

A rustic window sill scene featuring a large, light-colored ceramic vase filled with several large, rounded clusters of light blue and white hydrangea flowers. To the right of the vase is a white ceramic bowl filled with several bright orange oranges. In the background, a wooden window frame with multiple panes is visible, and a clear glass bottle stands on the left side of the sill. The overall atmosphere is warm and inviting, typical of a cottage interior.

*the*  
**cottage**  
*journal*

*Summer*

The  
*Seasonal*  
Pleasures of Home



# 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.

TEXT BY KATIE WOOD

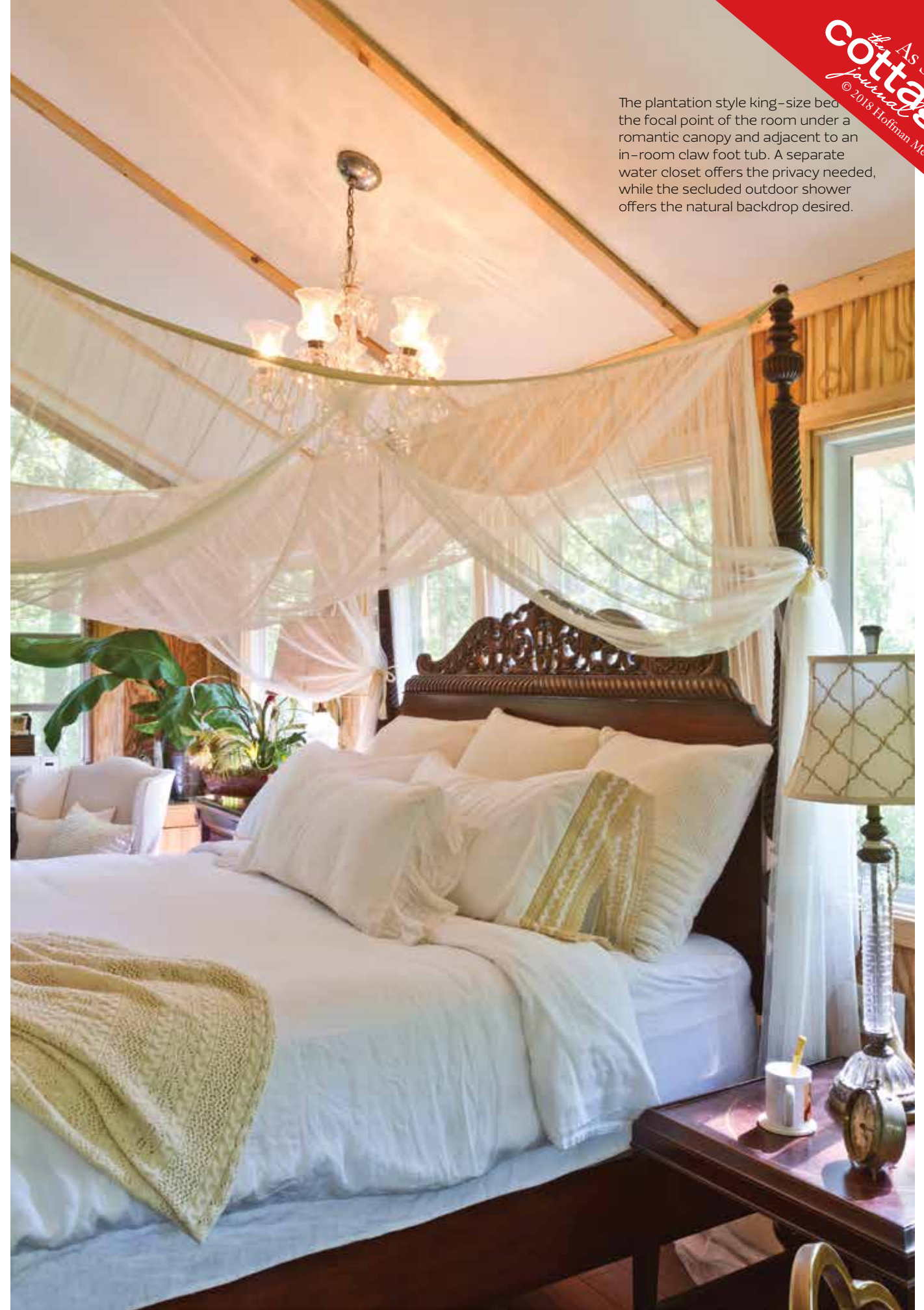
When Salt Lake City residents Patti and Curt Hussey began thinking about where they wanted to retire, they had their hearts set on moving back to the South. “I actually saw a spread about Fairhope in *Cooking with Paula Deen* magazine and decided to go check it out,” Patti recalls. “When I came down here, I was just 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, and two weeks later the couple came back to Fairhope ready to house hunt. Now, more than five years later, the city that captured their hearts and imagination 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 workshop turned 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.'"



The plantation style king-size bed is the focal point of the room under a romantic canopy and adjacent to an in-room claw foot tub. A separate water closet offers the privacy needed, while the secluded outdoor shower offers the natural backdrop desired.

This paradise hideaway is perfect for a romantic getaway for two or a girlfriends' weekend shopping spree. Quality furnishings and linens with amenities such as free Wi-Fi, cable TV, a coffee maker, and a mini fridge make this the perfect setting for a casual yet elegant experience.

## Around TOWN

### WHERE TO SHOP

Crown and Colony Antiques  
crownandcolony.com, 251-928-4808

Lyons Share Custom Framing and Gallery  
lyonssharegallery.com, 251-928-2507

Lulu & Me  
shopluluhome.com, 251-928-5508

Page and Palette  
pageandpalette.com, 251-928-5295

RF Architectural & Garden Antiques  
rfantiques.com, 251-928-8336

### WHERE TO EAT

Camellia Cafe  
camelliacafe.com,  
251-928-4321

Master Joe's  
masterjoesrestaurantgroup.com,  
251-928-8668

Panini Pete's Cafe & Bakeshoppe  
paninipetes.com, 251-929-0122

Sweet Olive  
sweetolive.org, 251-990-8883

Thyme. by the bay  
thymebythebay.com 251-990-5635

Wintzell's Oyster House  
wintzelloysterhouse.com, 251-929-2322

### WHERE TO STAY

Grand Hotel Marriot Resort, Golf Club & Spa  
marriott.com, 251-928-9201

Hampton Inn  
hamptoninn.com, 251-928-0956

The Southern Pineapple  
thesouthernpineapple.net, 251-517-7262



As Seen In  
**The Cottage**  
Journal  
© 2018 Hoffman Media LLC

Patti notes that she's always been attracted to the 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 Hawaiian," Patti says. "I'm a romantic!" The couple was also heavily influenced by Ernest Hemingway and his home in Key West. "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 Eastern Shore 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 under foot, 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 and 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. 