

AMBASSADOR

# THE VINEYARD

THE SUMMERTIME LURE OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD

BY ALICIA PIAZZA



Jim Ferraro's Martha's Vineyard Compound

After visiting Martha's Vineyard three summers in a row, it has become a family tradition that we look forward to continuing. Known as "The Vineyard," this small island is about 100 miles south of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and is a charming summer colony for the affluent. The island, only accessible by boat or plane, has three towns: Oak Bluffs, Vineyard Haven and Edgartown. Each has its own personality.

Oak Bluffs tends to be the most tourist-driven and is always a hit with children. With its many arcades, Flying Horses carousel, and fireworks, the youngsters want to visit and revisit Oak Bluffs over and over. The schools and summer camps on the island are extraordinary, which might be due to the proximity to Harvard. The camps focus on academics as well as environment, nature and more. My children absolutely love it. The activities and outdoor sports are also lovely, not just because of the beautiful backdrop, but also because the weather is divine. The climate is almost always in the mid 70s with a light breeze, perfect for boating, golfing or grilling.



View of the Atlantic from Ferraro's

Long-time residents and regular visitors include the Kennedy family, Larry David, David Letterman, Kenneth Cole, and of course Barack Obama. In fact, aviation security was in full force because the president was visiting with his family the very same week we were there last summer. It's not just famous actors and presidents that love The Vineyard, many artists have chosen to live there as well, including famous poets, writers, and musicians. The tall trees surrounding Oak Bluffs have inspired many of artist to write, sing and publish the most beautiful works of vineyard-inspired art.

You will not find any large hotels on The Vineyard. There is no St. Regis or Four Seasons, nor are there any chain restaurants or Starbucks. There are only little bed and breakfasts and locally owned restaurants, which is just how the locals (and the visitors) like it. Your best bet is to be invited by a local to stay at their home as I was.

I can't say specifically what it is that makes us return to The Vineyard every year...maybe it's the adorable "black dog" mascot, or the great weather, all the laid-back celebrities hanging out. Whatever it is, we can't seem to quit The Vineyard.



The famous Martha's Vineyard black dog is ubiquitous.