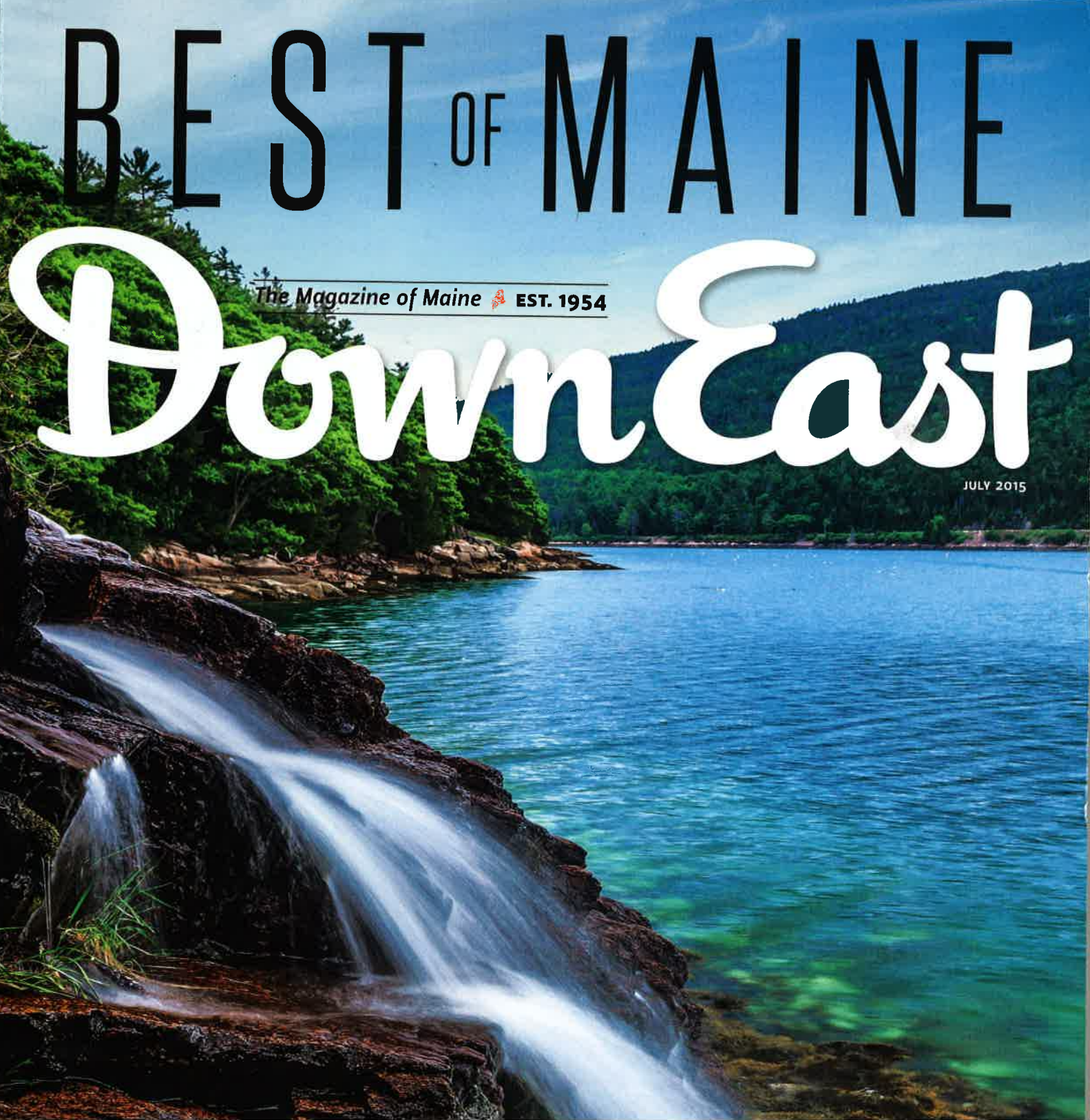


BEST OF MAINE

The Magazine of Maine  EST. 1954

Down East

JULY 2015





OF MAINE

2015

Editors' Choice

Who makes the tastiest taco? Where's the loveliest lobsterboat tour? What is the one hike you just can't skip? We logged the miles (and weathered fierce intra-office debates) to bring you this handy, savvy, witty guide to our favorite Maine everything. Enjoy! Then check out the Readers' Choice picks on page 112.



IM-PRESS-IVE
 A SLICK REINVENTION
 OF THE FORMER PRESS
 HERALD BUILDING IS
 FULL OF CLEVER NODS
 TO ITS HISTORY.

architects/designers Stonehill & Taylor for a building that feels fresh and contemporary while paying homage to its storied past. Home for 87 years to the *Portland Press Herald*, the 1923 building on the corner of Exchange and Congress got a \$10 million facelift that includes a cool lobby exhibit of wall-mounted typewriters, wallpaper incorporating historical headlines, and vintage relics like a massive scale once used to weigh newspapers. As journalism nerds, we may be biased, but the Press Hotel feels like a pretty special edition. 119 Exchange St., Portland. 877-890-5641. thepresshotel.com

BEST FEEL-GOOD LODGING DEAL
Maine Innkeepers' Association Hospitality for Habitat

It's a simple proposition: Get a roof over your head for a night or a few, help put a permanent roof over the head of someone in need. For five weeks each spring, 30 or so member inns, hotels, and B&Bs of the Maine Innkeepers Association offer select rooms at half-price when guests cut a \$35 check to Habitat for Humanity. Since the program got off the ground in 2004, Hospitality for Habitat has raised some \$130,000 for Maine's 10 local Habitat chapters. Fact: Hotel pillows feel fluffier when you know your stay has made a positive impact. maineinns.com

BEST DOG-FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATION
Inn by the Sea

For more than 20 years, the elegant Inn by the Sea has welcomed dogs with 17 designated pet-friendly rooms and suites. Family pets get water bowls and their own beach towels, blankets, and turndown treats. The big puppy perk, though, comes after Columbus Day, when dogs are allowed to swim in the inn's pool for two weeks (before it closes for winter). Of late, a partnership with the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland has Inn by the Sea fostering pooches (one at a time) that hang out in the lobby, are cared for by the staff, and are available to pet, walk, and adopt. Did we mention the doggy spa treatments? 40 Bowery Beach Rd., Cape Elizabeth. 207-799-3134. innbythesea.com

LODGING

Tents for the tentative. Suites for scribes. Rooms for Rover.

BEST STEP UP FROM A CAMPGROUND
Maine Forest Yurts

Survivor winner Bob Crowley used some of his reality-show winnings to open this yurt retreat in 2013. Maine Forest Yurts is a 100-acre property on Runaround Pond with two furnished yurts, each 24 feet in diameter, spacious

and modern variations on the round dwellings favored by nomads of the central Asian steppes. Why yurts? "My dad built one for himself out of birch wood and sail cloth," says Page Crowley, who manages the yurts for her parents. "We love the energy and the circular space. They're just

magical." 430 Auburn-Pownal Rd., Durham. 207-400-5956. maineforestyurts.com

BEST ADAPTIVE REUSE
Press Hotel ←

Time will tell whether Portland's newest boutique hotel is a hit, but kudos to developer Jim Brady and