

# ELLEDECOR

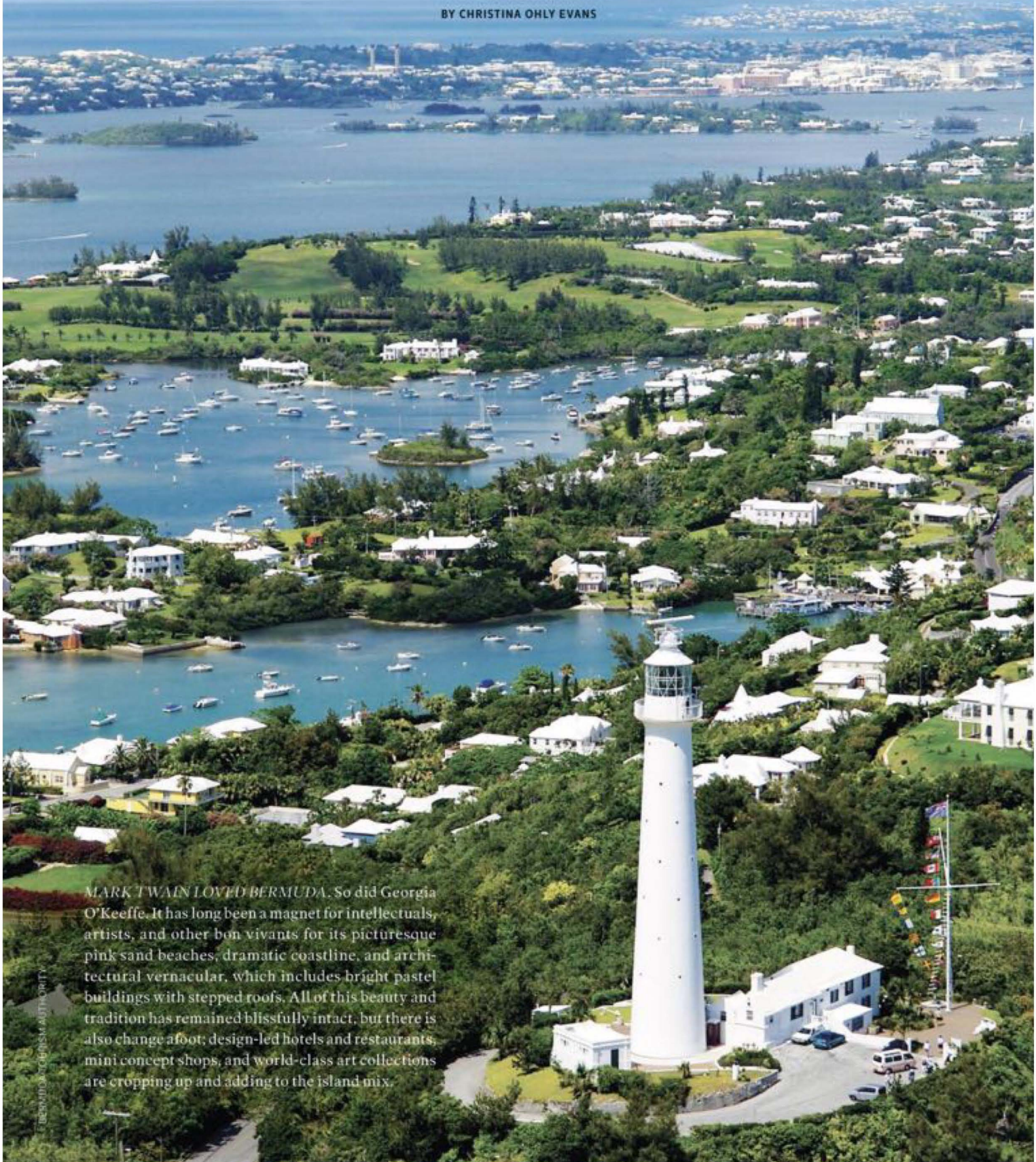
**THE BEST  
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IN THE  
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THE NEW  
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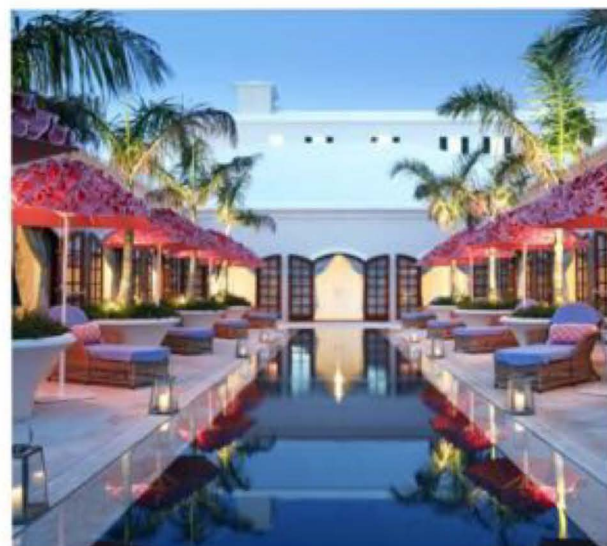
# FANTASY ISLAND

THE SMALL BRITISH TERRITORY OF BERMUDA IS RIDING A WAVE OF GREAT CULTURE, FOOD, AND DESIGN.

BY CHRISTINA OHLY EVANS

MARK TWAIN LOVED BERMUDA. So did Georgia O'Keeffe. It has long been a magnet for intellectuals, artists, and other bon vivants for its picturesque pink sand beaches, dramatic coastline, and architectural vernacular, which includes bright pastel buildings with stepped roofs. All of this beauty and tradition has remained blissfully intact, but there is also change afoot: design-led hotels and restaurants, mini concept shops, and world-class art collections are cropping up and adding to the island mix.





and furniture with a Caribbean slant made from nautical materials, to the tightly edited **Merch**, with its tea towels and statement-making South African jewelry that's set on central King's Square, there is no shortage of treasures.

Past the village's exquisitely simple limestone-and-cedar St. Peter's church is the **Bermuda Perfumery**, a house-cum-chemistry lab where indigenous scents like freesia and morning glory are captured in glass bottles. Don't be surprised if the owner offers you a cup of tea and a just-baked scone. After passing through a maze of pristine streets

and quaint gardens, water-sports enthusiasts will delight at the loftlike **Ocean Sails**, where sails of all sizes are still hand-sewn by husband-and-wife duo Steven and Suzanne Hollis, and where bags made of discarded scraps become chic, utilitarian mementos.

There's a reason why Bermuda's brío, balmy breezes, and idyllic coves have long beckoned important figures from Woodrow Wilson and Michael Bloomberg to Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones. As Mark Twain allegedly put it, "You go to heaven if you want to, I'd rather stay right here in Bermuda." ■

BERMUDA TOURISM AUTHORITY

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** The pool at the Rosewood Bermuda. Sense spa at the Rosewood. A room at the Loren. A statue by the artist KAWS outside the Hamilton Princess.

