

out and about

Affordable escapes, pet advice from our country vet, and historic houses under \$100K



**Wish you were here?
You can be—for
only \$79 a night!**

Gather your friends and score a deal. These six group getaways grow cheaper with every pal.

Kick back on Rosemary Beach in the Florida Panhandle. More interested in a wine-tasting tour or antiquing spree? Turn the page for these and other thrifty travel ideas.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY AMY MICKLER



out and about

The ideal group vacation rental should feel like a home away from home—where you can whip up a feast in the kitchen or play cards on the porch, instead of holing up in separate hotel rooms. These getaways, each devoted to fun stuff like vintage shopping and garden tours, offer your gang the privacy of a whole house at the right price: less than \$100 a night per person. Some of the rates may mean doubling up on rooms, but what's a little togetherness among friends?

The Relaxing Beach Holiday

HEAD TO Rosemary Beach, Florida, is a cute-as-a-button Gulf Coast town centered around a verdant square lined with shops and cafés. Hit the white-sand beach, where you can rent sailboats, paddleboards (*right*), or a hammock (no judgment here).

STAY AT Giildenzopf Cottage (*rosemarybeach.com*), just four blocks from the sea, combines bunk-bed quarters with luxe amenities like a plunge pool and a chef's kitchen. Have local grocery service the Beach Butlers (*thebeachbutlers.com*) fill the fridge before you arrive.

IT'LL COST \$79 each (the five-bedroom house sleeps up to 10, for \$793 a night).



Surf's up: Yolo (*yoloboard.com*) supplies paddleboarding equipment (from \$25 an hour) for revelers in and around Rosemary Beach, Florida.

The Wine-Tasting Trip

HEAD TO Naples, New York, in the Finger Lakes region, gives California wine country a run for its money with 100 vineyards in a 60-mile radius (*fingerlakeswinecountry.com*). Among the standouts: Heron Hill Winery touts sustainable practices and award-winning Rieslings.

STAY AT Sky Lodge (*skylodgevacation.com*), a 1920s Adirondack-style "great camp" (*below left*), sits amid 34 acres of woods—and you'll have the entire place to yourselves. Snip early greens and herbs from the garden. For fresh eggs, head a mile downhill, where the lodge owners keep hens.

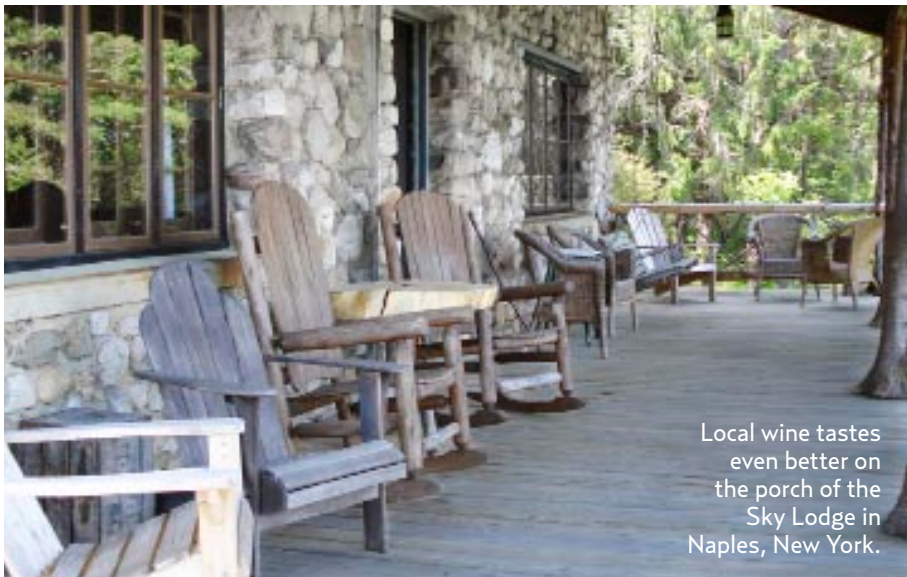
IT'LL COST \$63 each (the three-bedroom house sleeps up to six, for \$380 a night).

The Spa Stay

HEAD TO Ukiah, California, stakes a claim as home to one of the oldest mineral-bath spas in the state. Founded in 1854, **Vichy Springs** (*vichysprings.com*) has attracted such famous guests as Mark Twain and Teddy Roosevelt. Soak in one of 10 original tubs—four of them outdoors—or indulge in a hot-stone massage.

STAY AT Vichy Springs offers a trio of two-bedroom cottages, with good-size porches, right on the grounds. Your rate includes use of the pools and baths.

IT'LL COST \$90 each (a two-bedroom cottage sleeps up to six, for \$540 a night).



Local wine tastes even better on the porch of the Sky Lodge in Naples, New York.

PHOTOGRAPH BY (TOP) AMY MICKLER



Watch the trout—and your step—at Hanging Lake, just east of Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

The Antiquing Expedition

HEAD TO Galena, Illinois, boasts a dozen dealers—showcasing everything from midcentury tins and jars (*below*) to Victorian books—in its historic downtown (*galena.org*), and some 50 more on the outskirts. Plus, a scenic drive leads to additional vintage shops in nearby Stockton and Elizabeth. Keep your eyes peeled for barn sales along the way.

STAY AT At Harvest Home (*atharvesthome.com*), a bungalow seven miles from Main Street’s sellers, has two tempting cocktail-hour spots: a fire pit and a patio.

IT’LL COST \$47 each (the three-bedroom house sleeps up to eight, for \$375 a night).

The Outdoorsy Adventure

HEAD TO Glenwood Springs, Colorado, fits the bill for both adrenaline junkies and more laid-back types (*visitglenwood.com*). Avid hikers can tackle the steep, challenging climb to Hanging Lake (*above*); the rest of us can stick to the paved paths of Glenwood Canyon for a little bighorn sheep spotting.

STAY AT Sunshine Ridge Guest House (*sunshineridgeguesthouse.com*), an expansive chalet with fireplaces in the living and dining rooms, affords grand views of Four Mile Valley. But consider yourself warned: With a pool table and honor-system “wine cave” (take a bottle, leave 10 bucks), your crew may want to stay inside! **IT’LL COST \$47 each** (the six-bedroom house sleeps up to 16, for \$750 a night).

The Rustic Culinary Retreat

HEAD TO Daingerfield, Texas, lies two hours and a world away from Dallas. Visit working cattle ranch **Greer Farm** (*greerfarm.com*) for a hands-on lesson—literally—in

farm-to-table cooking. May’s theme: East Texas strawberries.

STAY AT Greer Farm rents four log cabins, all fronting a private 11-acre lake. Spend at least two nights, and the owners will stock your kitchen with homemade jam and bread.

IT’LL COST \$39 each (a one-bedroom cabin sleeps up to four, for \$155 a night).

The Garden Tour

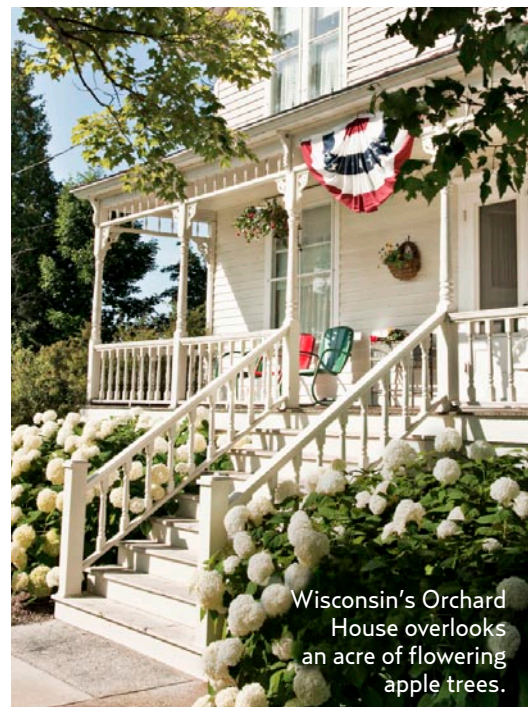
HEAD TO Door County, Wisconsin, may be best known for Lake Michigan’s attractions—fishing, sailing, canoeing—but come May, it’s all about the monthlong Festival of Blossoms. Download a map (*doorcounty.com*) and scope out 30-plus public and private gardens, including Ridges Sanctuary (*ridgessanctuary.org*), a 1,600-acre wildflower haven.

STAY AT Orchard House (*theblacksmithinn.com*), a century-old farmstead (*below*) in Baileys Harbor—one of several villages in the county—comes with croquet equipment and even kayaks, which you can launch from a dock across the street.

IT’LL COST \$37 each (the four-bedroom house sleeps up to eight, for \$295 a night).



New inventory is unveiled daily at Peace of the Past in Galena, Illinois.



Wisconsin’s Orchard House overlooks an acre of flowering apple trees.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) ANISH PALEKAR, MATTHEW LOVETTE; PEACE OF THE PAST ANTIQUES