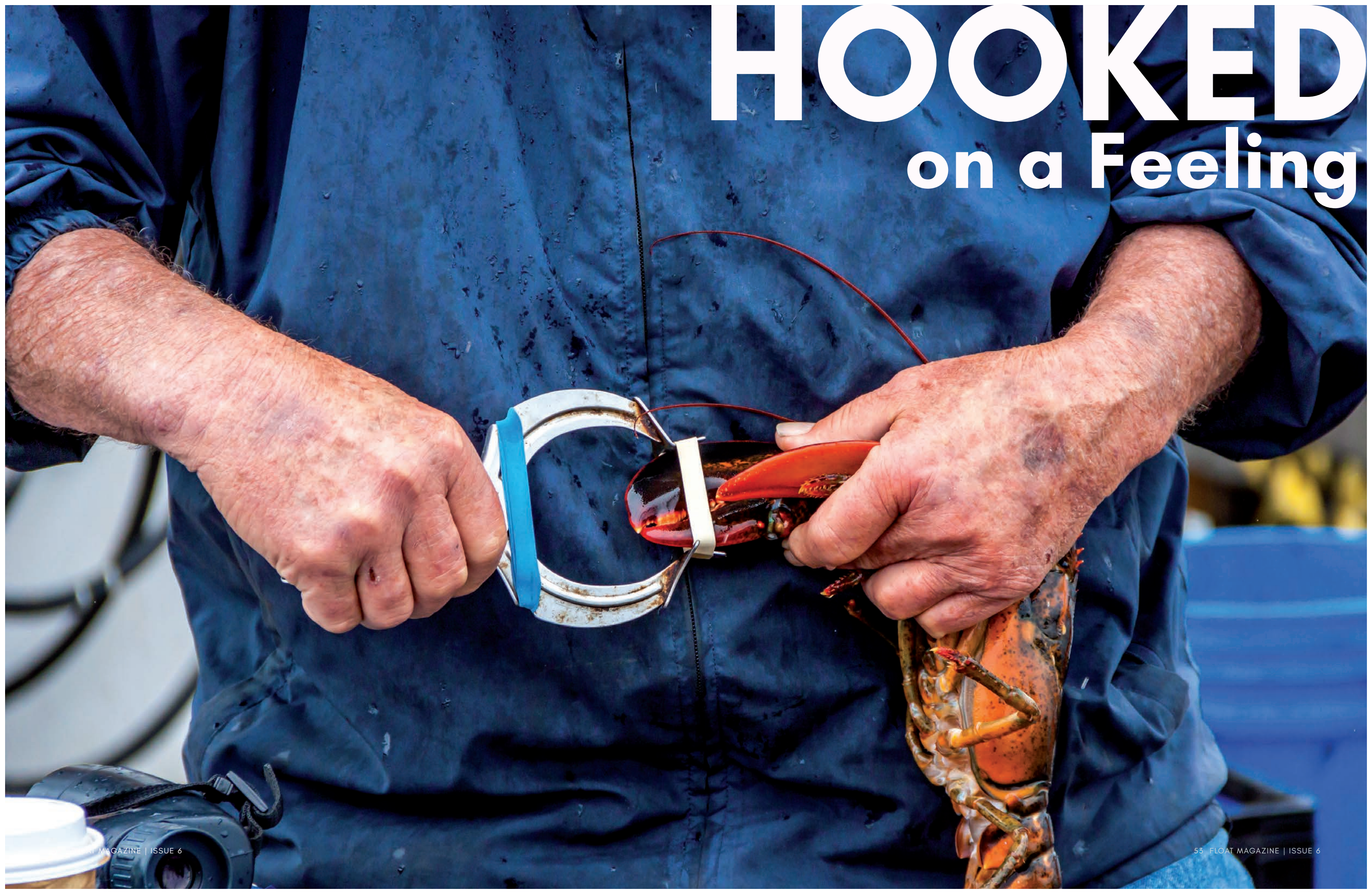
While in Galilee, visit the docks
and pick up some lobsters fresh
off the boat directly from the
lobstermen. You can also book
a fishing charter for the day
and catch your own fresh fish
one of our many salt ponds.

or go digging for clams at
Nothing beats the satisfaction
of catching your own dinner.

Summer definitely lingers longer
in South County, Rhode Island.
I'd say the best month to visit is
September.

HOOKED

on a Feeling





Fresh seafood is abundant in South County, Rhode Island. You'll find you can order local favorites such as lobster, clams, calamari, scallops and cod at almost every restaurant. Did you know that more pounds of squid are brought to shore in Rhode Island than any other seafood and that Rhode Island accounts for 54% of all squid landings in the northeast? That's how calamari became the state's official appetizer.

This all happens in the bustling port of Galilee in Narragansett. Here you can buy fresh lobster right on the docks from local lobstermen. Crabs are also readily available, as are other fish.

Fishing charters leave Galilee daily if you prefer to catch your own - and once you catch your first fish we promise you'll be hooked - pardon the pun. Full day, half day, off-shore and night fishing charters are available from several different companies including Frances Fleet, C-Devil Sport Fishing, Snappa and more. Night fishing is when you reel in striped bass, bluefish and there are special trips for squid. Off shore fishing is for big game fish such as different kinds of tuna - albacore, yellowfin, bluefin, mahi-mahi and more. You can also hook sharks, mako, thresher, hammerhead - all promise a good fight. Mako and thresher are also good for eating. Your catch can be cooked for you at George's of Galilee by request.

Clams are abundant in South County's salt ponds. Clamming is a fun and easy activity the whole family can participate in. If you're a visitor, start on the RI DEM website and get your recreational shellfishing license. Salt ponds are tucked away in every part of South County - use a rake and a bucket or dig with your feet the way the locals do. It's easy and fun and at the end of the day you'll have enough for a whole meal.

You can also fish just about anywhere in region. Drop a line in a pond, river or ocean and relax as you wait for those fish to bite!

More pounds of squid are brought to shore in Rhode Island than any other seafood and Rhode Island accounts for 54% of all squid landings in the northeast.





Tomatquag Museum

Explore Indigenous Culture

The Tomaquag Museum was founded in 1958 by Mary E. Glasko, better known as Princess Red Wing of the Narragansett/Pokanoket-Wampanoag tribes. It is Rhode Island's first and only Indigenous museum. With the help of friend and colleague, anthropologist Eva Butler, the museum opened in Butler's private home in Tomaquag Valley, a hamlet in Ashaway. Eva provided a broad collection of Indigenous belongings from across America, while Princess Red Wing shared her cultural knowledge through public tours delivered from a first-person perspective. After Eva Butler's passing in 1969, the museum relocated to Exeter, adjacent to the renowned Dovecrest Restaurant, which served Indigenous cuisine and was owned by Ferris and Eleanor Dove of the Narragansett Tribe. In 1997, the Board reorganized and expanded programming for schools and organizations. Under the leadership of Executive Director Lorén Spears, who joined in 2003, the museum has continued to grow and thrive. In 2016, the Tomaquag Museum

received the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries serving their communities. Tomaquag remains the first and only museum in Rhode Island to receive this prestigious award. Today, visitors can explore Indigenous culture through a variety of guided tours and interactive experiences. Popular offerings include nature walks through the beautiful Arcadia Management Area, where participants learn about Indigenous plants and their traditional uses by the Narragansett people. Art workshops teach skills such as creating dreamcatchers, corn husk dolls, beaded jewelry, and trinket baskets. Programs may also include storytelling, cultural education, film presentations, and traditional social dances. Youth experiences feature scavenger hunts through the museum exhibits and can be customized to suit different interests and age groups. There is no better way to learn about Indigenous culture than

from the people themselves. A visit to the Tomaquag Museum offers a deeper appreciation of the history, traditions, and enduring contributions of the Indigenous peoples who called South County home long before European settlement. It is an enriching educational experience for visitors of all ages.

For more museums in South County Scan the QR Code:





Explore 6 Wineries & Vineyards

There's something magical about sipping a glass of wine where it's made, surrounded by rolling vineyards and the crisp New England air. South County, Rhode Island, is home to some of the state's best hidden-gem wineries and cideries, each offering a unique experience. Whether you're a wine connoisseur or just looking for a relaxing day of tastings, explore these South County wineries and vineyards.

1. Gooseneck Vineyards

Start your South County wine tour at Gooseneck Vineyards, a beautiful and peaceful spot in North Kingstown. With their emphasis on premium, small-batch wines, Gooseneck is pleased to offer varietals from the world's top vineyards. Whether a light, crisp Sauvignon Blanc or a full, deep red, there is something for everybody. Begin your tour in the outdoor tasting area, with a glass in hand, and enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

2. Leyden Farm Vineyard

Rustic charm and relaxed ambiance unite at Leyden Farm Vineyard. Leyden Farm is renowned for fruit-infused wines, making it a favorite among those who enjoy sweet, easy-to-sip options. Locals love their Cranberry, Blueberry, and Peach wines, best enjoyed while taking in the vineyard views. With indoor and outdoor seating, events, dinners, live music, and more, there's always something to enjoy.

3. Langworthy Farm Inn & Winery

A tour of South County wineries wouldn't be complete without a visit to Langworthy Farm Winery in Westerly. This boutique winery, nestled in a restored historic farmhouse, offers a cozy tasting room experience featuring small-batch wines made on-site. Their beachside influence shines through in every sip, with crisp whites and smooth reds reminiscent of coastal breezes. If you're planning to stay a bit longer, book a room at their charming bed and breakfast. Guests are welcome to bring their own food, cheese and olive platters are available for purchase, and food trucks are on-site on select days.

4. Tapped Apple Cidery & Winery

For a change of pace, visit the Award Winning Tapped Apple Cidery & Winery in downtown Westerly. This spot specializes in apple-based wines and ciders, offering a unique and refreshing alternative to traditional grape wines. Their dry and semi-sweet ciders are crafted from locally grown apples, and their apple wines provide a crisp, fruit-forward taste. The lively tasting room makes it an excellent stop to unwind and sample something different.

5. Shepherd's Run

Visit Shepherd's Run, a stunning winery set within an historic estate in South Kingstown. This picturesque destination blends classic sophistication with modern winemaking, offering a selection of wines ranging from light, aromatic whites to rich, full-bodied reds. The beautifully landscaped grounds and elegantly designed tasting room provide the perfect setting to unwind and take in the charm of Rhode Island wine country. Treat yourself to a weekend escape and stay at the luxurious inn and connect to the community with the region's culture, artisans, craftsmanship, and terroir.

6. Winterhawk Vineyards

Winterhawk Vineyards is a cozy, small-batch winery with a welcoming atmosphere in a scenic space. Known for its handcrafted wines and intimate setting, Winterhawk offers a truly personal tasting experience. Their reds, like their robust Merlot or earthy Pinot Noir, are perfect for unwinding as the sun sets on your day of exploring South County's finest vineyards.



FALL IN LOVE

with South County

Photo: Gina Campbell

Why Autumn Is the Best Time to Visit South County

Fall in South County, Rhode Island is full of color, cool breezes and fun for the whole family. We think it's the best time to visit. October is often warm enough for a swim, and the summer crowds are long gone. The foliage peaks just a little later than the rest of New England, so there's more time to enjoy the spectacle. All the farms are full of harvest goodies - cider donuts, corn mazes, hot apple cider and hay rides. Here are some of the best fall events in South County:

Hop Arts Studio Trail

Visit local artists in their home studios and watch them at work, learn about their process, see their creations and, of course, purchase pieces that may be available. This is a wonderful way to explore local art. Enhance the experience by stopping by local cafes, coffee shops and eateries along the trail.

Wickford Wicked Week

Wickford Village is one of the

most charming seaside villages in New England. The week leading up to Halloween, Wickford goes all out with spooky decorations. The week kicks off with the Witches' Paddle - where paddlers dressed as witches paddle into town on the harbor. It's a sight to behold. There's a spooky sip 'n stroll, cemetery tours with a local historian, face painting, photo opps, food trucks, and entertainment. It all culminates with the annual Horribles Parade featuring the Witches of Wickford performing a dance!

If that doesn't make you want to visit in the fall, maybe you'll appreciate how most hotels and inns offer special rates and packages during the "shoulder season" as they call it.

There are many things to do and deals to be had if you choose to visit in autumn. The beach is always here and open and waiting, and best of all, it's free to park in the fall and you can even bring your dog. If you have always

wanted to take surf lessons, now's the best time.

For more fall events, scan the QR Code:



SCAN ME



Photo: I Love Wickford Village



Holiday Magic

in South County

Photo: Jan Swartz Photography



Photo: Ingrid Mathews

Holidays Are Magical in South County

You may think that winter is not the best time to visit South County, but if you haven't experienced the peace of the ocean in winter, you haven't truly experienced peace. There's nothing more beautiful. Aside from quiet, albeit chilly, walks on the beach, what is there to do? Hallmark Christmas movie fans will delight in how much South County resembles a Hallmark movie set over the holidays.

Luxury hotels such as **Ocean House** and **Weekapaug Inn** hold holiday celebrations, tree lightings, tea with Santa for the kids and workshops for the adults. **Wickford Village** lights up with decorations and luminaria. Local art galleries sell beautiful, one of a kind items for everyone on your shopping list. Westerly also has a holiday stroll and a light parade that is extra magical when it snows.

Ring in the new year in South County is also something special. Go ahead and go all out in formal

attire and top-notch champagne at **Ocean House's** annual New Year's Eve gala. Or opt for a more low-key celebration at a beach bonfire. Alternately, you can cozy up in a comfy suite by the fire for a romantic New Year's eve with a delicious meal and champagne for two. Whatever you decide, it will be memorable.

If you'd like to hit the slopes, **Yawgoo Valley** - Rhode Island's only ski area - is open and offers an easy place for kids to learn to ski or snowboard. Snow tubing is popular with the kids by day and the adults at night!

Don't forget to enjoy some hot chocolate or a boozy winter cocktail. **Audery's Coffee Shop and Lounge** in South Kingstown owned by Bachelor couple Ashley & Jared offers late night snacks and dessert cocktails, and in East Greenwich, **Main Street Coffee and Piccolino Provisions** offer coffee, snacks and boozy drinks perfect for an afternoon pick-me-up.

For more winter events, scan the QR Code:





Dinner & a Show



What makes the perfect night out? In downtown Westerly, arts, culture, and culinary excellence come together at **The Cafe** and **The United Theatre**, creating an unforgettable evening no matter the season.

Begin your night at **The Cafe**, a cozy and welcoming restaurant with a warm, romantic ambiance that is equally suited for date nights and lively gatherings with friends. Start with one of the restaurant's creative cocktails, such as "The Dipper's Sipper," a unique blend of bourbon washed with soppressata, demerara, and bitters. Locals affectionately refer to soppressata as "soupy," a nod to Westerly's rich Italian-American heritage. Pair your cocktail with a shareable cheese and charcuterie board, fresh raw bar selections, or one of the restaurant's inventive appetizers. For the main course, choose from locally sourced dishes ranging from fresh seafood and house-made pasta to burgers, meatloaf, and other comfort-food favorites. Save room for dessert—the sticky toffee pudding is a standout, while "Allison's Pink Squirrel" offers a lighter, delightfully boozy finish.

Just steps away, **The United Theatre** provides the perfect second act. Originally opened in 1926 as a vaudeville house, the beautifully restored venue now hosts independent films, Hollywood blockbusters, live music, author talks, comedy shows, and special events. With state-of-the-art projection and sound, comfortable seating, and an elevated concession experience, The United offers something for every taste.

The theatre has also expanded its cultural reach through **Nashville North**, an initiative spearheaded by Scott Swift that connects Westerly with Nashville's legendary Bluebird Cafe and the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. Through the program, acclaimed singer-songwriters travel to Westerly for intimate "In the Round" performances, sharing both their music and the stories behind it. **Nashville North** also brings the Hall of Fame's Words & Music curriculum to the United Music School, where local students learn songwriting and collaborate virtually with professional Nashville songwriters to turn their lyrics into completed songs.

Together, **The Cafe** and **The United Theatre** offer one of Rhode Island's most rewarding nights out. Start with a memorable meal, follow it with a film, concert, or live performance, and experience firsthand the vibrant cultural energy that continues to make downtown Westerly one of South County's most compelling destinations. Whether you're a local resident or a first-time visitor, this pairing promises an evening well spent.

Shop the South County Beachside Boutique

Bring home some South County style. Shop hats, t-shirts, hoodies, bags and more at the shop link on our website.

All items ship promptly and make great gifts or souvenirs. Unique designs will add a beachy vibe to your wardrobe.





A Taste of South County

Matunuck Oyster Bar's Clear Broth Clam Chowder

Ingredients

- 8 pounds small quahogs or large cherrystone clams
- 7 cups water
- 6 cups clam broth (from steaming) or 4 cups clam broth plus 2 cups bottled clam juice
- 3 slices thick-sliced bacon, cut into $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch cubes
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 medium-size onions, cut into $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch cubes
- 3 ribs celery, cut into $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch cubes
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 pounds Yukon Gold or other all-purpose potatoes, peeled and cut into $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch pieces
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh Italian parsley
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh chives
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh dill
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Instructions:

Scrub the clams and rinse them clean. Add 7 cups of water to a large stockpot fitted with a steamer basket or colander, and bring to a boil. Add half the clams to the basket and cover. Steam until the clams open, 5 to 10 minutes. (Discard any clams that don't open.) Repeat with the second batch of clams. Reserve 6 cups of the broth. Set aside.

Cool the clams; remove the meat from the shells and dice it into $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch pieces. Keep them covered and refrigerated until ready to use. Put the bacon in a 5- to 7-quart pot over medium heat. Cook, stirring occasionally, until golden brown, about 10 minutes. Pour off all but 1 tablespoon of the bacon fat, leaving the bacon in the pot. Reduce the heat to medium-low. Add the butter, onions, celery, and bay leaves, and cook, stirring occasionally, until the onions are softened but not browned, 6 to 8 minutes. Add the potatoes and reserved clam broth to the pot. Continue cooking over medium heat until the chowder begins to simmer. If it begins to boil, reduce the heat slightly. Cook until the potatoes are tender, about 15 minutes.

Just before serving, remove the pot from the heat, stir in the clams and herbs, discard the bay leaves, and season to taste with salt and pepper.

Serve hot.

Coast Guard House Mudslide

Equal parts of the following (approximately 1 oz. each):

- Vanilla Vodka
- Baileys
- Kahlua
- Island Oasis Vanilla Ice Cream

Instructions:

Glaze the inside of a 12 oz. glass with chocolate syrup, blend the alcohol with ice and 3 oz. of vanilla ice cream. Pour into glass and top with whipped cream and a cherry.



Photo @jendepo182

George's of Galilee Summer Balm

Ingredients:

- 3 ounces of Empress Gin
- 1 ounce of lavender liquor
- ½ ounce of fresh lemon juice
- muddled lavender leaves

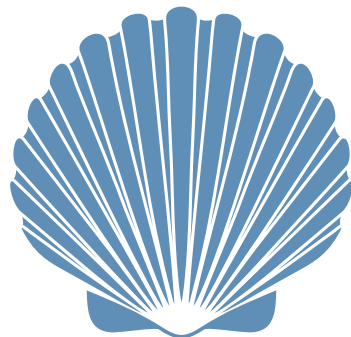
Instructions:

Shake well and strain to serve.





Photo: John Woodmansee



SOUTH COUNTY
RHODE ISLAND

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