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TRAVELER'S NOTEBOOK

THE AEOLIANS OPEN UP

Italy's seven Aeolian Islands, located off the northern coast of Sicily, have long lured visitors from private yachts, and many stylish Italians, such as designers Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana, have built holiday homes there. The islands are not easily accessible—you must take a boat or a helicopter—and until recently there were no great places to stay unless you were invited as a houseguest. But the arrival of the **CAPOFARO MALVASIA & RESORT**, on the volcanic island of Salina, brings a new level of luxury. The hotel was opened by the Tasca D'Almerita family of Sicilian wine producers. They initially acquired the twenty-nine-acre seafront property with an eye to expanding their wine repertoire, which lacked Malvasia, a historical variety for which the arid slopes of Salina are the traditional source. However, the enchanting setting gave them the inspired notion to combine winemaking with hospitality.



The view from Capofaro.

Now nestled amid the vineyard are seven buildings in the bright-white, boxy style of the Aeolian Islands. With only eighteen rooms, including five junior suites, the resort feels like a club. The guest rooms, with their luscious fabrics and exotic marble baths, are modern and elegant.

A top-notch restaurant, tennis courts and a cliffside swimming pool provide enough reasons to stay put, but you can also take a private boat to the island's deserted beaches. Rooms from \$125 per person, double occupancy. 011-39-090-98-44-330; capofaro.it. ELIZABETH HELMAN MINCHILLI



Nantucket's Whaling Museum.

A WHALE OF A MUSEUM

Those who've visited Nantucket know that this New England resort island was once a prosperous whaling port. Indeed, many of the sea captains' 19th-century mansions now house gourmet restaurants and intimate inns. The island's **WHALING MUSEUM** has never had sufficient exhibition space to bring to life its rich maritime history, but this month it reopens after a \$13 million renovation and expansion (it now incorporates the adjacent Peter Foulger Museum). The redbrick building was originally a candle factory, and the two-story wooden-beam press used to process whale oil into wax is now more prominently displayed, as are the scrimshaw and lightship basket collections. The new galleries showcase the museum's centerpiece, a forty-six-foot sperm-whale skeleton, as well as a thirty-foot whaleboat, tools such as harpoons and lances, and portraits of renowned captains. The rooftop observation deck overlooks the harbor, where Nantucket's golden age began. Admission from \$8 to \$15. 13 Broad Street; 508-228-1894; nha.org. JILL FERGUS

CORRECTION: In our April issue, we cited the incorrect price for the Town & Country Travel Club's Taste of Paris trip, which runs from October 16 to 22. The seven-day gourmet journey, which includes cooking classes and private wine tastings with some of Paris's best chefs, starts at \$8,900 per person, excluding airfare. For details, call 866-401-7998 or visit townandcountrytravelclub.com.