



AS SEEN IN

Sailing
MAGAZINE

As all East Coast sailors know, plenty of sailing meccas can be found north of the Florida state line as well. One of the more popular destinations is Oriental, North Carolina, located where Pamlico Sound, the Neuse River and the Intracoastal Waterway meet at mile marker 173. This is where sailboats outnumber people, three to one.



That's no surprise. Resident and visiting sailors enjoy Pamlico Sound's steady breezes and broad stretches of open water. They also appreciate the lack of commercial traffic on the country's second-largest estuary. Here, not only do you have access to world-class, big-water sail-

ing, you're also within a stone's throw of North Carolina's renowned coastal destinations and historic maritime sites.

Oriental also is also home to a boating-focused community called River Dunes; at its heart is Grace Harbor, which features durable ipe floating docks, 400 protected slips and a sailboat-friendly 8-foot depth.

You also can come to River Dunes for a land-based sailing vacation, North Carolina style. Charming, fully furnished one-, two- and three-bedroom cottages are available for rent, each equipped with a fireplace, morning kitchen and full bathroom.



You'll have guest privileges to use River Dunes' bicycles, carts and Harbor Club facilities. You'll also enjoy a saline pool with private cabanas and hot tubs that overlook the harbor, as well as fine and casual dining options, the Chandlery, a library and even a billiards center. Rates in the cottages start at \$220 per night.

Then there's the sailing, of course. River Dunes offers junior sailing camps for ages 6 and up, boater safety courses and U.S. Coast Guard-approved Captain's License Courses, all taught by professional instructors. Best of all, you can customize a weeklong stay-and-sail package to incorporate instructional sessions, destination sails or bareboat charters. If you'd like an expert aboard, a licensed captain can guide you to places like Ocracoke Island, Beaufort and Cape Lookout National Seashore, with favorite stops including Howard's Pub, The Back Porch and The Beaufort Grocery.