



JANUARY/  
FEBRUARY  
2010

# HOME & AWAY

## ROLLING ON THE RHINE

**Seeing Jessica Hart's  
Hamptons**

**Taking the Generations  
on Vacation**

***Sampling Caribbean  
Islands' Tastes***

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24

## FEATURES

- 16 **Rhythm of the Rhine** by Karen Eakins  
*Floating upriver from the Netherlands to Switzerland gives cruisers plenty to sing about.*
- 24 **Jessica Hart's Hamptons** by Barbara Wayman  
*A fashion model takes readers on a tour of her favorite destination.*
- 32 **Cruising 2010** by Lynn and Cele Seldon  
*This year boasts a wealth of waterfront highlights.*
- 47 **AAA Quick Trip: Cincy's Top 10** by Betsa Marsh  
*Wintertime activities heat up this Ohio city.*
- 52 **Three Generations, Three Ways** by Traci L. Suppa  
*These travel options offer something for every age.*
- 62 **Studio San Antonio** by William J. Purpura  
*History is in the making inside this Texas city's galleries.*



8

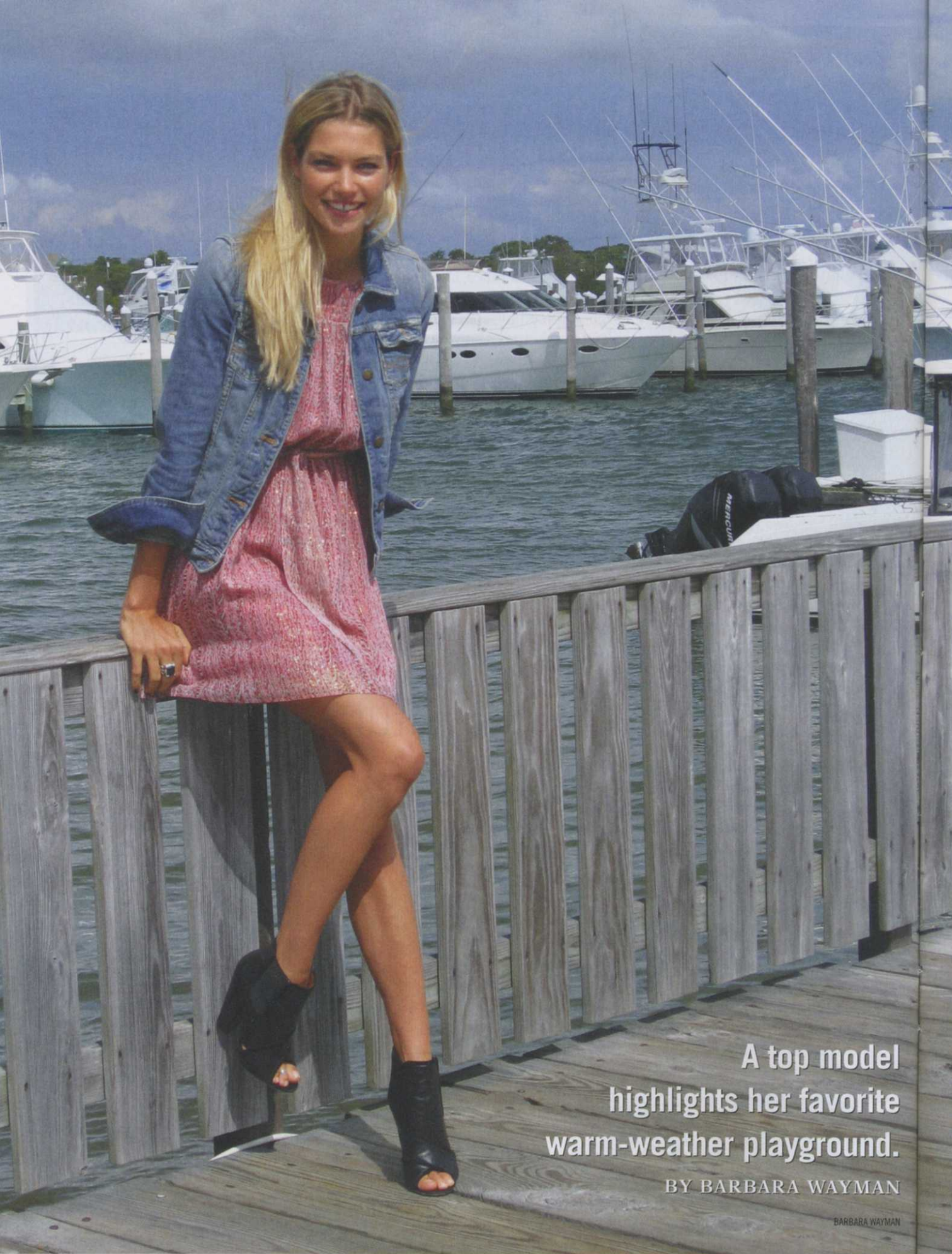
## DEPARTMENTS

- 6 Editor's Note
- 8 Here & There
- 14 The Web Page
- 22 Insurance News
- 45 Government Affairs
- 45 Vacation Sweepstakes
- 46 Traffic Safety
- 50 Financial News
- 58 Reader Service
- 59 Club Notes
- 64 Travel Treasures
- 66 Back Home

## ABOUT THE COVER

The foundation stone of Cologne Cathedral was laid on Aug. 15, 1248. The completion of Germany's largest cathedral was celebrated as a national event in 1880, some 600 years later.

PHOTO BY STUART WESTMORLAND



A top model  
highlights her favorite  
warm-weather playground.

BY BARBARA WAYMAN

BARBARA WAYMAN

**Cindy Crawford told the story** of what her daughter wants to be when she grows up: "A singer and a dancer, but—and the way she said this was so cute—she might model first because you don't have to have any special skills."

Model Jessica Hart might disagree. A Sports Illustrated swimsuit model and a fresh face for Guess International, L'Oreal, Moschino, the Gap, H&M, John Frieda hair care products, and more fashion and beauty lines, Hart has hit the ground running since beginning her modeling career nine short years ago.

The 5-foot-9-and-a-half-inch, 23-year-old leggy blonde stunner has come a long way since leaving her native Melbourne, Australia. Her lithe form, bright blue eyes and gap-toothed smile have graced catwalks in London, Paris, Melbourne and New York, where she now makes her home.

just sit around, watch movies and cook simple dishes in the kitchen."

The hustle and bustle of New York can present some challenges when it comes to relaxing, so as often as possible, Hart heads two hours east to her favorite destination—the Hamptons.

### **Pretty Paradox**

The Hamptons, a consortium of nine hamlets on the east end of Long Island, N.Y., has long been a playground for the rich and famous. Every year between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the area's beachside communities swell with vacationers, celebrities, moneyed Manhattanites and the people who cater to them, creating a vacation spot that's part seaside resort and part see-and-be-seen.

"The Hamptons are kind of a funny place," Hart said. "By day it's like a typical beach town, and

# Jessica Hart's HAMPTONS

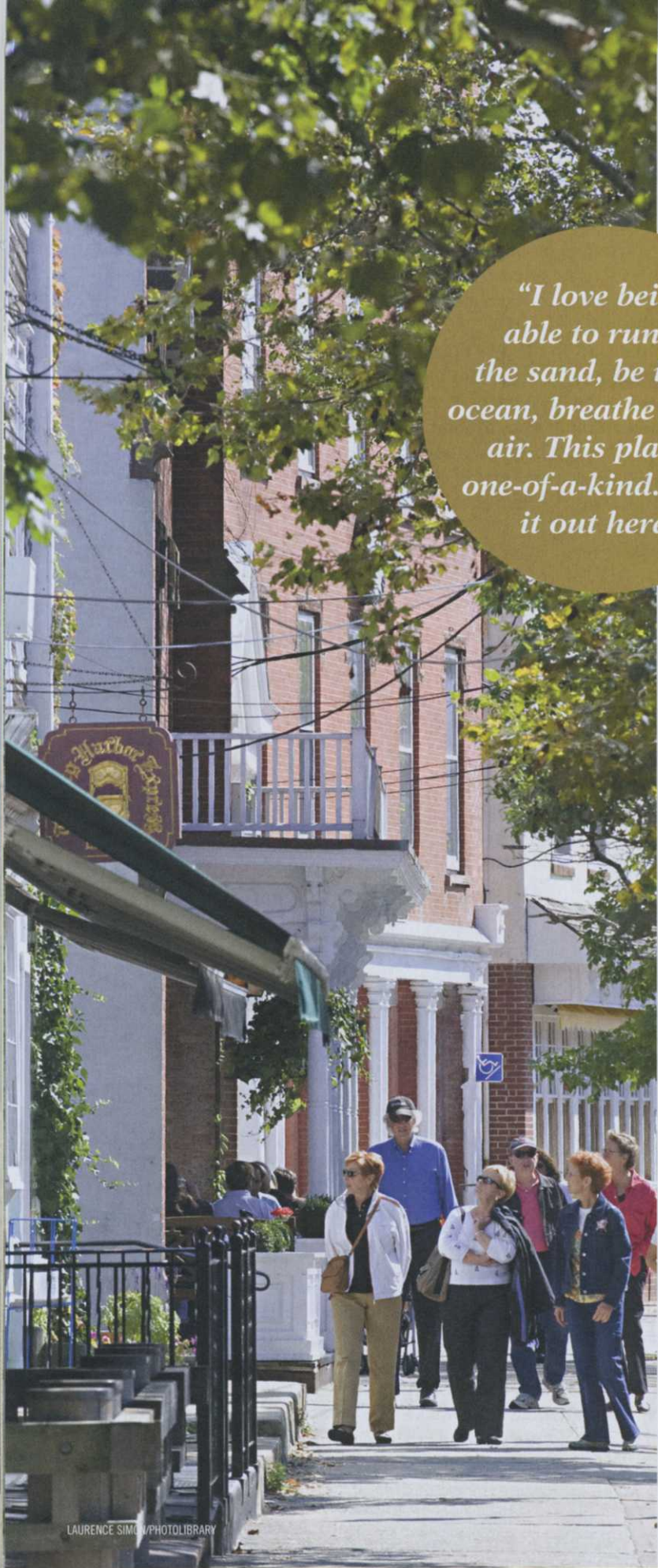
"Modeling has allowed me to travel all around the world," Hart said. "I love the chance to meet new people, try new food and experience different cultures. I've discovered some of my favorite places on shoots, like Turks & Caicos, St. Lucia, Paris, Morocco and the Aeolian Islands off Italy in Sicily, which are just gorgeous."

When the sets come down and the bright lights are switched off, it's not the throbbing beat of nightclubs that appeals most to the Aussie beauty but rather the simple pleasures of home and hearth.

"Modeling isn't physically hard, but it can be emotionally draining," she said. "When I'm off, I love to do simple things, like relax at home with my boyfriend and my little Yorkie. It's so great to

then at night it's the biggest party. I feel like I've stepped into a movie in East Hampton, almost like *Pleasantville*, where it's all very pretty and perfect, but then things are not exactly what they seem. With its big, open green spaces and big houses, you feel like you're out in the country, but then you're on the beach. It's not obvious initially, but this area is actually quite quirky."

Part bucolic farmland, part pristine beach, the Hamptons has a community that highly prizes historical presentation, along with being able to buy the latest Gucci handbag in town. Proximity to New York makes the land highly coveted, and it's quite possible visitors might see the likes of Martha Stewart, Steven Spielberg or P. Diddy inching along the main drag of state Route 27 in a spotless,



*"I love being able to run on the sand, be in the ocean, breathe the sea air. This place is one-of-a-kind. I love it out here."*

dark sport utility vehicle. Yet there's no shortage of local farmers to stock produce stands, farmers' markets and ultimately, restaurant larders.

To fully appreciate the pleasures of the Hamptons, travelers should schedule their visits during the swinging summer season, or, if they'd like a bit more peace and quiet, in the weeks after Labor Day.

"The shoulder season is lovely because almost everything is still open, but the summer crowds have fled, making it much easier to get around," said Lisa Friscie, manager of the General Home Store in East Hampton.

Each village has its own mood. East Hampton is picturesque and full of tiny shops and highly rated restaurants. Montauk has a surfer vibe and bills itself as "where the Hamptons relax." The small town of Water Mill is unassuming, keeping its attraction and dining treasures a bit more under wraps. Amagansett's name is American Indian for "place of good water," and its beaches are popular attractions, as is its marine museum. Hart loves to stroll Sag Harbor, which provides walking tours of its historical Main Street, lined with the homes of early Colonists, whaling captains and wealthy industrialists.

### **Sleep, Dine and Play**

As far as establishing a home base in the Hamptons goes, tourists have lots of options, including tiny bed-and-breakfasts, such as the six-room 1770s House in East Hampton, and condominium hotels, such as the 140-room Montauk Manor. The Surf Lodge, also in Montauk, offers bicycles for rent, a casual nightclub, restaurant and breathtaking sunset views over Fort Pond. Gurney's Inn in Montauk is a 109-room resort with one of the nation's only Thalasso spas, offering seawater and seaweed beauty treatments year-round.

Hart likes the Montauk Yacht Club Resort & Marina, which offers 107 guestrooms, villas and suites.

"The villa suites are so romantic. You have to drive up to them by car, so they feel really secluded and private," she said.

Once visitors are settled, they can venture out for some of the fresh seafood for which the island is known. Lobster, crab, clams, shrimp and mussels appear on menus throughout the Hamptons, and they all beg to be tasted. The Clam Bar, on Route 27 between Amagansett and Montauk, is a low-budget but delicious option. The lobster roll is crammed with meaty chunks of fresh lobster,

and the spicy crab and sweet corn chowder is flavorful with a touch of heat. Diners can hop up on one of the road stand's bar stools or take a seat at a handful of tables situated next to the stand.

Hart savors Chinese at Philippe Chow's, sushi at Suki Zuki in Water Mill and ribs at Townline BBQ in Sagaponack. Some of the area's other top picks are Pierre's in Bridgehampton, The Laundry Restaurant and Della Femina in East Hampton, and The American Hotel in Sag Harbor. And if tourists reach town before lunchtime, they should be sure to sample a freshly made cinnamon Dreesen's doughnut at Scoop du Jour in East Hampton, a local favorite.

Hamptons to-do lists also have to include some time lounging by the pool, swimming in the ocean and walking on the beach. But beyond sun and surf, the area has plenty more to do. Shopping, horseback rides along the beach, spa treatments, tennis, golf, boating and whale watching are all favorite pastimes. Hart recommends Georgica beach in East Hampton.

With her globetrotting schedule, Hart savors her free time, and it's hard for any destination, no matter how wonderful, to compete with the

couch in her apartment. But the Hamptons, she said, are a major exception.

"I would live my life here if I could, aside from being home in Australia," she said. "I love being able to run on the sand, be in the ocean, breathe the sea air. This place is one-of-a-kind. I love it out here."

## Planning Your Trip

Ask your AAA Travel agent about the AAA-exclusive Montauk's Lighted Beacon package, which includes accommodations savings and lunch at Gurney's Inn. For trip-planning assistance, contact a AAA Travel agent or visit [AAA.com/travel](http://AAA.com/travel). **H&A**

■ *Barbara Wayman is a regular contributor from Dublin, Ohio.*

## Jessica's Picks

**Stay:** "If you're going to get away for a weekend, Montauk Yacht Club is amazing. The food is great, and you can stay at a villa so it feels very exclusive."

**Eat:** "Georgica in East Hampton and Bobby Van's Steakhouse in Bridgehampton. I love the calamari salad there."

**Shop:** "Blue & Cream in East Hampton has the best stuff ever. They've got the best new designers and I want to wear everything they sell."

**Do:** "Run on the beach, swim in the ocean, lay by the pool. Walk the shopping streets of East Hampton. It's fun to visit a grocery store and stock up and then cook with your friends."

**Party:** "Lily Pond, Dune, Pink Elephant and the Montauk Yacht Club are all great. The Surf Lodge in Montauk always has great bands. It's an awesome place to watch the sun set, and the bands play outside so you can sit out there and really enjoy the evening. Stephen Talk-House in Amagansett is also great for music."

Shops and restaurants line Main Street in Sag Harbor (opposite), situated on the east end of Long Island. On the same end of the island is Montauk, where spectacular sunsets are the usual view from the back deck of the Surf Lodge (below).

