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## the island ISSUE

breezy  
tropical  
homes &  
caribbean  
getaways

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# escape to

The Cove is a pe

eleuthera hangs on the eastern edge of the Bahamas like a crescent moon, a curved sliver of land just 1 mile wide at some points. It's a place where time slows—the rhythm of the sea sets the day's agenda. And it's home to a unique island resort.

The Cove offers all the comforts of luxury getaway without any of the fuss. Guests find hibiscus blossoms tucked in conch shells beside beds dressed in 600-thread-count linens. Spacious tiled rooms painted a cooling white pop with tangerine, apricot, and lime-green accents. Palm-lined paths crisscross the property, linking rooms to the lobby, restaurant, and secluded pink-sand beaches. Managing director

The Cove sits between aqua water and sapphire-blue sky. It's the only full-service resort on the secluded out island.

# eleuthera

among Bahamian resorts.

Aulin says the resort aims to give guests more than a vacation. "I like to think we give them their lives back," he says.

That sentiment is what attracted the owners (two families from Texas and Florida), who came to the island in the spring of 2004. They ended up outlining a contract on the back of a paper place mat and buying the resort together. After an extensive refurbishment, The Cove reopened the following year.

One of the Bahamas' out islands, Eleuthera (eh-LOO-thra) is a short flight from Atlanta, Miami, or Fort Lauderdale. The Cove, on the island's north end, welcomes guests with bartender Wallace Sands' signature Goombay Smash, a refreshing rum concoction with pineapple juice and apricot brandy (see page 126 for recipe).

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TEXT BY VICKI J. WEATHERS  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SARA GRAY

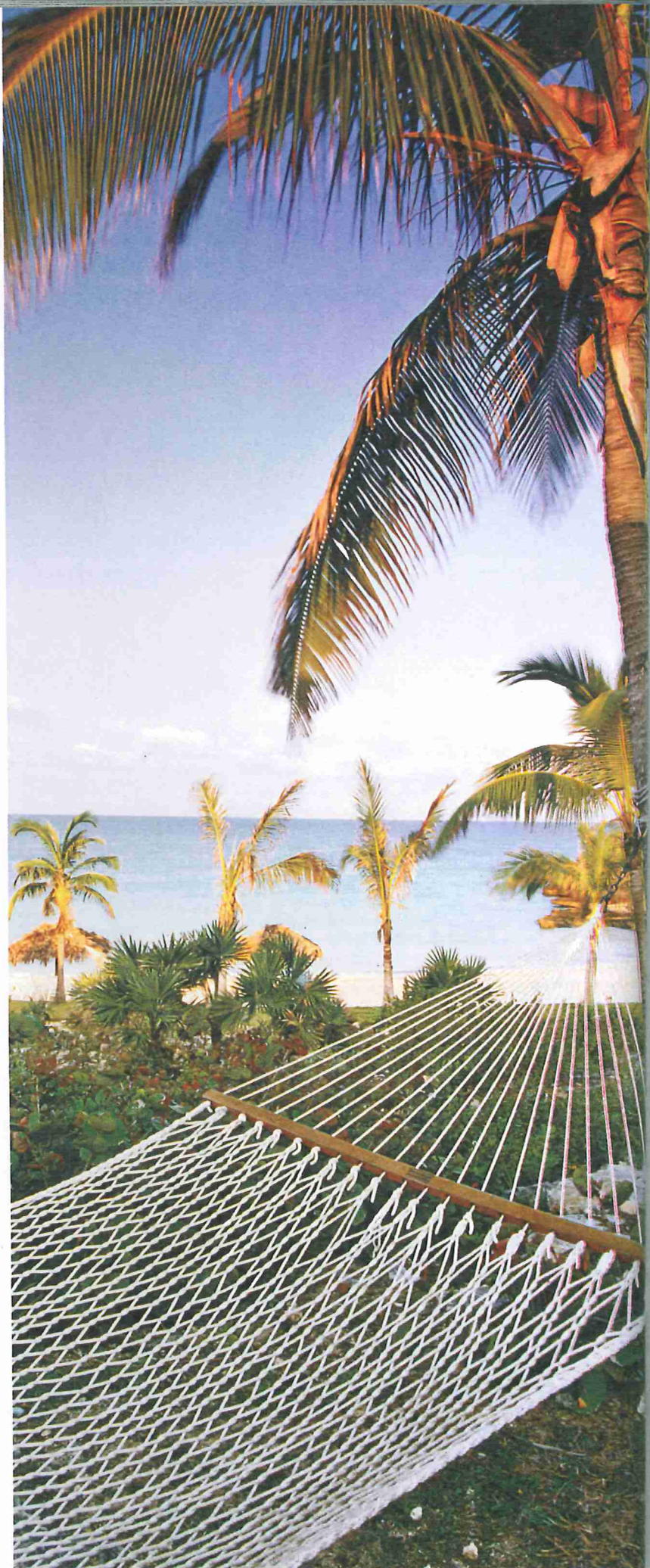


Lacking distractions, many visitors find only two things to do here: relax and bask in the sun. Some commandeer a hammock for an afternoon nap. Others lounge on the powdery, pink beach. More-ambitious guests can snorkel or kayak in the cove, take a bike ride, play tennis, or visit the freshwater pool.

The inn serves three meals daily—a full breakfast that includes mouth-watering French toast; savory lunch salads and sandwiches; and an extensive dinner menu featuring French-Caribbean cuisine. The curious can explore a smattering of restaurants and small clubs nearby. Rocker Lenny Kravitz keeps an Airstream trailer on his slice of sand and often plays at neighboring nightspots when he's visiting. Taxis and rental cars make getting around easy.

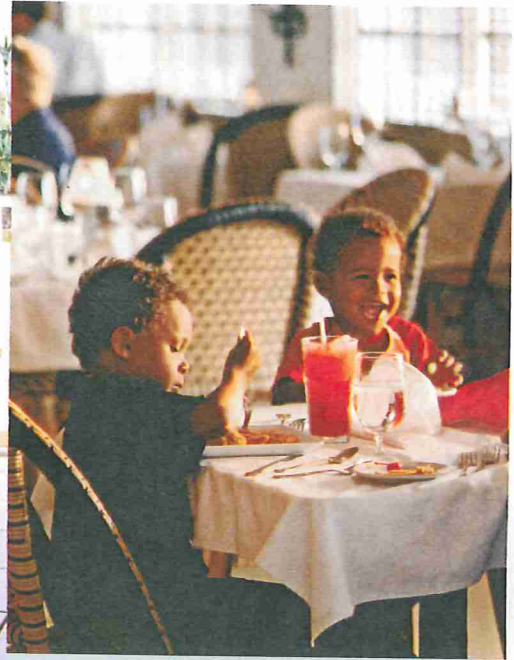
Surfers flock to the 110-mile-long island's eastern beaches to catch Atlantic waves, while the calm waters of the western shore draw scuba divers and snorkelers. Near the center of the island sits the capital, Governor's Harbour, where shops and restaurants fill century-old buildings. A short boat ride north leads to more-populated Harbour Island, with extensive shopping and five-star restaurants.

But staying put on Eleuthera is a tempting option. Visitors won't need more than sunscreen, a swimsuit, and a beach read. They can even leave their watches at home. No one needs a clock to live on island time. 🌴





The Cove serves gourmet meals with Caribbean flair, but no reservations are needed for one of the many shaded hammocks, strategically placed for unobstructed water views along the resort's two private beaches. Inviting rooms, furnished under the direction of South Beach designer Michael Katz, mix white pieces with eye-catching accents.



## paradise found

Gulfstream International Airlines/Continental Connection flies into North Eleuthera (ELH) or Governor's Harbour (GHB). Schedules vary, and planes are small and often have weight restrictions; 800/523-3273 or [continental.com](http://continental.com).

**sweet dreams:** The Cove features 22 rooms (12 standard, 10 suites). All cottages have air-conditioning and ocean views. Daily rates range from \$235 to \$475; 800/552-5960 or [thecoveeleuthera.com](http://thecoveeleuthera.com).

**amusements:** Upon request, The Cove staff will arrange off-site excursions including scuba diving, surfing, island tours, bone and reef fishing, cave trips, and day trips to Harbour Island. For a softer side of island life, try a spa treatment or beach-side massage.

