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# CAPE COD LIFE

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Photo by Anne Holden

# Lighthouse Inn

By Virginia Noone

Tucked away and overlooking Nantucket Sound, the Lighthouse Inn is a hidden gem that encapsulates quintessential Cape Cod. Couples have been hosting their weddings at the historic inn for generations as it offers a panoramic view of the ocean, over seven acres of green space to explore, and a classic dining room for the reception.

“We want you to know you’re on Cape Cod when you’re here,” owner Greg Stone says. “The inn always has had that maritime theme even when it was a private home in the 1920s.”

Stone and his family have taken care of the property for 86 years after purchasing it from Harry Noyes. Originally, the lighthouse and the keeper’s home had been built by the federal government in 1854 for the benefit of the local sea captains. Although the lighthouse was eventually decommissioned, the lighthouse remains on the property—giving it its name. The light was re-lit as an aid to private navigation in 1989, and is the only privately owned lighthouse in the United States recognized by the United States Coast Guard. With the designation of The West Dennis Light, it is lit from May 1st through October 31st.

The inn is timelessly beautiful with a relaxed atmosphere and classic charm. Each summer, the inn will host upwards of 50 weddings with many of their guests staying in the cottages for the weekend and unwinding at the beach in between events.

Forty summers ago, Stone sailed a young couple off the inn’s beach in a small sailboat with a captain. He handed them a bottle of champagne and three glasses, one for the

captain of course. As they departed, he waved to them from the beach, wishing them the best of luck. This summer, the happy couple returned to the inn to relive their wedding day and celebrate four decades of their successful marriage.

“We have had guests that come back for years, and they’ll come with two or three generations that can look back on their memories of getting married here in the early 80s,” Stone says. “They still come back and kind of relive that day only to find the inn is somewhat frozen in time.”

Being true to the dynamic of a multi-generational family-run local business, it’s very common to see guests that have been visiting the inn for generations. Although the inn has stayed the same in many ways, there have been changes throughout the years that have made it more accessible and open to the public.

“One of the things we’ve opened is the ocean deck bar, which is an area that we created for people to have a drink and look out at the ocean,” General Manager John Furnari says. “We even have a takeout window at the indoor bar, which we call the lobby bar, where you can just walk right up in your

flip flops and get a drink—that’s been very popular this summer.”

The public as well as guests can dine in the ocean-front restaurant, attend comedy shows, live music performances, and enjoy their outdoor bar all summer. The inn partners with local businesses to showcase all the wonderful experiences and brands that the Cape has to offer. Furnari shares, “The layout of our cottages really lends itself to shared experiences yet having your own space. It’s a great fit for wedding groups, family reunions and company retreats.”

The inn strikes the perfect balance between being a hidden gem and open to the public. It’s frozen in time, yet offers more and more each year. It’s elegant, yet relaxed. It’s a local spot, and yet hosts guests from around the world each summer.

With a rich history and a bright future, the Lighthouse Inn remains a staple to Cape Cod residents, summer guests, and weekly visitors. It’s open to all and stays can be booked directly through their website. 🏠

**Visit them at 1 Lighthouse Inn Road in West Dennis or to view stunning images, visit [lighthouseinn.com](http://lighthouseinn.com).**



Photo by Anne Holden