

JETSETTER

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The Review

The Basics

Tucked behind white picket fences and flowering hedges, just two blocks from the bustle of Commercial Street and a bike ride from Cape Cod National Seashore, this intimate 15-room hotel artfully melds colonial history with modern beach cottage style. Constructed in the 1850s as a series of cottages to house salt miners, today it exudes classic Cape Cod style, with a weathered cedar shake exterior, rambling stone paths and comfortable outdoor spaces to lounge in the sun or shade. Sophisticated yet fun, the Salt House Inn's personality is driven by its owners, an experienced hotel executive and a creative interior designer and chef.

The Look

A crisp white palette accented by texture and art sets the stage for the rooms. A wall of white slat board serves as headboard and canvas for a quirky collection of what interior designer Kevin O'Shea calls "curiosities," collections of antique and found items such as oars and artwork that reflects the location and its history. Honey-colored hardwood floors, simple black and white furniture, white duvets and tidy bathrooms with pedestal sinks, rainfall showerheads, and shiny nickel hardware give the rooms a polished and comfortable ambience. The spaces range from cozy 125-square-foot doubles to ample king size accommodations with separate reading nooks.

The Food

The social center of the inn, the reception area and dining room is handsomely outfitted with rustic hardwood floors, oil paintings and an elaborate chalkboard wall that details menu items, weather, tides, sunset time and tips for what to do. Serving breakfast only, guests have the choice of dining at the communal table, at a private table for two or alfresco beneath a pergola interlaced with twisting wisteria. O'Shea's core breakfast menu consists of such items as freshly baked pastries, granola, yogurt and fresh fruit. For dinner the innkeepers keep a well-researched list of local restaurants, including the South African-inspired Karoo Kafe, sophisticated Victor's and Front Street, a Provincetown landmark.

The Extras

While the inn does not have the amenities of a large resort, it offers a curated collection of local services. Guests can call ahead to have bikes waiting for them upon arrival — which is essential during busy summer weeks. For those in need of spa time, the inn has a relationship with the Namaste Spa at Carpe Diem, located two doors down. While traditional happy hours are not part of the inn's agenda, the owners are prone to spontaneously opening a bottle of wine or preparing light snacks for guests when they're gathered on the sun deck.

Co-owner Kevin O'Shea says:

"We are thrilled to be bringing our collective experiences in hotels and design to the Provincetown market and to give visitors the opportunity to stay in one of the first design-led properties that blends hotel amenities and personalized service with New England charm. The Salt House Inn embodies our passion for hospitality. Every detail has been carefully considered to ensure that a guest's stay is effortless and relaxing, so they can focus on the beauty of the outer cape."

— Kim Fredricks