

Travel & Leisure

NEW HAMPSHIRE
SUNDAY NEWS

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Getting Out

What to do, where to go,
and how to get there

ALLENSTOWN: Making honey wine (mead), 3-7 p.m., Wintergreen Botanicals, LLC, Deerfield Road. \$20. Registration: www.wintergreenbotanicals.com.

DURHAM: Arlene Kies, piano, 3 p.m., Johnson Theatre, Paul Creative Arts Center, UNH. Free.

LEBANON: Hanover Chamber Orchestra, 7 p.m., Lebanon Opera House, 51 N. Park St. \$22/\$18, under 18 free. 448-0400, www.lebanonoperahouse.org.

MANCHESTER: "Nunsense A-Men," 2 p.m., Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St. \$25-\$40. 668-5588, www.palacetheatre.org.

MANCHESTER: Whole Health Expo: Body-Mind-Spirit, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Center of NH Radisson Hotel, 700 Elm St. \$12, second day free readmission. www.wholehealthexpo.com.

MANCHESTER, Theater: Director's Showcase: two one-act plays: "Graceland" and "Riverside Drive," 2 p.m., Majestic Theatre, 281 Cartier St. \$13/\$11/\$8. 669-7469, www.majestictheatre.net.

MANCHESTER, Lecture: "Clues Behind a Masterpiece," 2 p.m., Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St. www.currier.org, 669-6144.

MILFORD: "The Odd Couple," 2 p.m., Amato Center for the Performing Arts, 56 Mont Vernon St. \$15/\$10. www.MandMP.com, 320-1431.

NORTH CONWAY: 17th annual Mount Washington Valley Old Car Show, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Settlers Green, 2 Common Ct. Vehicle entry \$5, spectators \$3. 356-7031.

PETERBOROUGH: "Doubt: A Parable," 4 p.m., Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Road. \$35-\$40. 924-7585, www.peterboroughplayers.org.

PORTSMOUTH: Author Tom Piazza, 5 p.m., RiverRun Bookstore, 20 Congress St. Free. www.riverrunbookstore.com, 431-2100.

WHERE WE WENT

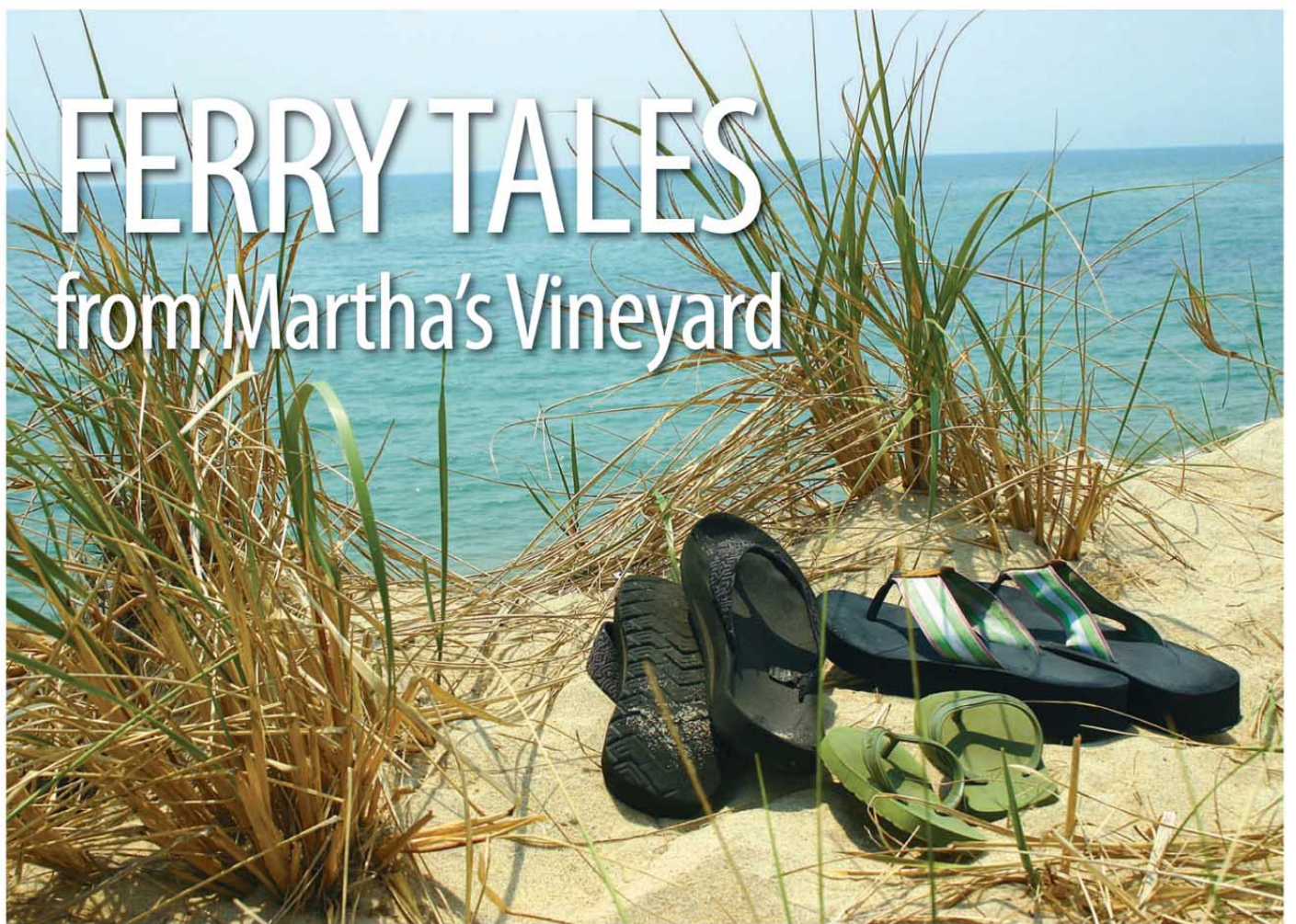


COURTESY PHOTO

Braden Bartlett, 11, of Penacook, got to enjoy a Fisher Cats game this summer, courtesy of his grandparents, Richard and Vicki Teed of Gilford. Here he enjoys a fried dough, one of the features of taking in a Fisher Cats game at MerchantsAuto.com Stadium in Manchester.

Share your vacation!

If you've been on vacation recently and would like to see your favorite photo published, send it to us. Make sure you mention where the photo was taken and who is in the picture. Also, tell us a little bit about that vacation. Send the photo to lifestyles@unionleader.com. Photos should be at least 200 dpi and in good taste.



LYNDSAY SCHOTT

Sandals in the dunes above South Beach on Martha's Vineyard provide a perfect photo prop on a summer's day. The area is great for a family getaway.

◆ **Family vacation spot:** The island isn't all movie stars and costly boutiques. Many places cater to families with young children.

By **BRIAN SCHOTT**
Special to the Sunday News

MARTHA'S VINEYARD, Mass.

AM HERE at Lure Restaurant at Winnetu Oceanside Resort, sipping a buttery Topanga Grenache Blanc, slurping Katama Bay oysters plucked from the ocean a half-mile away, cooing over the New England Fiddlehead soup, and gazing into my wife's eyes as we await our fresh seafood entrees to arrive, reminiscing about our fairy tale honeymoon eight years earlier on this beautiful island. Our 3-year-old

son is on the floor playing with Tonka Trucks. All is well in the world.

In early June, we shipped off the mainland and traveled to this 100-square-mile island seven miles off the Massachusetts coastline for a weekend of sun and sand. And we came to Winnetu specifically because we had heard about their focus on the family. We chose to visit prior to the busy rush of summer beachgoers. The same relaxed atmosphere and discounted prices can be enjoyed in the stunning autumn months.

Adam Butterfield, one of the concierges at the resort, picked us up at the bustling Vineyard Haven ferry terminal. The smell of the ocean filled my nostrils as I watched sea gulls dive into the water above a school of blue fish.

After negotiating through the narrow streets of town, we rolled along the coast and crossed the bridge where scenes from the movie "Jaws" were filmed, cruising along the calm waters of State Beach on the way to the resort.

After passing along the outskirts of Edgartown, we arrived at the Winnetu, 250 yards from the shores of South Beach.



BRIAN SCHOTT

Katama Farm Institute is a teaching farm situated near Winnetu Resort that offers various family learning experiences.

Our modern room was nicely appointed with cooking facilities, a small refrigerator, and a comfortable living area. Our deck overlooked a turtle pond, and a massive lawn with inviting lounge chairs. The smell of pine, flowers, surf, and sea were in the air. In the distance, the blue waters of the Atlantic shimmered.

"We want to run a casual resort, but still remain elegant," resort general manager Roderick Anderson told me. And it was exactly this mix of elegance and down-home family hospitality that kept my family smiling for the next two days.

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After soaking in the views across the 11-acre grounds from our spacious deck, we dressed for dinner. Lure Restaurant offers ocean views and a more formal scene in the main dining room, but we opted for the casual family room in the back. Immediately, I realized that we were in for a new kind of experience.

At one end of the dining room, multi-colored, kid-sized, comfy chairs were spread around a flat-screen television where "Shrek" was playing. Toys and games of all varieties were stacked in the corner. Couples sat at candlelit tables enjoying fresh, seasonal food from area farmers and fishermen, while children wandered from tables to the play zone.

Lyndsay and I joked with Rupali and Apurva Dixit from Hoboken, N.J., as their 2-year-old son, Syun, tipped himself back in the stuffed kid-chairs with Ethan, both children enjoying the smiles from the attentive staff. "It's amazing," said Rupali. "It's such a relaxed and friendly atmosphere — and nobody gets bothered if a kid starts crying."

Trying to teach your child manners at the dinner table is an important goal for any parent, but there is a lot less pressure when the question, "Can I go play?" is met with an emphatic "Yes!" as you dive into another flavorful bite. OK, maybe it doesn't work like this at home, but hey, we're on vacation.

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Many places plan activities around children, families

Vineyard

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Restaurant manager Ben Coffey stopped by our table to see how we were enjoying the experience. "Our concept takes into account that parents coming in here may have had a long day," he said. "Kids make friends with other kids here, too. And it really allows the adults to enjoy the food."

And enjoy we did. Seared George's Bank sea scallops with local corn and chanterelle succotash, and halibut with fresh grapefruit and local organic greens. Ethan wolfed down chicken strips from the Minnows Menu, and then went back to playing with his new friends.

But it didn't take him long to return to the table when he spied us eating our "Coffee & Doughnuts" dessert — espresso

pots du creme, served with warm cinnamon beignets (essentially a rich, delicious cup of chocolate mousse with warm, gourmet donut holes). We left feeling full and refreshed, dove into bed early, and were soothed to sleep by the distant sounds of the ocean wafting in through our open patio doors.

Our meal had set the stage for exquisite family fun and exemplified the rest of the weekend. The next morning we signed up for a children's program and left Ethan in the responsible hands of camp councilors who took him on turtle and treasure hunts, while Lyndsay and I took a quiet walk on the rolling beach, remembering what it felt like when we were only 2.

Later, with Ethan, we visited the nearby Katama Farm Institute that runs a variety of programs, events, and activities that are available to guests

at the Winnetu. Ethan petted baby chickens and goats, and then romped with squealing piglets. In the afternoon sun, we basked in the radiating warmth of the white sands on South Beach, just a short walk from the classic weathered-shingle resort. In the evening, we took a complimentary shuttle into historic Edgartown for more fresh catches at the Seafood Shanty, and we couldn't pass up vanilla ice cream as we wandered the narrow streets near dusk.

Becoming parents has changed vacations for us from those romantic days of our early 30s — there is no doubt about that. Now that we've entered the next phase of our adult life, it was a refreshing reminder that ferry tales still exist beyond bedtime stories.

Brian Schott is a freelance writer and photographer. Contact him at brian@brianschott.com.



BRIAN SCHOTT

The author's 3-year-old son, Ethan, runs down the sand dunes toward South Beach after walking the short path from The Winnetu Oceanside Resort. Lyndsay Schott looks on.