

# Destinations

THE LATEST LOCAL TRAVEL DEALS AND GETAWAYS PLUS JOURNEYS AROUND THE GLOBE

## ON THE WATER

*Since very few of us actually live near bay or ocean, here are a few waterfront options to consider for your next staycation. »*

BY MIMI TOWLE

Wine and cheese on the deck  
at The Inn Above Tide.



**B**ACK IN THE 1960s, William “Bill” McDevitt, an entrepreneur and bon vivant who counted then-Sausalito mayor Sally Stanford among his circle of good friends, had a feeling the town was changing from working class to world-class.

At that time, the waterfront was home to budding rock legends and characters like the aforementioned Stanford, famously a former madam and businesswoman who held court on her favorite barstool at her Sausalito restaurant Valhalla. Seizing the opportunity, McDevitt purchased a local garage/storage facility and built a high-end apartment complex. Later, heading into his seventh decade, he had the idea to turn the apartments into a luxury boutique hotel, The Inn Above Tide, which opened in 1995.

For the opening, McDevitt brought on a young hotelier, Mark Flaherty, who remembers seeing the same qualities in his new boss that he respected in his dad: “He and my father were nearly the same age, and they shared similar interests in music, wine, spirits, food and an appreciation for hard work.” Today there is still a nightly wine and cheese reception at the hotel, complete with views of the Sausalito ferry, and 20 years later Flaherty is still at the helm. “The constant challenges involved in improving the property and enhancing our guests’ experience of Sausalito have kept the job exciting,” he says.

The property has undergone three major remodels, the latest completed in 2013. Each of the 26 guest rooms has a water view, and there are five additional great room-style suites for larger groups (or longer stays). Flaherty’s favorite room? “You simply cannot go wrong with the penthouse and its bathtub overlooking the bay and San Francisco’s skyline,” he says.

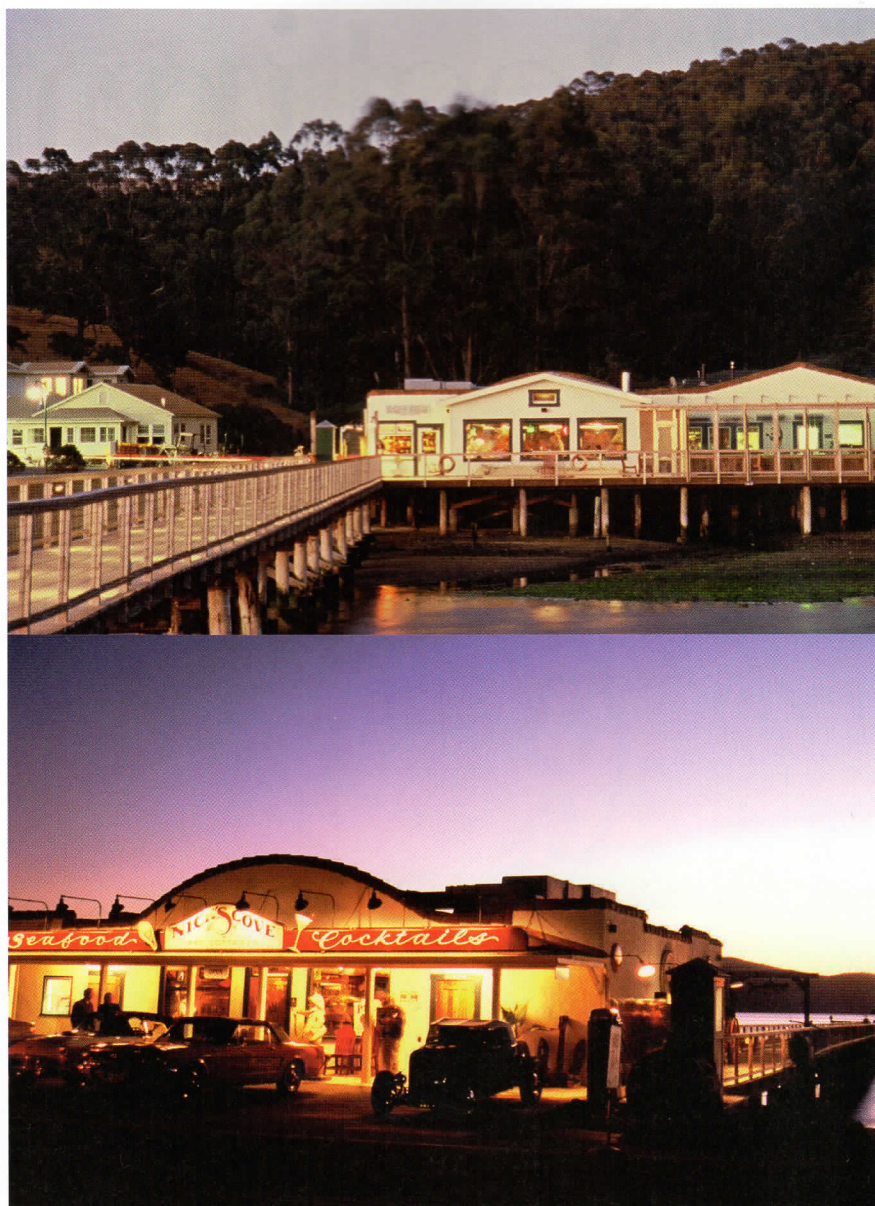
Flaherty works with McDevitt’s children Kass, Mike and Willie, who now own the

hotel and love carrying on their father’s legacy. “My dad was such a big part of The Inn Above Tide that working with my brothers and Mark and his staff on the hotel makes me feel like he is with me still,” Kass says. “His vision permeates throughout the hotel, especially in the attention to detail, from the perfect morning fruit and delicious orange juice to the scrumptious beds and the decor in each room.” As an added perk for guests, she has created detailed maps that include nearby landmarks and attractions such as the secret steps. Even longtime locals might learn a thing or two on one of her Sausalito walking tours. *Rooms start at \$375, innabovetide.com.*

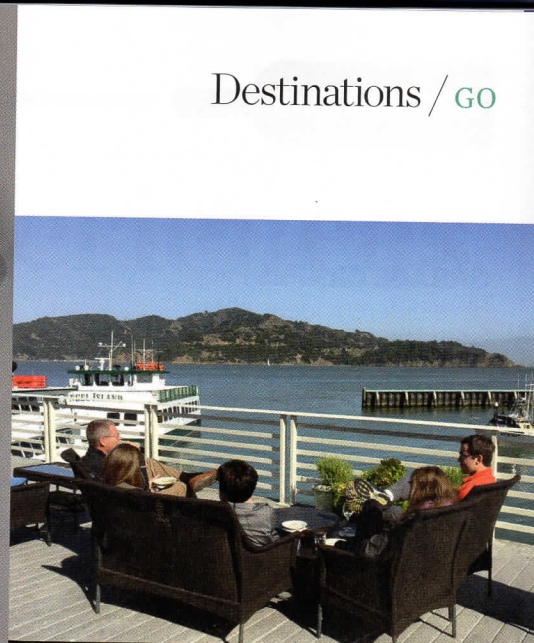
## Other Waterfront Option

### ➔ Nick’s Cove

The first iteration of this historic destination was situated on Tomales Bay in Marshall before 1900 when Henry W. Hallock, President Abraham Lincoln’s chief of staff during the Civil War, purchased the property in 1850. Through the decades various owners have added to it. The name came from Nick Kojich, a rumored bootlegger from Yugoslavia. He and his family opened a seafood restaurant and built several houses atop wooden pilings near the beach. Today it’s known as a rustic yet chic getaway with a really good restaurant and if you’re lucky, live music. *Cabins start at \$449, nicks Cove.com.*







### ➔ The Poet's Loft

Looking for an idyllic getaway on the bay? The Poet's Loft in Marshall features two rooms, private deck, hot tub and lots of space to relax. After hunting and gathering at the surrounding ranches and farms, bring the goods back to the fully equipped kitchen and enjoy your meal with views of Tomales Bay. *Starting at \$275, poetsloft.com.*

### ➔ Tomales Bay Resort

The property opened in 1950 as the Golden Hinde, a nod to Sir Francis Drake's ship, and has gone through a few iterations throughout the decades, the latest being a major renovation in 2010, accompanied by the name

change to Tomales Bay Resort. Situated on five acres, the property has a pool and is close to the little town of Inverness. *Rooms start at \$135, tomalesbayresort.com.*

### ➔ Waters Edge Hotel

Built on a dock behind Tiburon's Main Street and facing San Francisco Bay, the Waters Edge Hotel has a communal back deck, ideal for a cup of coffee and paper in the morning or a glass of wine as the sun sets. This property also offers guests evening wine and cheese. And since it's right next to both the Tiburon and the Angel Island ferry, it can be launching pad for a city or island adventure. *Rooms start at \$269, marinhotels.com/waters-edge-hotel. M*

Opposite from top: Nick's Cove from the water; Nick's Cove beckons travelers from the road at dusk. This page, clockwise from top left: Penthouse tub at Inn Above Tide; view from the deck at Waters Edge; view from the Poet's Loft, which was built in 1979 for the chair of the poetry department at S.F. State University; dock near the Poet's Loft; right on the water at Tomales Bay Resort.