

# Longboat Key Life

October 20, 2006

Art, Real Estate and Community Life

Section B

## Sizzling Red Hot



"Red Hot & Cole" opens Oct. 26 at The Players Theatre and runs through Nov. 5.

A scintillating mixture of biography and song, The Players Theatre production of "Red Hot & Cole" celebrates the great American songwriter Cole Porter, who brought style, elegance and sophistication to the stages and soundstages of Broadway and Hollywood. He delighted the world with his devilishly clever rhymes, fresh and unexpected melodies and sassy, sexy sensibility.

"Red Hot & Cole" bubbles with songs that have become international standards from such classic shows and movies as Anything Goes, Kiss Me Kate, High Society and Can-Can among others. It traces Porter's life from his childhood in Indiana to the stages and penthouses of New York City, Paris and Venice. It is a champagne tribute to a glittering age gone by, and the man and talent who was Cole Porter.

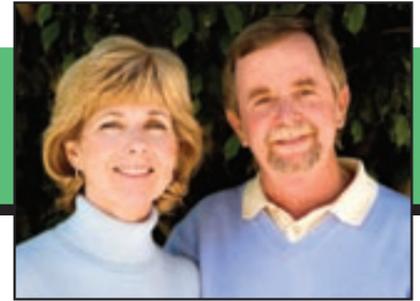
Jorge Acosta returns to The Players as director of "Red Hot & Cole." Audiences may remember Acosta as Tony Esposito in last season's production of "The Most Happy Fella." Acosta has extensive experience in theatre as a writer, director, teacher, vocal coach and producer. Shawn Marren is the Musical Director with Fadi Akhtar as Choreographer. Kaylene Cunningham is the Costumer with Tom Hanson as Scenic Designer.

"Red Hot & Cole" boasts a cast of over 22 actors, singers, dancers, and musicians. Archie Waugh won the title role of Cole Porter, Lillian Moore is Cole's wife, Dawn Daugherty plays Elsa Maxwell, June Baxendale plays the chanteuse Bricktop, Randy Garmer is Noel Coward and Cindy Goeken is Ethel Merman, plus many more.

All seats for "Red Hot & Cole" are \$23 for adults and \$12 for students. Opening night is Oct. 26, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. and runs through Nov. 5, 2006. Showtimes are Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. with 2 p.m. matinees scheduled for Oct. 29, Nov. 4 and Nov. 5. For tickets and information, call The Players Theatre at 365-2494 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

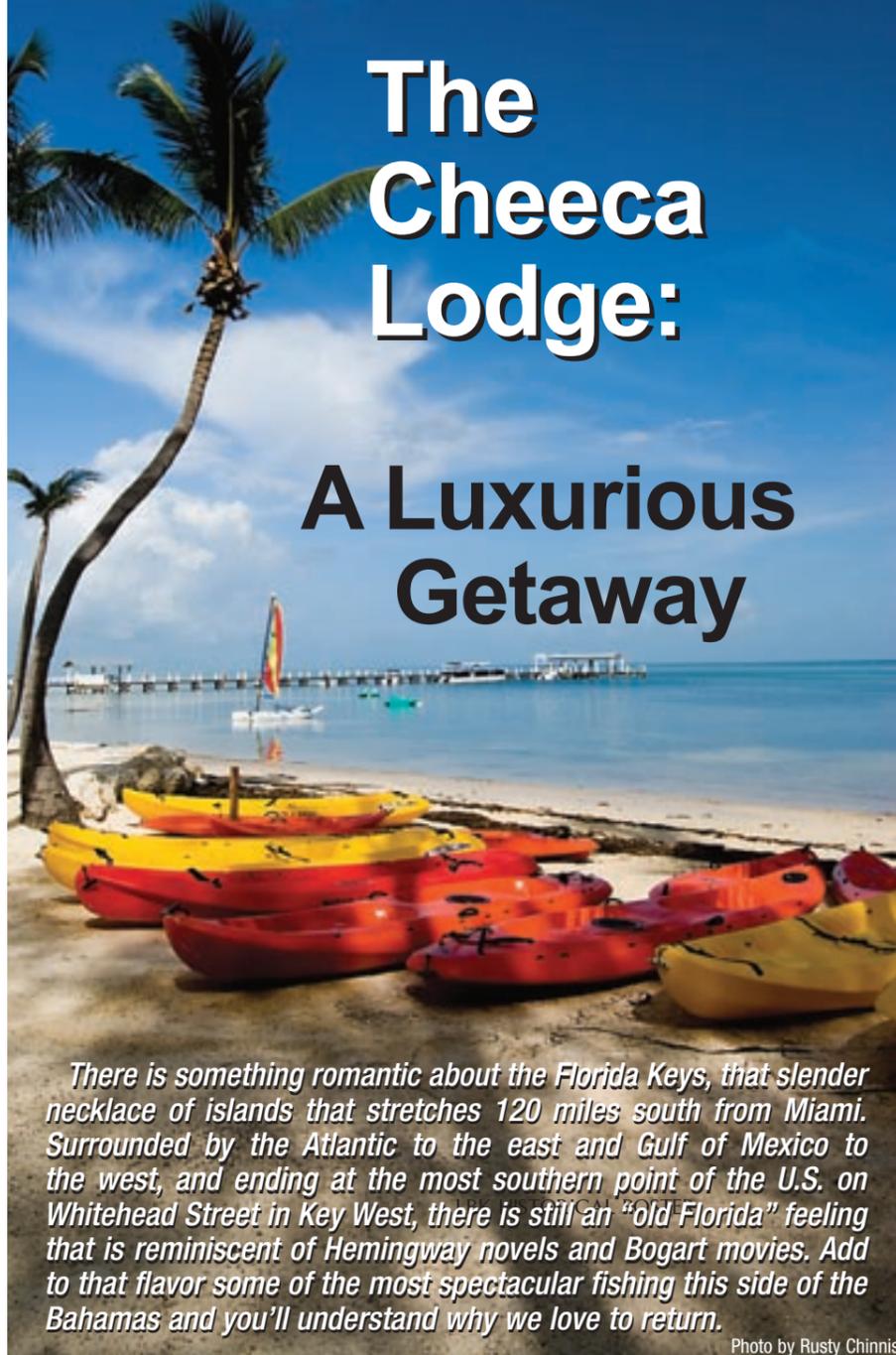
## The Natural Traveler

by Rusty Chinnis & Christine Killeen



## The Cheeca Lodge:

## A Luxurious Getaway



*There is something romantic about the Florida Keys, that slender necklace of islands that stretches 120 miles south from Miami. Surrounded by the Atlantic to the east and Gulf of Mexico to the west, and ending at the most southern point of the U.S. on Whitehead Street in Key West, there is still an "old Florida" feeling that is reminiscent of Hemingway novels and Bogart movies. Add to that flavor some of the most spectacular fishing this side of the Bahamas and you'll understand why we love to return.*

Photo by Rusty Chinnis

Recently, we had the opportunity to visit the Cheeca Lodge in Islamorada, one of our favorite places to stay in the Keys. The Cheeca is part of an exclusive group of Resorts called the "Small Luxury Hotels of the World." Built in the 1960's, after a hurricane destroyed the Olney Inn at that location, the grounds of the Lodge already had acquired a reputation for attracting famous people. The new Lodge was named "Cheeca" for its two owners, Cynthia (called Che-Che) and husband Carl Twitchell, heir to the A&P Supermarket fortune. Located on 27 luxurious ocean-front acres, it attracted celebrities of the time like golf legend Sam Snead, baseball great and fly fisherman Ted Williams, and singer/actor Bing Crosby.

The first time we had the pleasure of staying at the Cheeca Lodge was in the early 1990's when they hosted the annual conference of the Florida Outdoor Writers Conference (FOWA). Over the years, we had occasion to return to the Lodge for the Redbone Tournament for Cystic Fibrosis and the George Bush Bonefish Tournament, now an annual event. Each time, we enjoyed consistently excellent service, food and accommodations. So, when an opportunity arose for

a stop there on our way to our FOWA conference this year, we decided to take it. As we drove to the main building of the Lodge, we admired the lush tropical atmosphere that surrounded us, meticulously and lovingly manicured. The open plaza at the front entrance is surrounded on three sides by French doors, and shaded by statuesque palms. Enthusiastic personnel greeted us and made it clear that we were a priority.

Though we had stayed at various locations on the property on our other visits, nothing could have prepared us for our accommodations this time. We were directed to a building on the far end of the beach. As we opened the door to our room, it was as we had stepped onto a West Indies island. The dark mahogany floors framed a luxurious room, complete with lush king sized bed, a bathroom that felt like

a tropical grotto with its quarry tiles and large walk-in shower, palm ceiling fan, small wet bar area, large plasma TV, and a screened lanai that opened to a spectacular view of the Atlantic. We kicked off our shoes, and walked out our back door to relax in the hammock on the beach and enjoy the gentle breezes and the rising full moon over the water.

The next morning, while Rusty took advantage of the world-class fishing in this area, I decided to enjoy breakfast in the Atlantic's Edge Dining Room. I spent the first few minutes surveying and appreciating the breakfast buffet. A colorful array of luscious tropical fruits, as well as bagels, cereals, heated chafing dishes with bacon and pancakes, and a whole buffet with ingredients to design the omelet of your choice, were a feast for the eyes as well as the palate. The staff was attentive without being intrusive, there to make sure that my coffee was fresh and that I had everything I needed. As I sat back cradling my warm cup, I gazed through a curved wall of glass at the sparkling Atlantic Ocean, feeling as if I were floating on a giant sailing ship.

After breakfast, I took a casual stroll through the property, realizing that they had thought of everything to make a vacation memorable. You can play their nine-hole Jack Nicklaus golf course, catch a game at the tennis courts, work out at the health club, swim in a traditional pool or in their saltwater lagoon, take a bike ride and explore Islamorada, go snorkeling, windsurfing, sailing or kayaking. For families with young children, there is even a "Camp Cheeca", with special activities designed for guests age 5-12.

However, my personal favorite has always been their Spa. The menu of available treatments is breathtaking with seven different kinds of massages, six kinds of facials, five skin treatments for the body, and of course manicures and my personal favorite, pedicures. For my pedicure, I was led by a lovely young woman to a private cabana outside, and seated facing the fountain in the center of the courtyard. Over the next hour, my feet and legs were treated to salt scrubs, a marine algae mask, a knee-to-toe massage and a paraffin foot treatment. When at last my nails were buffed and painted, I felt deeply relaxed. Although I've had pedicures before, this was the most thorough

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Rusty Chinnis

Visitors to the Cheeca Lodge can sail the waters of the Atlantic Ocean or fish and dive from their private dock.