

# *Expedient Elegant* *Escapes*

*Here are 18 weekend destinations that transport your soul (but not your body) far, far away.*

Now that the warm weather is here, every week offers a new vacation option. Whether you want a restorative, romantic, or active adventure, all you need is a set of wheels (a convertible would be nice), and perhaps a traveling companion, to escape the everyday. Don't be afraid of the distances. A few hours of scenic driving can put you in a different state of mind—as well as a different state. And you won't have to hire a house-sitter, stop your mail, or even empty the fridge to get far, far away. Rose Ciccone, associate editor of the *BedandBreakfast.com Report*, an online newsletter offering a comprehensive B&B directory, database, and reservation network, and a contributing editor to the guidebook series, *America's Favorite Inns, B&Bs and Small Hotels* (St. Martin's Press), chose ten of her favorite destinations for you and your loved ones to enjoy. And our in-house avid travelers, Features Editors Nancy L. Claus and Laurie Yarnell, weighed in with eight more getaways. So put the top down and let's go!

## EXPEDIENT ESCAPES

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[MASSACHUSETTS]

### **HIGH POINTE INN**, WEST BARNSTABLE, MA

MY HUSBAND AND I HAVE enjoyed many vacations on Cape Cod, in all seasons. On our last trip we chose the **High Pointe Inn**, owned by Debbie and Rich Howard, experienced innkeepers who clearly delight in pampering their guests. The inn sits on a hilltop, conveniently located on the quiet

side of the Cape, offering unobstructed views of woods, salt marshes, dunes, and the Cape Cod Bay. Short drives will bring you to some of the finest beaches on the East Coast. In addition to swimming in the bay, you can bike, kayak, fish, hike, or play golf. If you prefer less athletic activities, you can always visit the antique shops, galleries, and museums that line the Old Kings Highway, scenic Rte. 6A. The Cape Cod Playhouse, America's oldest professional summer theater, is located a short drive away.

The three guest suites are large and comfortable with panoramic views from their picture windows. Our suite, Moonglow, was delightfully light and airy. The pencil-post bed with its luxury linens was extremely comfortable, as were the reclining wing chairs set in from a picture window. Binoculars are thoughtfully provided, and on a clear day you can see the Pilgrim's Monument in Provincetown. All rooms have CD players and individual controls for heating and air-conditioning. The Sand Dollar suite has a wood-burning fireplace and lovely French doors that lead to the deck. Debbie Howard has a flair for decorating. Lots of thought went into the amenities provided too, which included—and this I appreciated a lot— sun-screen. Little touches leave lasting impressions.