

# HAMPTON ISLAND PRESERVE



**IT WAS DESTINY THAT TOOK HIM THERE.** After 22 years in the business, a nationally recognized expert in the field of resort development was scouting properties for a development company when he happened upon a piece of land that spoke to his spirit, a piece of land that he was perhaps born to shape and mold and protect. Listen to Wade Shealy as he recalls his first visit to the unspoiled 4000-acre island just off the coast of Georgia: “From the moment I saw Hampton Island, her beauty spoke to my soul in a way that was unforgettable. I knew at that moment I had to protect this magnificent piece of history, this sanctuary, from typical development.”

And indeed, what is emerging from the floor of this spectacular island located between Savannah and Sea Island is anything but typical. In fact, from the Davis Love III--designed golf course that appears to have been discovered there as opposed to designed and built, to the organic vegetable and herb farm which helps to feed





members and guests, everything that has been done at Hampton Island has been done with an eye toward preserving the stunning natural beauty that seems to surround every spot on the island. Visitors to Shealy's island paradise will surely be moved by the majestic, centuries-old Live Oaks standing guard over lush green fields, salt water marshes, sundry lakes and ponds and the deer, osprey and egrets that live among them. And you can be certain that these remarkable assets will never see the shadow of a bulldozer. Listen again as Shealy talks about his creation: "We are very cautious about everything we're doing here, because we want it to last. Every step we make will signify our commitment to this land. It's

not good enough that our amenities are superior or well thought-out. Ecology has to be part of everything we do. If we are creating something with meaning that speaks to this region, this land and its history, the way I see it, we only have one chance to do it right – and we are going to do it right."

Under the watchful eye of Shealy, a self-described tree-hugger, this rare beauty, which happens to be one of the last undeveloped islands on the South Atlantic Coast, is being carefully and respectfully developed as an exclusive residential retreat and private sanctuary for the truly discerning individual. The total number of memberships at Hampton Island Preserve is limited to only 393. For those who

wish to reside or keep a second home on the island, 163 of those memberships will include home sites ranging from six 100-acre horse farms to acre-plus lots overlooking the marsh. The remaining 230, called stewardships, allow use of the unique property and its amenities without a home site. Also of note, Reflections, the 2006 Southern Accents Showcase home designed by architect Keith Summerour was built on the island's Harvest Lake and will be featured in the November/December issue of Southern Accents magazine.

Whether you are interested in upscale accommodations, golfing, equestrian pursuits, hunting, fishing or hiking in a pristine natural setting, rest assured Hampton Island will not disappoint. For Shealy's

unswerving commitment to preserving the island's natural pulchritude, as evidenced by his decision to develop only twenty percent of the property, leaving the remaining 80 percent au naturel, is only half the plan. Turns out he is just as unyielding in his commitment to ensuring that Hampton Island members enjoy world-class amenities while surrounded by the awe-inspiring scenery of his one-of-a-kind exclusive club.

Chief among the offerings are seventeen guest homes ranging from a one bedroom cabin on Turtle Lake to a fifteen bedroom house called the Rice House, all of which will be available for use by members and their guests. Of these, The Butterfly Cottage, with its



three bedrooms and Settler's Rest, an 8,000-square-foot, four-suite guest home are already completed. Currently under construction are three golf cottages, seven cottages on Turtle Lake and the 17,500-square-foot, eight-bedroom Hampton House which will also house the wine cellar designed by Rob Mondavi of the well-known Mondavi wine family. This extraordinary space will feature century-old French oak floors built from Mondavi vineyard wine barrels and is expected to provide seating for 100.

Sure to be unlike any you've played elsewhere, Ricefields, the aforementioned golf course, allows you to play your way through and around ancient oak forests, wild marshes, stocked ponds, the equestrian center and 20 acres of fully restored 200-year-old rice fields. Nine holes will open in October 2006 with the remaining nine slated for a summer 2007 opening.

For those with an equestrian bent, there will be more than 40 fully-equipped stalls along with 900 acres of horse fencing and pastures available for members' use. Also of interest to horsemen, the preserve will feature a covered arena, a barn with

board and care, courses for jumpers, 25 miles of bridle paths and both private and group riding lessons. And future plans include a Thoroughbred program with a one-mile dirt track and a 7/8-mile grass track for training racehorses. The expectation is that this first-rate facility will attract thoroughbreds for winter race training.

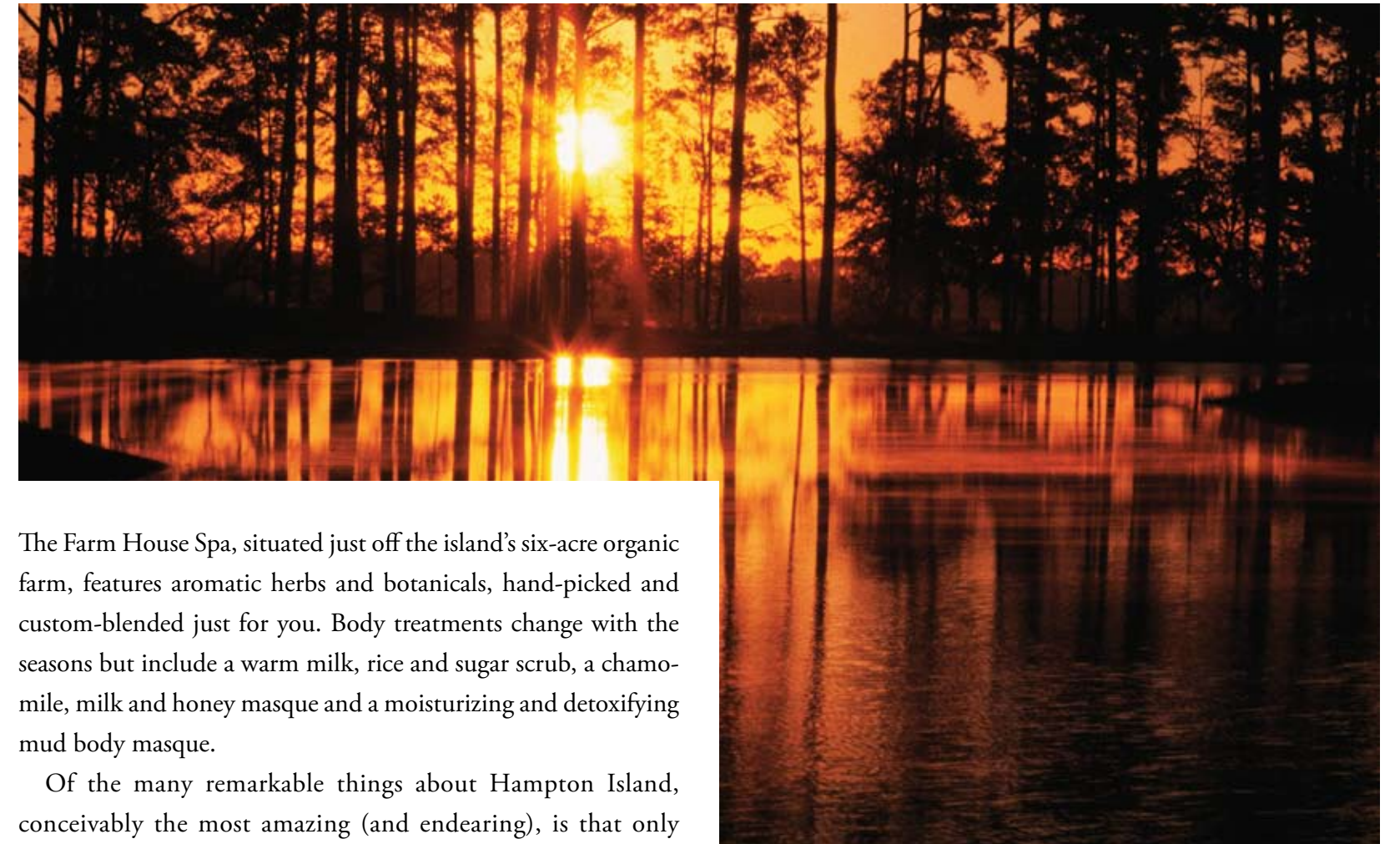
If you are among the many whose ideal commune with nature includes spending time in the woods locked and loaded and in silent pursuit of game, you will be well-accommodated by the Hampton Island Hunt Club and Lodge, a separate hunter's retreat located on a nearby 1,000-acre plantation featuring excellent quail, dove and pheasant hunting. For the avid angler, fresh water fishing can be enjoyed on more than 200 acres of lakes on the island. And if deep-sea fishing is what gets your heart pumping, the deep waters of the Atlantic are a short hop away by seaplane, of which the island sports two for such excursions. Once on the water, you'll be met by the Preserve's 31-foot Contender sport fishing boat and a knowledgeable guide who will put you



over fish. What develops from there is largely between you and the fish but its rare to meet an unhappy fisherman at the Hampton Island pier.

The two amphibious seaplanes, a seven-passenger Cessna Caravan Turboprop and a two-passenger Piper PA-12 Super Cruiser are available to members for transportation to and from the island and are ideal for exploring the 100 miles of beaches along Georgia's 10 uninhabited barrier islands. The Preserve also features the only underwater lighted runway in the continental U.S., so there are no worries if the fish are still biting or the beaches still inviting when the sunlight begins to fade. Go ahead and stay a little longer and make an unforgettable nighttime water landing the perfect ending to your perfect day at Hampton Island.

And if you find yourself a bit sore from lifting sea bass, red snapper or grouper from the briny deep into the boat, (or if that old college injury flairs up), there is a solution for that as well. Two of four spas designed by Lydia Abernathy Mondavi, who is well-known for her work with upscale resorts around the country, are currently open to soothe away the exquisite pain that only the over-achieving fisherman (or horseman, swimmer, kayaker or footballer) can know. A crowd favorite is the Tree House Spa near Settler's Rest, accessed by a boardwalk which disappears into the forest and marsh. When, after a short, scenic, walk you reach the spa, you climb the stairs to an actual, screened-in tree house where you can be treated to a deep-tissue massage, hot stone massage, reflexology, or if you prefer, a deep, penetrating soak in the Japanese tub while a gentle breeze moves through the treetops.



The Farm House Spa, situated just off the island's six-acre organic farm, features aromatic herbs and botanicals, hand-picked and custom-blended just for you. Body treatments change with the seasons but include a warm milk, rice and sugar scrub, a chamomile, milk and honey masque and a moisturizing and detoxifying mud body masque.

Of the many remarkable things about Hampton Island, conceivably the most amazing (and endearing), is that only a few hundred yards onto the property you begin to feel as though you are hundreds of miles away from the rest of the world and the stress that comes with it. That feeling is getting more and more difficult to attain in this over-stressed, pressure cooker world of ours which just might explain why actor Ben Affleck is a Hampton Island Preserve member and has already purchased two homes on the island. He will soon be joined by a few others drawn to the peaceful solitude of this uncommon place.

One of the biggest challenges facing the environmentally sensitive developers of Hampton Island Preserve was to balance eco-sensitivity with creating a world-class coastal retreat worthy of the breathtaking site. It is the kind of goal more often aspired to than actually accomplished, but Shealy and his team have proven themselves equal to the task. When his vision is fully realized, Hampton Island will take its rightful place among the nation's premier private retreats. 🌿

