

Southern Living®

JULY 2009

Summer's Best Menus

From simple
grilled steak to
refreshing
melon coolers

31 EASY DESIGN SECRETS

Our room-by-room
guide helps you pull
it all together

OUR FAVORITE NEW HOME

You'll love
the romantic
Chesapeake
view

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Great Garden Solutions

(It's not too late to plant)

- Homegrown Tomatoes
- Plants That Love the Shade
- Three Trees for Big Color

\$4.99US \$6.50CAN



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Savannah's Beach

On Tybee Island, they know how to kick it—way back. You'll catch on fast. BY JENNIFER V. COLE



Tybee Island, Savannah, Georgia's easygoing beach playground, is an honest-to-goodness throwback. People leave doors unlocked, and flip-flops qualify as formal attire. The renegade isle takes it slow and has a deep appreciation for the finer things in life: fresh air, lazy summer days, ice-cold cocktails, and seafood dinners within casting distance of the source.

A Tybee escape comes easy. Start your days looking for shells along the water's edge at sunrise. Climb to the top of the lighthouse. Kayak along the barrier island coastline. Nap in a beach chair while the ocean laps at your toes.

Base yourself at Mermaid Cottages, a collection of 33 bungalows scattered across the nearly 3½-mile-long island. These airy accommodations—many recently renovated by designer and preservationist Jane Coslick—are the perfect way to go local.

What To Know About Mermaid Cottages

Here, our picks for the best ones to fit your needs.

- **Romantic getaway:** Secluded Fiddler on the Creek, overlooking dolphin-filled tidal marshes
- **Family escape:** The Shrimp or Key Lime Parrot, both with fenced-in yards and plenty of room for kids to romp
- **Value-conscious hideaway:** Surf Puppy—one of the least expensive and centrally located
- **Extended family retreat:** The four-bedroom Under the Tybee Sun, complete with a pool

MERMAID COTTAGES: www.mermaidcottages.com or (912) 313-0784. Rates from \$125 to \$350 per night, plus housekeeping charges (and pet fees, if applicable).

Get the Look

We asked designer **Jane Coslick** for three essentials you need to re-create the Tybee cottage porch at your home.



1 Furniture painted in bright, happy colors

We Like: Cooper End Table (MC0375) by Maine Cottage, \$590; www.maine-cottage.com or 1-888-859-5522.



2 Colorful party lights

We Like: Multicolor Nylon Party Lantern String Lights (SH51F) by Cultural Intrigue, \$24; www.lunabazaar.com or 1-800-223-1106.



3 Hammocks and soft pillows for afternoon naps

We Like: Green Berries Pillow by Pier 1 Imports, \$25.95; www.pier1.com or 1-800-245-4595.

What To Do

- **The Breakfast Club** A total greasy spoon and a Tybee institution. No, your eggs don't come with a side of Anthony Michael Hall. *1500 Butler Avenue; (912) 786-5984. Breakfast for two around \$15*
- ▶ **A-J's Dockside Restaurant** The best seats in town for sunset—dockside dining over the marsh. Try the whole flounder, scored, fried, and topped with a sweet and spicy chile glaze. *1315 Chatham Avenue; www.ajsdocksidetybee.com or (912) 786-9533. Dinner for two around \$50*
- **Seaside Sisters** The owners of this chic boutique have their fingers on the island's offbeat pulse. Shop for hand-painted furniture, beach cottage accessories, and knockout cocktail rings. *1207 U.S. 80 East; www.seasidesisterstybee.com or (912) 786-9216*
- **Tim's Beach Gear** Rent a Sun beach cruiser to navigate like a local. *www.timsbeachgear.com or (912) 786-8467; rentals \$10 per day* •

