

ROADTRIP
real people, real fun

Making summer LAST

Cape and Islands bargains multiply when off-season arrives



VIVE LA FRENCH BREAD: Crusty loaves of country bread, above, have long attracted patrons to Pain D'Avignon. Now they can enjoy evening meals in view of an elegant red bar, below. The Dan'l Webster Inn and Spa, far right, offers a great package deal.



You can almost see the end of summer from here. Though there's just a few weeks until the air starts to feel crisp and thoughts turn to leaf-peeping, now is the time to take advantage of dropping prices. Peak season is winding down, and there are specials, packages and unique opportunities for road-trippers heading for

the Cape and the islands. Pointing the car south of the city will bring travelers through Hyannis, and past **Pain D'Avignon** (15 Hinkley Road, Hyannis) This traditional French bakery has been accumulating accolades and fans for a while, but new executive chef Matthew Tropeano and evening dancing are adding a new dimension. Tropeano uses local ingredients to create a European dining experience, while a floor-to-ceiling glass display introduces longtime customers to a dramatic new wine room. The French



bistro dinner menu includes tuna carpaccio (\$15), tartare of beef (\$14), duck confit croquettes (\$13) and, of course, a wide selection of seafood. Then there's the dancing. Every Wednesday, Perry Rossi and En Fuego play Latin beats and dance covers, while DJ Sinnetti from London spins every Friday night at 10 p.m. (508-778-8588 or paindavignon.com)

A short, 9-mile drive will bring Cape visitors to the much-heralded **Ice Cream Smuggler** (716 Main St., Dennis). Named by Trip-Advisor as one of the 10 top ice cream shops in the country, the Smuggler is known for its 27 homemade flavors, sorbets and even sugar-free ice cream. The ice cream is made daily in small batches, and includes selections such as apple pie (made with spiced apples and cinnamon) ginger (using real ginger root) and a double-strong, eye-opening coffee flavor. Digging in to a massive waffle cone topped with a mound

of cool orange pineapple — with real chunks of both fruits — also brings with it the knowledge that you're eating where the locals line up. (508-385-5307 or icecreamsmuggler.com)

Stuffed and ready to explore the Cape, it's time to uncover late-season deals. **The Dan'l Webster Inn and Spa** (149 Main St., Sandwich) has put together "A Whale of a Good Time" package, providing guests a chance to see these massive creatures in their natural habitat. The package includes one night accommodations, two tickets to a whale watch cruise, \$70 allowance for dinner for two and \$25 allowance for breakfast for two. Be sure to take advantage of Appy Hour in the Tavern from 2 to 5 p.m. daily for select appetizers at half-price (\$5 calamari, beef carpaccio and smoked salmon and \$4.50 crab-stuffed mushrooms and buffalo chicken



Bask in the warmth of late summer, early fall bargains

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tenders). Rooms, depending on which of the 48 you choose, can include canopy and four-poster beds, fireplaces, oversized whirlpool tubs and period furnishings. The package starts at \$367. (800-444-3566 or danlwebsterinn.com)

While out on the Cape, visit **LoveLocal Fest** (Aselton Park, Hyannis), a free celebration of local art, live music, fashion, farmers market and food trucks. This gathering of the arts will take place on the last Sunday of the month in August and September, right on Hyannis Harbor.

Some of the best deals are found just a bit farther east, however. Visitors to Nantucket can get the lowest rates of the season with a new "Hot Dates, Cool Rates" promotion. Pick from one of five resorts and pay a fraction of the normal rates.

The Jared Coffin House (29 Broad St., Nantucket) one of the oldest inns on the island, retains the



authentic feel of a whaling town residence. This three-story brick mansion served as ship owner Jared Coffin's private home, and it even survived the Great Fire of 1846 — a disaster that leveled a third of the community. This historic inn puts guests near all the shopping, dining, beaches and water activities the area is known for.

Here's the best part: A room that starts at \$295 during the summer can be booked for \$155 in October and \$135 for arrivals in November and December. (jaredcoffinhouse.com)

Some of the savings are even more dramatic. **The Wauwinet** (120 Wauwinet Road, Nantucket), the island's only member of the association of Relais

and Chateaux — a collection of luxury hotels and resorts worldwide — is known for its beautiful views, sweeping lawns and its top-notch restaurant, Toppers. The dinner menu includes dry aged Peking duck breast (\$33), butter poached lobster (\$50) and sheep's milk ricotta agnolotti (\$29). Staying in this classic



ROOMS WITH A VIEW: Nantucket's White Elephant looks over moored boats, left. Porches and patios grace the Wauwinet, above.

Nantucket resort starts at \$595 in the summer, but can be booked starting at \$195 if your travel plans are flexible enough to allow a mid-October stay. (wauwinet.com)

The White Elephant (50 Easton St., Nantucket), a waterfront landmark, offers a similar deal, with rates in November starting at \$195 a night, a dramatic drop from its normal \$595 a night summer rate. (whiteelephanthotel.com)

Its sister property, **The White Elephant Village** (19 North Water St., Nantucket), is a bright, airy resort with a plush spa and dining at the Brant Point Grill. Rates at the White Elephant Village top out at \$595 in the warmer months, but visitors can enjoy the same indulgence for \$195 in mid-October and select dates in November. (whiteelephantvillage.com)

The Cottages and Lofts at Boat Basin (24 Old South Wharf, Nantucket), located right on Nantucket Harbor, feels like a private residence but offers resort-level amenities. Complimentary bikes and spa access at the White Elephant make the savings at this unique spot — cottages and lofts — particularly attractive. High-season will run \$340 a night, while a mid-October arrival can be booked starting at \$175 a night. (thecottagesnantucket.com)

To book any of the "Hot Dates, Cool Rates" specials, call 800-475-2637 or go to nantucketislandresorts.com.

Summer is almost over, but booking now can make the last few days of summer — and those just on the other side — memorable, and perhaps just as importantly, affordable.