EXCLUSIVE
A WARRIOR RETURNS
How the record-breaking Mari-Cha IV became Samurai

DAZZLING DISPLAYS
Best 4th of July anchorages

PLUS
Why the man behind BurgerFi doesn’t put yachting on the back burner

The Need for Speed
Touring Italy’s Motor Valley
Hello, Hamptons

Words – Jean Nayar

Graced as it is with ribbons of shimmering beaches, sprawling waterfront estates and spectacular gardens, it’s little wonder the Hamptons stands as the favored seasonal playground of New York’s rich and famous and Wall Street elite. Composed of seaside communities stretching roughly 60 miles along the South Fork of Long Island’s East End, it also offers yachtsmen access to some excellent cruising grounds. A robust mix of culture, superb food and wine, a vibrant social scene, exceptional shopping and a high concentration of A-list celebrities amplify its allure. And, not unexpectedly in an amenity-rich context like this, the real estate market is as rarefied as the social scene.

Given the demand for limited property in the Hamptons, particularly along the waterfront, home prices on the East End have soared in recent years and are now among the loftiest on the planet. “A 6.4-acre East Hampton beachfront property sold in February this year for one hundred and ten million dollars, the second highest sale in the Hamptons,” says Gioia DiPaolo, managing director of Douglas Elliman Real Estate’s Sag Harbor office in the Hamptons. “Number one was an eighteen-acre East Hampton property that sold for one hundred forty-seven million in 2014.”

Long before the area earned its reputation as a summer decampment for the social set, the Hamptons’ villages and hamlets were populated by farmers and fishermen rather than fashionistas. The picturesque cottages and saltbox farmhouses they built in late 17th and early 18th centuries in the quaint villages of East Hampton, Amagansett and Wainscott — as well as the Federal, Greek Revival and Victorian dwellings constructed in the 18th and 19th centuries in the whaling port of Sag Harbor and other nearby areas — later attracted waves of literary figures, like Walt Whitman, Kurt Vonnegut and John Steinbeck, and artists, such as Willem de Kooning, Larry Rivers and Jackson Pollock, who firmly established the Hamptons as a nexus for the arts. The East End’s serenity and charm, plus its proximity to New York City and the sea, eventually made it an ideal getaway among affluent New Englanders, who began building the area’s ubiquitous Shingle-style summer cottages there shortly after the Civil War.

Its popularity as a summer destination coalesced in the 1920s after developer Carl Fisher purchased 9,000 acres at the island’s eastern tip and created tennis courts, a golf course, polo field and marina at the expansive Montauk Yacht Club Resort and Marina, where the Vanderbilts, Whitneys, Astors and other wealthy socialites of the day summered near the sea. One of just two deep-water ports in the Hamptons, the Montauk Yacht Club is preferred today among sport fishermen. Megayacht owners, on the other hand, tend to opt for the protected port in historic Sag Harbor, at the private Sag Harbor Yacht Club or at one of the two public marinas nearby.
**Voyage**

**Buildings that had 11 Irish children**

**Well, all the old Victorian**

**since then?**

**hit from the beginning.**

**I knew what I was doing, so I**

**four outhouses in back and a coal**

**It had**

**before the first World War. It was**

**has a restaurant since 1911 and**

**Why did you settle in Sag Harbor**

**MY SEA VIEW**

Longtime Hamptons resident and yacht owner Ted Conklin opened the American Hotel in Sag Harbor in 1972. It has been a treasured hangout for local celebrities like Billy Joel and Donald Sutherland ever since.

Why did you settle in Sag Harbor and write the American Hotel? I was 23 years old and I was

Tell us about your yacht. I have a vintage Trumpy. I've always admired Trumpys and for

Where did you take her in 2014, the five-bedroom house features a light-filled floor plan with walls of thick glass and

The city’s housing stock has been tremendously restored, but the nature of the demographic has certainly changed.

Tell us about your restaurant. I have a vintage Trumpy. I've always admired Trumpys and for

Where do you take your guests for lunch? I'd take them to the Dockside Bar & Grill in the historic American Legion building, of course!

How do you spend your Sunday afternoons? I'm a golfer, so if I'm not sitting out on the porch at the hotel, I would go out to a golf club and entertain there. It's an embarrassment of riches here — we have the National, Shinnecock, the Bridge, the Maidstone. There are so many great golf courses on the eastern end of Long Island — it’s better than Monterey Peninsula in California. It's absolutely top world class.

What’s the key to the good life here? We try to be as non-commercial as possible and recognize that we’re lucky enough to be in a town that’s the center of the universe.

**HOT PROPERTIES**

**$751**

**Average price per square foot in Sag Harbor.**

Owned by an A-list celebrity, this traditional property is reflective of the classic Hamptons style. The 6,300 square-foot estate, which includes two guesthouses, feels incredibly secluded yet is only five minutes from Sag Harbor. Anchoring the property is a 9,000-square-foot Strongbeart Manor, built in 1902, which has been renovated into an energy-efficient geothermal home.

**$47,500,000**

**26, 28, 32 ACTORS COLONY ROAD, SAG HARBOR**

**$42,500,000**

**40 DUNE ROAD, BRIDGEHAMPTON**

**$22,995,000**

**40 DUNE ROAD, BRIDGEHAMPTON**

The Hamptons has seen a growing trend of contemporary properties. This 4,500-square-foot home on 2.4 acres has 360-degree views over the ocean and bay. Recently completed in 2014, the five-bedroom house features a light-filled floor plan with walls of thick glass and industrial elements like floating staircases and exposed iron supports.

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