

### A WORD FROM THE EDITOR



Last Autumn, I found myself with my team in both Charlotte and Greensboro, North Carolina, to chronicle the photography of the 2015 premium woven outdoor furniture collection from Casuwel<sup>TM</sup>.

When I first saw the Bermuda Mocha Chaise come off the truck I knew this collection was going to be something special. The slightly iridescent sheen of the unique mocha weave was absolutely beautiful — as was it's more subtle white parchment counterpart.

In addition to the Bermuda collection that should be a hit with Florida and California residents, the other three collections each feature unique styling attributes and weave textures and colors which will appeal to a variety of tastes and décor palettes.

Please enjoy the following pages filled with a wonderment of better outdoor living designs and feature stories, including news on fashion, food, vacation ideas and alfresco-inspired refreshments.

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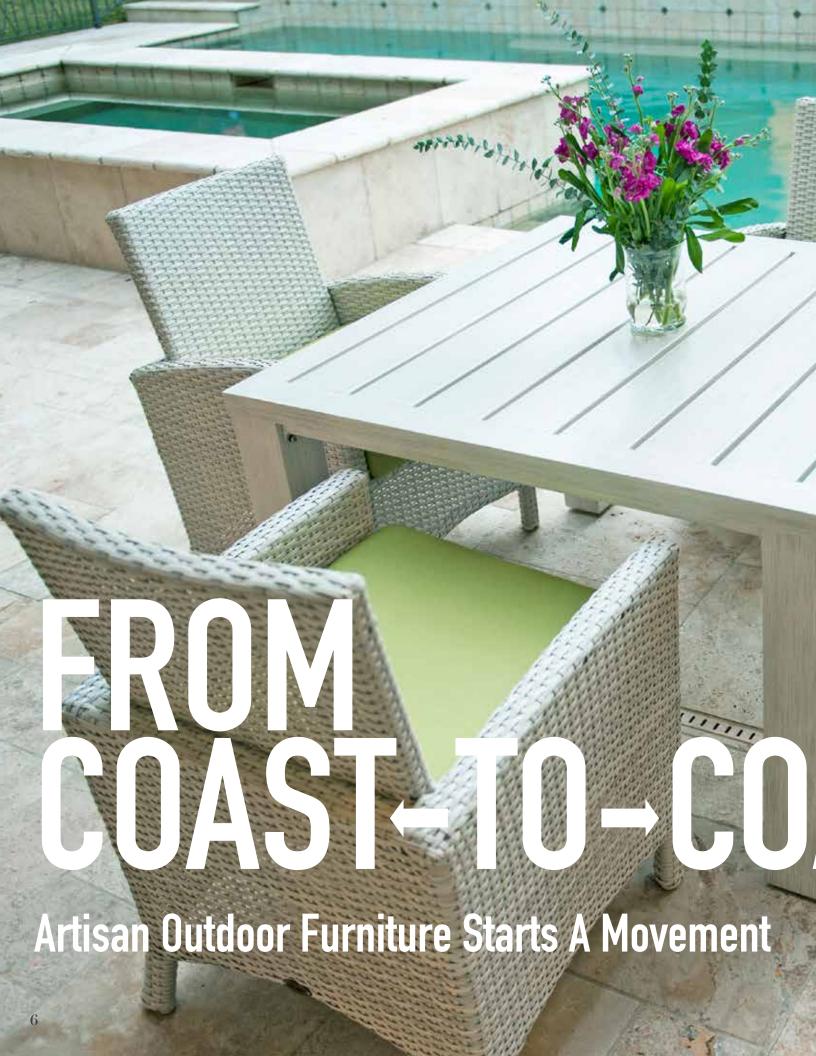
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FROM THE 2015 CASUWEL™ COLLECTION • CASUWEL.COM 5





In some of the most interesting cities in America, people of all ages and stages of life are flinging open their French doors and moving their nibbles, noshes and sparkling drinks into the great outdoors. Whether you have a porch, a terrace, a big backyard or a small balcony on the 44th floor, wrapping your life around outdoor living adds more square footage to expand your living space and enjoyment of life. What's the key to capturing the zeitgeist of this burgeoning outdoor movement? Designers say it's the advent of artisan outdoor furniture.

#### **Panoramic inspiration**

If you live in the Charleston, S.C. area, you'll likely be drawn to artisan furniture designs that take their inspiration from the city's fanciful wrought-iron gates, historic homes like the pastel "belles" of Rainbow Row, or even from the multi-million dollar "cottages" on Kiawah Island.

In the Windy City of Chicago, perfectly placed seating on your airborne metropolitan balcony can give you a skybox for watching the everchanging water-world of Lake Michigan and the pageantry of Navy Pier.

If you share the bulk of your life with aunts, uncles and "kissin" cousins in a small town like Fairmont, West Virginia, your outdoor dining suite might overlook the spot where the Tygart Valley River and the West Fork River join to form the mighty Monongahela. Or if you live on San Francisco's Nob Hill, an artisan-styled porch chaise could be the perfect vantage point for watching the comings and goings of bridal parties at the Fairmont Hotel.

Love traveling to beguiling and beautiful Bermuda and can't wait for your favorite island to host the America's cup in 2017? Choosing pieces from Casuwel's new Bermuda Collection will conjure up visions of cerulean blue waters and pink sand every time you step onto your deck or patio.

WHAT ARTISANAL
FURNITURE STYLE WILL
INSPIRE YOUR
MOVEMENT INTO FINE
OUTDOOR LIVING?

Turn the page, dive in & find out.

## THE INIMITABLE CHARM OF CHARLESTON

Porches and their gracious furnishings have truly been a way of life in Charleston, since antebellum times. When homes are strategically oriented like those on Charleston's famous battery, long porches capture summer breezes that sail across the harbor. In addition to majestically adorning the landscape, Charleston's way-better-than-a-parasol porches also succeed in sheltering homeowners from the searing southern sun.



The aptly named Charleston Single House is an architectural style noted for maximizing outdoor living space. These historic homes are one-room wide and succeed in expanding the size of stuffy indoor spaces with striking double covered piazzas, Charlestonese for porches. Whether they are 10- or 25-feet wide, they always sit so the narrowest part of the house faces the street. Although some claim that Charleston's trademark side porches came about long ago as the result of property taxes being levied according to a home's street frontage, historians dispute that provenance as urban legend.

THE CHARLESTON **COLLECTION SHOWCASES** THE SPIRIT OF SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY WITH A VARIETY OF PIECES RANGING FROM CHAT TABLES TO LOVE SEATS.

Yall Come!



A boat-shaped dining table perfectly captures the seafaring lifestyle of the city "Where History Lives." Charleston is also where the free-flowing Cooper and Ashley Rivers come together to ride the waves of the Atlantic Ocean.

Dining Table - Casuwel.com

Pieces in the Charleston Collection are rendered in either Antique Bark Weave or Driftwood, so both buyers who love history and those who yearn for childhood summers spent on Charleston's nearby beaches can get exactly the look they want.

Loveseat - Casuwel.com





The only place that's possibly as fun to sit in as a Charleston Collection swivel chair is the seat of a horse-drawn carriage, clip-clopping down a centuries-old South Carolina street.

Swivel Rocker - Casuwel.com



### MAGNIFICENT MILE OUTDOOR STYLE

In an exciting, densely populated metropolitan area like Chicago, IL., it's easier to build vertically than horizontally. Urbanistas who enjoy lofty views of great glass skyscrapers, the Magnificent Mile, Lake Michigan and Navy Pier from the city's most impressive condominiums must cleverly furnish their balconies for compact comfort.

WHEN YOU GO METRO WITH THIS LANDMARK COLLECTION, THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF A BIG CITY ARE ALWAYS WITHIN VIEW AND WITHIN REACH. Choosing from the Metropolitan Collection of artisan outdoor furniture makes the most of every inch of space to create an urban outdoor oasis that gives guests front-row seats to skyline fireworks, air shows and lake events. Metropolitan is an oh-so-uptown collection that features a host of clever pieces ready to do doubleduty. For example, you can get a wedge-shaped table that fits snugly in a corner and doubles as storage. There's also an ottoman that quickly turns into a hors d'oeuvres table.





# THE FAIREST OF THEM ALL

Since "mont" is a lyrical word that means "mountain" in French, it's not surprising that many beautiful places have the word "mont" in them -- the grand world tourism site of Mont-Saint-Michel in Normandy France, Nob Hill's Fairmont Hotel, and Montpelier, the capital of Vermont quickly come to mind. The Fairmont Collection pays homage to them all for their beautiful settings and outdoor ambience.



THE FAIRMONT COLLECTION

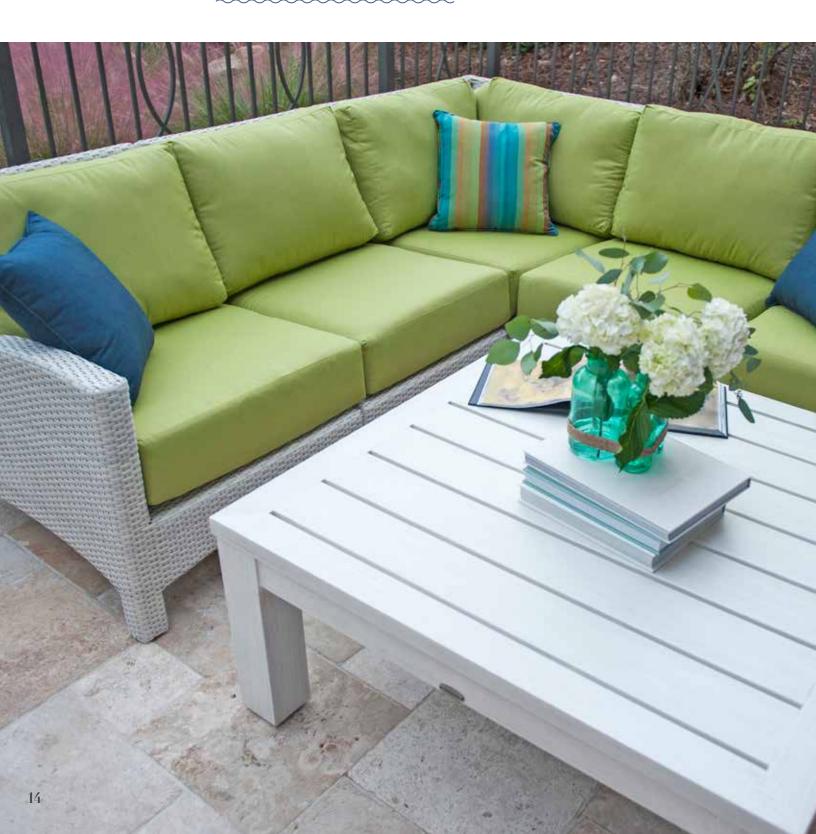
AND DOUBLE CHAISE. ONCE AN OVERACHIEVER WHO COULDN'T DECIDE BOUGHT

**INCLUDES A LOUNGE** CHAIR, SINGLE CHAISE,



## ISLAND TIME MEETS TEE-TIME & TEA-TIME

In laid-back, British-accented Bermuda, shorts worn with jackets, ties and knee socks are considered quite acceptable men's business attire. The island has the highest concentration of golf courses per square mile in the world, plus pink sands and cerulean blue waters that provide a playground for shipwreck diving, sea cave kayaking, and beachcombing under the subtropical sun.



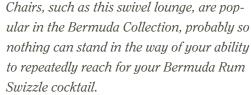
Unlike the islands of the Caribbean. Bermuda is northerly in nature, about 600 miles due east of the coastline of the Carolinas, but kept warm enough by the Gulf Stream for outdoor living year-round. Depending on where you wander on the island, your memories of Bermuda might include vistas that reveal the oldest cast-iron lighthouse in the world, the striking 20-foot coral outcrop in Warwick Long Bay, or dozens of centuries-old British Army forts.

As a British Overseas Territory, Bermuda doesn't have a seat in the United Nations. The Bermuda Collection makes up for it with many world-class seating options, including swivel gliders, chaise lounges, loveseats and sofas.



Both oval and square dining tables provide plenty of room for serving mussel pie, conch chowder, British-style afternoon tea and other island specialties you could perfect during cooking classes in Hamilton City.

Table - Casuwel.com



Swivel Rocker - Casuwel.com



NOW'S THE TIME TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT **BEFORE YOU START** SHOPPING, TAKE NOTE OF THE TOP THREE **OUTDOOR FURNITURE MUST-HAVES.** 

- 1. Virtually Indestructible Sunbrella Fabric.
- 2. *Interesting Designs & Eye-Catching Lines*
- 3. Artisan-Crafted Comfort

# SPRING & SUMMER FLOOR FASHIONS MIRROR COLOR PALETTES FROM

**PANTONE®** 

When the Pantone® Spring/Summer 2015
Fashion Color Report came out, it was proof positive for some outdoor living experts that they would already be on the same wavelength for warm weather with top women's fashion designers. Outdoor rugs in particular reflect the season's move toward the cooler and softer side of the color spectrum. Pantone's choices mean women's skirts, shorts and shoes will share the same strong fashion sense with the "outfits" that adorn well-furnished outdoor floors at seaside homes, urban parties and suburban cookouts alike.



## LUMINOUS ACCENTS LIGHT

Some of the most relaxing and entertaining times in your outdoor living life happen after the sun goes down. When the sky turns midnight blue and shadows creep in, no one wants to worry about guests gathered on a patio or porch tripping over cords from table lamps borrowed from the den.

New wireless lighting innovations are a beautiful alternative to stationary lights that are anchored to a wall or tethered to an electrical outlet. Luminous Accents™ by Outdoor Lighting Perspectives® are truly innovative, movable art forms that provide the ideal amount of ambient light for after-dark entertaining. They combine the best attributes of outdoor lighting and outdoor décor to create a whole new genre of art objects that showcase both form and function.

You can light up your life with glowing globes, lithe Japanese-style lanterns, vivacious vessels and vertical towers. Some string from pillar to post. Some like to sit and look pretty. Others prefer to hang out or just chill. When white light doesn't set quite the right mood, you can use your remote control to switch the LED colors that make your artfully designed lighting glow.

Switch between colors -



### UP YOUR LIFE YEAR-ROUND

#### FOUR-SEASON DÉCOR

Unlike the kind of outdoor lights you don't use much when warm weather is gone, these Luminous Accents<sup>™</sup> help host dinners and events all year long. Illuminate them with the colors of autumn as a centerpiece on your Thanksgiving table or position a luminous sphere to simulate an indoor harvest moon. Light them with the colors of Christmas to complement your tree or choose Hanukkah blue if you celebrate the Festival of Lights. And forget watching the ball drop on New Year's Eve. Usher in every January 1st with good friends gathered around your Luminous Wine Cooler. Cheers.





Maybe you're planning your wardrobe for a round of invites to garden parties and outdoor wedding receptions. Maybe you're gearing up for lots of warm weather hiking, biking, camping and climbing. Or perhaps you just want to sit in your outdoor living area with a tall beverage and look like you're happily engaged in "all of the above." Either way, you'll see the latest trends from both fashion catwalks and outdoor apparel shows in your favorite stores in Spring/Summer 2015.



#### **Sunny and breezy**

When Michael Kors' Spring 2015 ready-to-wear collection was presented last fall in New York, it was blooming with sunny floral motifs. Daffodils, wisteria, and geraniums sprouted in sequins on dancer skirts. Flowers were embroidered on sundresses and printed on skirt suits just for fun. For those who don't like their closet to look like a vase, Kors paired gingham with marinière stripes. Along with a salute to classic navy outfits, bright yellow designs also had models walking on sunshine.



Simplicity was another key trend with shirt-and-skirt combos creating leading looks on the runway and off. For example, Michael Kors' combination of a plaid taffeta button-down tucked into a black wool gabardine sarong proved to be one of his Spring show's most popular outfits. Fashion writers also celebrated his crisp white poplin shirt with French cuffs that inched past the fingertips, worn with a black silk mikado skirt. With the King of American Sportswear at the helm, it promises to be a great season for truly wearable fashion that lives up to its ready-to-wear label for outdoor events.

**WARM DAYS & STARRY NIGHTS** 

The Outdoor Show in Friedrichshafen, Germany proved to be a world away from New York Fashion Week. The OS is known for showing the best of all the key outdoor apparel and equipment brands, from Vibram to Vango. It's the place to find new ideas and fresh input, not just for sports-related products, but also for casual and luxury fashion brands. The show is so into the outdoor life that it has a whole hall called "Tent City" to showcase tents, as well as areas dedicated to canoeing, climbing, camping, backpacking and fishing. Main themes included mountaineering, city life and travel, hiking and trekking, and trail running, which included orienteering, fast hiking and "speed cross country."





At this year's show, many brands showed hybriddesigned product suitable for use in a variety of conditions and activities. Outdoor-urban fusion was another key theme, highlighting the merging of fashion, sport and city life. More and more people are either taking part in outdoor activities or are bringing outdoor looks into their urban style, wearing functional garments as street fashion.

The take-away for those who didn't make the trek to Germany for the show? Whether you're on your porch or a mountain peak, now's the time to love the outdoors in your own unique way.

# Outrageously Yummy Recipes Filled with Summer Flavor



Nobody does cooking, home décor and entertaining quite like Martha Stewart<sup>®</sup>. But judging by the fresh ingredients in her favorite summertime recipes, she believes in spending as much time at the farmer's market as she does in the kitchen. Her favorite muffins are plumped with fresh blueberries, and she loves to finish a summer meal

by serving a cakelike cobbler called a "buckle" that's studded with fresh plums and nectarines and covered with a sweet crumble topping.

With Mahogany Fried Chicken for porch suppers, Fireworks Cookies for July 4th and Crab Salad Sandwiches for pool parties, Martha has you covered from Easter brunch to Independence Day and on through Labor Day. See more of Martha's favorite summer recipes in the book Martha's Entertaining: A Year of Celebrations™.

#### **BLUEBERRY MUFFINS**

#### **INGREDIENTS**

#### For the crumb topping

- · 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- · 1/2 cup packed light-brown sugar
- · 1/2 teaspoon salt
- · 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- · 1 stick unsalted butter, melted & cooled

#### For the blueberry muffins

- · 3 cups plus 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- · 1 tablespoon baking powder
- · 1 teaspoon salt
- · 6 tablespoons (3/4 stick) unsalted butter, softened, plus more for tin
- · 1 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- · 1 large whole egg plus 2 large egg yolks
- · 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- · 1 cup milk
- · 2 cups fresh blueberries
- · Granulated sugar & mace, for topping (optional)

#### **DIRECTIONS**

- 1. Make the crumb topping, if desired: Whisk together flour, brown sugar, salt, and cinnamon in a bowl. Pour in melted butter and toss with a flexible spatula until large crumbs form.
- 2. Make the muffins: Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line standard 12-cup muffin tins with paper liners.
- 3. Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt into a bowl.
- 4. With an electric mixer on medium speed, cream butter & granulated sugar until fluffy.
- 5. Add eggs and vanilla; mix until well combined. Reduce speed to low; alternate adding reserved flour mixture and milk, beginning and ending with flour. Gently fold in berries by hand.
- 6. Divide batter evenly among prepared cups; if desired, sprinkle generously with granulated sugar and mace. Alternatively, sprinkle crumb topping evenly over batter in each cup.
- 7. Bake until light golden on top, rotating tins halfway through, about 30 minutes. Cool in pan on a wire rack 15 minutes before turning out muffins. Serve warm or at room temperature.



#### PLUM-NECTARINE BUCKLE

#### **INGREDIENTS**

- · 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- · 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- · 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar
- · 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- · 1/8 teaspoon ground allspice
- ·Salt
- · 1 large egg
- · 2/3 cup whole milk
- · 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- · 3/4 pound plums, halved, pitted, and cut into 1/2-inch-thick wedges (2 cups)
- · 3/4 pound nectarines, halved, pitted, and cut into 1/2-inch-thick wedges (2 cups)
- · 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- · Crumble Topping

#### **DIRECTIONS**

- 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Brush a 9-inch square cake pan or 10-inch cast iron skillet with 2 tablespoons butter; set aside. Whisk together flour, 3/4 cup sugar, the baking powder, allspice, and 3/4 teaspoon salt in a medium bowl; set aside.
- 2. Whisk together egg, milk, vanilla, and remaining 4 tablespoons butter in another medium bowl. Add egg mixture to flour mixture; stir to combine. Spread batter evenly into buttered pan.
- 3. Toss plums, nectarines, lemon juice, remaining 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar, and a pinch of salt in a large bowl. Spread fruit mixture evenly over batter. Sprinkle with topping. Bake until a cake tester inserted into center comes out with moist crumbs, about 1 hour and 15 minutes. Let cool in pan on a wire rack 1 hour before serving.

#### PANINI Bar

#### **INGREDIENTS**

- · 2 loaves ciabatta, halved horizontally
- · 1 loaf whole-grain bread, sliced 1/2 inch thick
- · Fresh or bottled basil pesto
- · Olive tapenade
- · 1/2 pound each thinly sliced soppressata, prosciutto, bresaola, & coppa
- · 1/2 pound each thinly sliced smoked mozzarella, fresh mozzarella, provolone, fontina, & ricotta cheeses
- · 2 tomatoes, thinly sliced
- · 1 head radicchio, leaves separated
- · 1 bunch fresh basil
- · 1 jar (3 ounces) best-quality anchovies
- · 1 bunch fresh oregano
- · Lemon wedges, for squeezing
- · Extra-virgin olive oil, for brushing

#### **DIRECTIONS**

1. Preheat oven to 200 degrees. Set out ingredients for guests to build panini. Heat a panini press. Brush each sandwich with oil, and place in press. Grill according to manufacturer's instructions. Alternatively, heat a skillet over medium-low heat. Place a sandwich in skillet, and top with a smaller heavy skillet. Cook, flipping once, until bread is golden brown and cheese melts, 3 to 4 minutes per side. Transfer to oven to keep warm. Repeat.





#### **FIREWORKS COOKIES**

#### INGREDIENTS FOR THE COOKIES

- 4 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for surface
  1 teaspoon baking powder
  - · Coarse salt
  - · 2 sticks unsalted butter, room temperature
    - · 2 cups sugar
    - · 2 large eggs
    - · 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

#### FOR DECORATING THE COOKIES

· Red, White, and Blue Royal Icing

#### DIRECTIONS

- 1. Make the cookies: Sift flour, baking powder, and 1/2 teaspoon salt into a large bowl.
- 2. Beat butter and sugar with a mixer on medium-high speed until pale and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Beat in eggs, 1 at a time. Reduce speed to low. Add flour mixture, then vanilla. Refrigerate dough, wrapped in plastic wrap, for at least 1 hour.
- 3. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Roll out dough to a scant 1/4-inch thickness on a floured surface. Cut out cookies using a 1 3/4-, 2 1/4-, 2 3/4-, or 3 1/2-inch round cookie cutter, rerolling scraps once. Transfer to a baking sheet. Refrigerate until firm, about 30 minutes.
- 4. Bake until edges just start to brown, 17 to 19 minutes. Transfer cookies to a wire rack, and let cool completely.
- 5. Decorate the cookies: Pipe an outline of white icing around edge of 1 cookie, leaving a 1/4-inch border, then "flood" with more white icing to cover.
- 6. Immediately pipe a red or blue dot in the center of cookie. Then pipe concentric rings of colors around the center dot (using the same color as the dot, or alternating colors).
- 7. Immediately drag a toothpick through the colors to create bursts, starting from the center dot and working toward the edge, then alternate dragging inward and outward as you work around the cookie. (Or drag around the cookie in 1 direction or curve the lines for a pinwheel effect.) Let dry. Repeat with remaining cookies and icings.



#### CRAB SANDWICHES

#### **INGREDIENTS**

- · 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- · 3/4 teaspoon coarse salt
- · 1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon creme fraiche
- · 2 tablespoons finely chopped shallot
- · 1 tablespoon minced chives
- · Freshly ground peppercorns, preferably pink
- · 8 ounces lump crabmeat
- · 4 leaves red-leaf lettuce
- · 1 avocado, thinly sliced
- · 8 slices brioche, toasted

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Mix lemon juice, salt, creme fraiche, shallot, and chives. Season with pepper. Fold in crab. Cover, and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Divide lettuce, avocado, and crab among 4 bread slices. Sandwich with remaining slices.

#### MAHOGANY CHICKEN

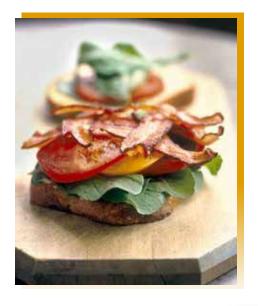


#### **INGREDIENTS**

- · 1 quart buttermilk
- · 2 teaspoons cayenne pepper
- · Two 2 1/2-pound fryer chickens, cut into 8 pieces
- · 2 cups all-purpose flour
- · Coarse salt and freshly ground pepper
- · Vegetable oil, for frying

#### DIRECTIONS

- 1. Stir together buttermilk and 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper in a large bowl; add chicken, turning to coat. Cover with plastic wrap, and refrigerate at least 6 hours or up to overnight.
- 2. In a large brown paper bag, combine flour with remaining 1 teaspoon cayenne, 1 teaspoon salt, and 1 tablespoon pepper; shake to combine. One at a time, place chicken pieces in the bag; shake to coat. Place coated pieces on a clean plate or tray.
- 3. In a large skillet, heat 2 inches oil to 350 degrees. Using tongs, add chicken one piece at a time, being careful to not overcrowd pan. Fry, turning every 3 to 4 minutes, until deep mahogany in color, about 18 minutes. Remove chicken from skillet, and drain on a brown paper bag. Serve hot, warm, or cold.



#### **BLT**

#### **INGREDIENTS**

- · 12 slices thickly cut bacon
- · 4 slices white sandwich bread, such as pain de mie (Pullman), sliced about 1/2-inch thick
- · 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- · 1 small head Bibb or Boston lettuce
- · 1 to 2 vine-ripened tomatoes, sliced 1/4-inch thick
- · 4 basil leaves
- · Coarse salt and freshly ground black pepper

#### **DIRECTIONS**

- 1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Lay 12 strips of bacon on a cooling rack placed over a parchment-lined baking sheet; transfer to oven, and bake until crisp and browned, 15 to 18 minutes.
- 2. Toast bread, and spread one side of each slice with mayonnaise. Arrange lettuce on two slices; top with basil leaf, tomatoes, and bacon. Season with salt and pepper. Top with remaining bread slices, and cut on the diagonal. Serve immediately.







The 2015 Spoleto Festival USA will be held May 22–June 7. Highlights include the world premiere of the opera Paradise Interrupted composed by Huang Ruo and designed and directed by visual artist Jennifer Wen Ma; the American premiere and first performances in over 350 years of Francesco Cavalli's baroque opera Veremonda, l'amazzone di Aragona; and the first U.S. performances of a new production of Romeo and Juliet by Shakespeare's Globe, directed by the company's Artistic Director Dominic Dromgoole and Tim Hoare.

Featuring artists from nine countries and across the U.S. in over 150 performances, the 2015 Festival will also present new works by choreographers Shen Wei and Pontus Lidberg and composer Mark Applebaum. New this season, the American Express Woolfe Street Series, held in the Woolfe Street Playhouse, will include the world premiere of What Moves You, an artistic collaboration between The Wall Street Journal Magazine's "2014 Performing Arts Innovator of the Year" dancer Lil Buck and cellist Ashley Bathgate.

Other highlights of the 2015 Festival include the Scottish Ballet's acclaimed production of Tennessee Williams'

A Streetcar Named Desire, performances of influential works by the Trisha Brown Dance Company and Shen Wei Dance Arts, family-friendly productions by Italy's Carlos Colla Marionette Company and Vietnam's Golden Dragon Water Puppet Theatre, and Spoleto Festival USA debuts by Australia's Casus Circus with its acrobatic show Knee Deep and Canada's 2b theatre company with the award-winning play When It Rains. Music highlights include Emmylou Harris and Rodney Crowell in concert, an outdoor concert in the College of Charleston Cistern Yard by jazz singer Dianne Reeves, and the North American debut of Argentine pianist Carlos Aguirre. Seven-piece soul band St. Paul & The Broken Bones will headline the Wells Fargo Festival Finale at Middleton Place on June 7.

For expanded information, download the Festival's free mobile app on your iPhone or Android device. It lets you browse the program, purchase tickets, watch video, and connect with other social media outlets. It's also easy to get complete information about 2015 programs at SpoletoUSA. com, or by calling 1-843-579-3100.



World Report did a mindmeld with travel experts and
vacationers about the merits of a
bevy of sandy shores, it arrived at a
list of the Ten Top Beaches in the USA.
To create the ranking, U.S. News took into
account which beaches "boast smooth sand,
pleasant waters and high-quality tourist attractions"
among other factors.

Visitors to the publication's Travel website could either vote "yes" or "no" to express their opinions about whether each beach should make the Top Ten list for the upcoming year. Web visitors could also weigh in on whether "also ran's" including San Diego, Santa Barbara, South Padre Island and Myrtle Beach should make the list. Take a vicarious visit to each of them right here (no sunscreen needed) and see if you agree that one of these Top 10 beaches would be the best spot for your next vacation in the USA.



U.S. News says "There's something delightfully odd about Cape Cod." It's more affordable than the nearby locales of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket and has been a main summer retreat for New England mainlanders for decades. Life ambles along here, with larger towns like Dennis and just getting Wi-Fi and adding to the away-from-it-all feeling. Tourists spread out along the seashore while Broadways stars, Major League Baseball stand-outs, and the Kennedy Clan toast their lives in ritzy yacht clubs.

What's there to do around here? Anything from sailing out to spot harbor seals, to soaking in the view from atop the Pilgrim Monument in funky Provincetown. In addition to the glitz and glamour that follows in the wake of politicians and celebrities, Cape Cod is also about just rest and relaxation.



People choose to live in Fort Lauderdale because it has the look of quintessential Florida -- beaches, palm trees, shopping and relaxation – "without the see-and-be-seen attitude and the exorbitant prices of the state's other beachside cities." Vacationers undoubtedly like it for the same reasons. If they ever came to these sunny shores on Spring Break in their youth, there could be a nostalgia factor at playin its No. 9 spot too.

Some consider Ft. Lauderdale's wide stretches of white sand among the best beaches in the state. Nicknamed the "Venice of America" for its 185 miles of waterways and canals, Ft. Lauderdale is making its way up the ranks of top beach destinations for affordability and its laid-back vibe. When you want to put on the stilettos and embrace livelier nightlife, South Beach is a quick drive down Route 1A.



Celebrities from Will Smith to Snooki have waxed poetic about Miami Beach, but U.S. News likes "America's Riviera" because it attracts such a wide variety of people from seniors and sun-seeking families to models and amateur architecture critics. North Miami Beach has the kid-friendliest beaches, most interesting Art Deco architecture, and most affordable restaurants and hotels. "SoBe," or South Beach, is a super-chic hotspot once evening arrives. Your AmEx black card can get quite a workout in the high-end stores, cutting-edge fusion restaurants, energetic nightclubs and Art Deco hotels. Whether you go to party, relax on the beach or take in museums and galleries, Miami Beach is a bright spot in coastal USA.

It takes just one look at the emerald and aquamarine water around Destin to understand why this Florida panhandle hotspot made the list. It's nicknamed the "World's Luckiest Fishing Village," because it was founded in the 1830s as a sleepy fishing town and stayed that way until a bridge connected the skinny peninsula with Florida's mainland. The city's trademark bright white shores are made of pure Appalachian quartz, which keeps the sand cool in the summer heat and makes the color of the water so beautiful in the shifting sunlight.

In addition to seaside golfing and water parks for the kids, you can snorkel and scuba dive off the coast, or charter a boat and try your luck at deep-sea fishing.



U.S. News deems this 54-square-mile South Carolina island upscale, "but you don't need to rush to keep up with the Joneses." You can slow down and enjoy days filled with sunshine and 12 miles of beaches from South Beach (nothing like the one in Miami) to Folly Field Beach and Forest Beach to Driessen Beach, and more in between.

But the beaches aren't the only reason Hilton Head made it into this Top 10. The island has 24 world-class golf courses and 350 tennis courts. When you aren't swinging, putting or perfecting your serve, you can embark

on a culinary journey at one of over 250 restaurants or head

for outdoor adventure aboard a personal kayak. Evenings are reserved for delicious seafood dinners and perhaps a jazz concert. The favored mode of transportation on the island is a bicycle (preferably beach-bike style, with a wide seat and one speed).



DUTER BANKS

DUTER BANKS

The Outer Banks, that long spit of land that hangs out in the ocean along North Carolina's ragged coastline, has a pristine beauty that belies its rep as a hurricane magnet. Called OBX for short, its largely undeveloped landscape offers you plenty of unobstructed photo ops, world-class fishing, windsurfing, hang gliding and ATV driving. The massive sand dunes and winds at the Outer Banks' Kitty Hawk made it the perfect spot for aviators Orville and Wilbur Wright to take their famous first flight. The pirate Blackbeard fought his last battle at Ocracoke, and the Lost Colony, a group of early settlers who sailed to America from England, disappeared here, creating one of history's greatest mysteries. U.S. News loves that each island has its own charm, from old lighthouses to secluded beaches and from

U.S. News says it selected this Caribbean getaway because it has "everything you'd want in an American beach destination. The island of St. Thomas has a shore for every beachgoer, plus access to plenty of water sports. St. John's beaches are harder to reach, but you'll be rewarded with fewer crowds." Better yet, there's a higher relaxation factor because you can pay for everything in U.S. dollars.

You can see moko jumbies dance at a Carnival parade, hear the lilting patois of a Creole dialect, or smell the spices in a saltfish pate. Spend time on all three U.S. Virgin Islands -- St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix –and you'll get plenty of pampering, undisturbed nature and colonial history all in one vacation. With its hilly, craggy horizon, St. Thomas is known for luxury. A short ferry ride away is St. John, a haven for honeymooners and nature lovers, with more than 7,000 acres of dedicated parkland plus surrounding pristine beaches. Make the longer trip to St. Croix and "see sugar cane plantations and rum distilleries that offer a glimpse into both the past and the present of the Virgin Islands."

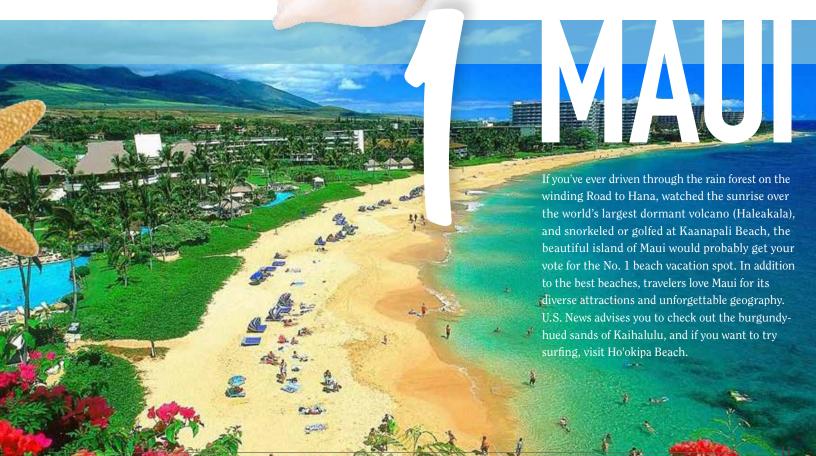
water sports to kitschy beach shops.



If your vacations are all about family fun, you'll probably pick Oahu as your best beach. With sprawling white sand beaches that are safe for swimming, it's no wonder Oahu is the most popular tourist destination in the USA's 50th state. Hawaii's capital is here in Honolulu, as is the emotionally engaging USS Arizona Memorial and the ornate 'Iolani Palace. Though much of Oahu has a cosmopolitan vibe, especially in resort- and surfing-dominated Waikiki, the North Shore embodies rural Hawaii. Here, you'll find the most brilliant blue waters and meandering hikes. With celebrity chefs and copious eating options, Oahu is also known as a paradise for foodies.

# HAWAII – THE BIG ISLAND

Though it's not near the amber waves of grain in the continental U.S., Hawaii's Big Island is the epitome of America's purple mountains' majesty. With everything from black-sand beaches to snow-covered peaks, from hardened lava deserts to steamy and lush rainforests, no one could argue that this No. 2 pick is geographically unique. And did you know that The Big Island is getting bigger still? Its active, fire-spitting Kilauea volcano has been increasing the island's land mass since 1983. Web users validated its No. 2 spot probably because its beaches come in colors you've probably never seen -- even green. The Big Island's hiking trails and state parks have majestic sights and other natural wonders that other Hawaiian islands only dream about. For the most serene sands, hang out at Hapuna, Kaunaoa or Kua Bay.





Op on a hat – with a broad brim to protect your face, head, neck and ears

on some sun-

as much skin as possible



## 5 BEAUTIFUL WAYS TO CREATE PROTECTIVE SHADE

OD on broad spectrum, water resistant SPF30+ (or higher) sunscreen



Sunny Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. So it's no wonder the organization Cancer Council Australia promotes the Five S's to reinforce ways to get protection from the damaging rays of the sun when you're enjoying the outdoors.

As you can see from the photos, there are all kinds of ways to have it made it in the shade. Today's well-engineered umbrellas come in auto-tilt and cantilever styles and feature single and double wind vents for strength, stability and optimum positioning. With fabric options that range from the colors of nature to lively striped brights, today's umbrellas easily coordinate with any kind of décor. Why not "plant" an umbrella and grow some shade today—eh, Mate?







On those lazy, crazy, hazy days of summer, most people think of eating slices of fresh, juicy watermelon. Celebrity chef Bobby Flay says why not let "water"melon truly live up to its name by drinking it – preferably via a tall, frosty glass filled with his special Watermelon-Tequila Cocktail. Flay purees seedless watermelon chunks, then strains the juice through a sieve and mixes it with silver tequila, sugar syrup, blueberries, mint and fresh lime juice.

If you're so inclined, you can also work your grill into Happy Hour instead of saving it for the main course by preparing a big pitcher of Grilled Citrus and Grape Sangria. If you're in more of a rush to cool off, you might mix up a Cucumber-Lemonade Mocktail. What it lacks in alcohol, it definitely makes up for in vegetable artistry.

The recipes for summer refreshments gathered here will definitely add to the fun and ambience of any outdoor get-together. Cheers!

### Bobby Flay's Watermelon-Tequila Cocktail

#### **INGREDIENTS**

1/4 cup water

1/4 cup granulated sugar

8 cups diced seedless watermelon (1 pound)

1/4 cup fresh lime juice

1 3/4 cups blueberries

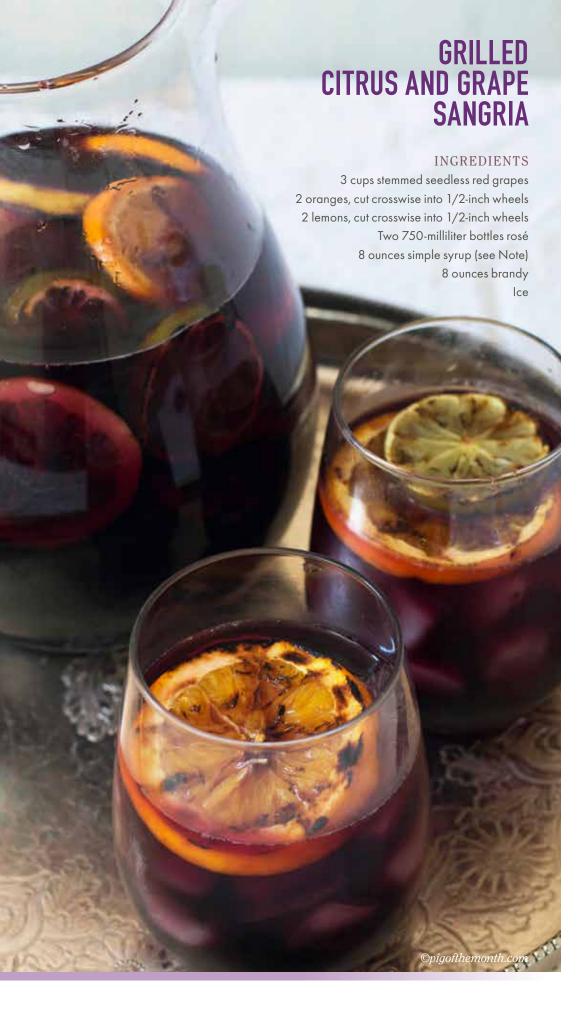
3/4 cup lightly packed fresh mint leaves, plus 8 sprigs for garnish

1 1/4 cups silver tequila

Ice

#### MIXING INSTRUCTIONS

- **1.** In a small saucepan, bring the water to a simmer with the sugar and stir over moderate heat until the sugar is dissolved, about 1 minute; let the sugar syrup cool.
- **2.** In a blender, puree the watermelon until smooth. Set a fine-mesh strainer over a bowl and strain the watermelon juice, pressing gently on the solids to extract as much juice as possible. Discard the pulp.
- **3.** In a large pitcher, combine the sugar syrup with the lime juice, blueberries and mint leaves. Using a wooden spoon, lightly muddle the blueberries and mint. Add the watermelon juice and tequila. Refrigerate until chilled, about 2 hours.
- **4.** Pour the cocktail into tall ice-filled glasses. Garnish with the mint sprigs and serve.



#### MIXING INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Light a hardwood charcoal fire. Put the grapes on a perforated grill sheet or in a grill basket and grill over high heat, tossing occasionally, until they just start to burst, about 6 minutes. Transfer the grapes to a plate to cool completely.
- 2. Meanwhile, grill the orange and lemon wheels over high heat, turning once, until lightly charred, about 6 minutes. Transfer to a plate to cool completely.
- **3.** In a large pitcher, combine the wine with the simple syrup, brandy and grilled fruit and stir well. Refrigerate until the sangria is chilled and the flavors are blended, at least 1 hour and up to 8 hours. Serve the sangria over ice.

#### NOTE

To make simple syrup, combine equal amounts of sugar and water in a small saucepan and bring to a boil; simmer, stirring constantly, until the sugar is completely dissolved, about 3 minutes. Remove the syrup from the heat and let cool completely. The simple syrup can be refrigerated in a glass jar for up to 1 month.



### CUCUMBER-LEMONADE MOCKTAIL

#### **INGREDIENTS**

1 paper-thin, lengthwise slice of European cucumber, for garnish

1/4 teaspoon finely chopped dill, plus 1 dill sprig, for garnish

1 tablespoon agave syrup

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

1 tablespoon fresh lime juice

1/4 cup fresh cucumber juice (see Note)

1/4 cup chilled club soda

lce

#### MIXING INSTRUCTIONS

Press the cucumber slice against the inside of a chilled highball glass and add ice. In a cocktail shaker, muddle the chopped dill, agave syrup, lemon and lime juices and 1 tablespoon of water until the syrup is dissolved. Add ice, then add the cucumber juice and shake well. Strain into the prepared glass and stir in the club soda. Garnish with the dill sprig.

#### NOTE

Cucumber juice is available at juice counters. You can also make it by pureeing peeled cucumber chunks in a blender and then straining the puree through a fine sieve. One large cucumber yields about 3/4 cup of strained juice.



#### **PEACH DONKEY**

#### **INGREDIENTS**

1 ounce vodka

1/2 ounce ginger liqueur

3 ounces peach puree or nectar

Crushed ice

1 ounce chilled ginger beer

Peach slices, for garnish (optional)

#### MIXING INSTRUCTIONS

In a highball glass, combine the vodka, ginger liqueur and peach puree; stir. Add crushed ice and stir again. Top with the ginger beer and swizzle by spinning a swizzle stick or bar spoon between your hands. Garnish with peach slices.



#### Playground playroom

Start by putting sky and clouds on the ceiling and a tree mural on a wall or two. Cover the floor with soft green carpet or indoor-outdoor carpeting. Add an indoor play structure and a bunk bed with a slide, plus a swing hung from the ceiling. Even a practice soccer or basketball goal in a corner would continue the public playground look.

# THE SKY'S THE LIMIT WITH OUTDOOR-THEMED INDOOR ROOMS

How would your son like it if he could go camping tonight and every night, even on school nights? What if your den seemed more like a garden? What if your playroom felt like a playground at the park, complete with a bunk-bed slide for sleepovers? How about if you created a man cave, complete with stalactites and stalagmites, or if your rec room was a dead ringer for a horseshoe pit, golf course, ski slope, beach-style tiki hut or even a deer stand in the woods.

OK, maybe that last one is a little over-the-top, but all the others are definitely doable when you dream up ways to bring your favorite outdoor spots indoors.

#### Man Cave

A basement or bonus room gives Dad lots of room for imagination. You could do a literal interpretation of a man cave, or go all out with a golf theme, adding a 19th hole bar or even a golf stimulator with standalone screens and 3D graphics. As an alternative, you could turn the space into a beachside tiki hut with a grass-skirted bar, waves on the walls, surf boards and a killer sound system for playing reggae and steel drum CDs.

Now about that deer stand in the woods. Anybody up for a room with some strategically placed yard deer, camo and ammo, or maybe a duck blind bar?



#### **Campsite bedroom**

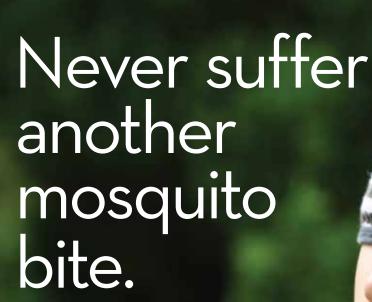
You can easily turn a child's bedroom into a everynight campsite by putting his bed inside a tent canopy, hanging a laundry line between two indoor trees, perching stuffed owls on the walls, hanging a full moon, and maybe even putting a ring of fake rocks around flickering, battery-powered candles to create a campfire.



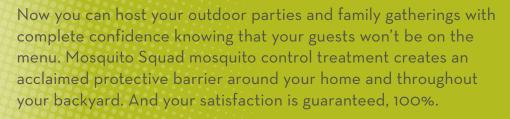
#### Indoor garden spot

Mom's indoor garden-spot/mom cave could have a fireplace with two hearths and two fireboxes, one inside in the den, and one outside in a real outdoor seating area. A winding walkway made with pavers or white stones, groupings of indoor trees and plants and an indoor water feature would complete the effect. You could even go one step farther and up-fit your nature-themed indoor space with outdoor furniture.





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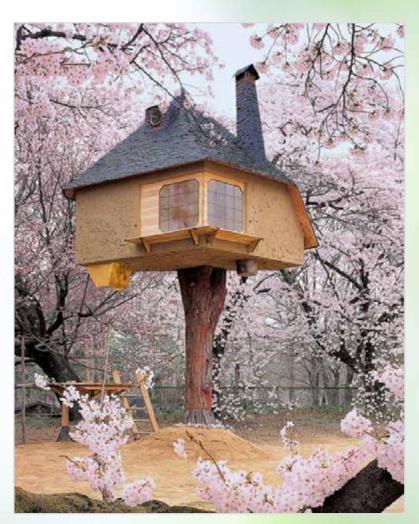
### REEHOUSES ACOME OF AGE AROUND THE WORLD

You used to think of a treehouse as something dear old dad knocked together with leftover lumber to give the kids a backyard clubhouse or hideaway and keep them "out of his hair" for awhile. Today, everyone from ordinary moms and dads to famous celebrities, artists and recording artists are contracting with master treehouse builders to create amazing, above-ground refuges where they can create, work, sleep, escape and showcase collectibles from their travels. Sometimes doting grandparents even install ground level hammocks, so they can take a break and watch their grandkids swing and climb.

#### **Masterful structures**

Ideas for treehouse themes seem almost endless. Watching "Treehouse Masters" on the Animal Planet network or following host Pete Nelson's videos online can serve as great inspiration for building your own lofty lair. The aerial abodes Nelson's team has built for clients have included a Japanese teahouse treehouse, a birdnest treehouse, a Scottish garden house, a lake house treehouse and a recording studio.

Water oaks, groves of western red cedar, hackberry trees, douglas firs and eucalyptus trees all offer sturdy foundations for anchoring home-away-from-homes on lakes, in forests and squirreled away in remote areas. What might your life, your hobbies or your travels inspire you to build?







Themed treehouses are all the rage, and people are even doing treehouse rehabilitations or treehabs to remodel, update and strengthen treehouses they built decades ago. Others are branching out and building treehouses connected by gangways, stairs and bridges to their main houses.









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