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The Southern Pineapple

After reading about the charming coastal town of Fairhope, Alabama, in an issue of *Cooking with Paula Deen* magazine, Patti Hussey had to see it for herself.



When Salt Lake City, Utah, residents Patti and Curt Hussey began thinking about where they wanted to retire, they had their hearts set on moving back to the South. “I actually saw a spread about Fairhope in *Cooking with Paula Deen* magazine and decided to go check it out,” Patti recalls. “When I came down here, I was in a little dream world. I called Curt and said, ‘You just can’t believe this place; it’s just like a little paradise.’”

Patti returned to Salt Lake City, and two weeks later, the couple came back to Fairhope ready to house hunt. Now, nearly 10 years later, the city that captured their hearts and imaginations still makes them feel like they’re on vacation every day.

Looking back, the couple recognizes the blessing of the journey that led them to their home. Patti shares that their real estate agent took them by a house that wasn’t officially on the market yet but potentially had everything they wanted in a home. Known as the Rose House, the home’s original owner was a master gardener who bought three lots and filled the whole area with roses. The Husseys knew right away that they’d found something special. The expansive backyard was dappled with old live oaks, there was a huge natural area ready for tending, and near the far edge of the property was a two-story workspace that the previous owners used as a his-and-hers art studio/workshop. As the Husseys continued to look around, their creative wheels were already spinning, and they knew they’d found their new home.

Almost immediately, Patti knew she wanted to turn the workshop into a functioning bed-and-breakfast-style guesthouse. “It’s just something I’ve always wanted to do,” she says. “We love people, and we love serving.” When it came time to outfit the guest space, the couple found ways to bring each of their personalities into the project while creating a space that truly feels like a tropical oasis. Patti grew up in the South, and Curt was raised out West but has Polynesian roots, so the blending of their styles dubbed the bed-and-breakfast “the Southern Pineapple.” “I tried to make both of those cultures come together,” Patti shares. “Around here, we say, ‘Aloha, y’all.’”



This dreamy escape is the perfect guesthouse getaway. With cozy, comfortable furnishings and thoughtful amenities, the Southern Pineapple is a welcome escape. Inside awaits a claw-foot tub and a plantation-style king-size bed under a romantic canopy. Located adjacent to the main bedroom is the Hidey Hole, a small room with a single bed for a child or one adult. And just outside is an outdoor shower.

Patti notes that she’s always been attracted to the British West Indies, whether in pictures or books, and wanted that look and feel to shine through at the Southern Pineapple. “I wanted to convey the British influence with the tropical, but I didn’t want to do it in a way that felt cutesy or touristy,” Patti says. “I’m a romantic!” The couple was also heavily influenced by Ernest Hemingway and his home in Key West, Florida. “My favorite thing about the Southern Pineapple,” Curt says, “is the privacy and seclusion of it. It’s not like you’re at the Grand Hotel or someplace everyone goes to vacation—it’s somewhere you could come and write a novel.”

Truly a hidden garden retreat, this bed-and-breakfast is located in the middle of picturesque Fairhope, just minutes from downtown shopping and the shores of Mobile Bay, yet it offers complete privacy in a serene tropical setting. The treehouse-style suite is a second-story bungalow with a balcony view of a hammock with white sand underfoot, edged by palm trees. Beyond the beach vignette is total seclusion, completely surrounded by trees and other coastal vegetation. The Husseys say their backyard B&B is “where Southern hospitality meets a tropical escape,” and that sentiment rings true. At dusk, a candlelit path escorts you to your hidden paradise. **CB**

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