

# The Ultimate Cape Cod Luxury Experience: Chatham Bars Inn

July 28, 2008 at 9:28AM by [Jeffrey Bauman](#) | 0 comment

When I met Paul Zuest, managing director of the **Chatham Bars Inn**, in New York last month, he was going on about the virtues of his newly renovated resort at the elbow of Cape Cod, especially about its spa and its [fine-dining options](#). "You can have all the best dishes from the restaurants of Europe," he said in his German-accented English (Zuest hails from Switzerland). He paused. "Of course, you can also order a **lobster roll**," he said, with a smile, quite bemused at this New England phenomenon that has not extended beyond our shores. He needn't have worried that roll-lovers would be settling for less than the best. Last week, under the blue-and-white-striped awning at the inn's [Beach House Grill](#), I took on the \$24 lobster roll -- "mound" is a better word for it, with succulent pieces of meat falling out of a brioche bun. As I stared out at the harbor seals congregating on a distant sandbar, trying to eat this lunch with something resembling proper decorum, I couldn't help but think that I was enjoying **the ultimate Cape Cod luxury experience** (complete with malt vinegar for the french fries). Sitting in a prime spot on the coast of the chicest town on the Cape, the Chatham Bars Inn is a sprawling complex of clapboard cottages that aims to out-Nantucket Nantucket. It's been around since 1914 but has been refreshed extensively in the past few years. You can choose to stay in the main building of the inn, in one of the thirty-four cottages that are spread across the grounds, or in one of the new Spa Suites, specially outfitted rooms in which you can receive the treatment of your choice. You can spend your day lazing on the inn's calm, private beach or take a complimentary ferry ride out to the barrier island (past the seals) and the rougher waters of the Cape Cod National Seashore. Or you can just lounge by the waterfront pool, which features a mushroom-shaped fountain for the kids (and, let's face it, the adults, too). Also new is a boutique in the main building that sells clothing from Polo Ralph Lauren, Lilly Pulitzer and the Martha's Vineyard-based Vineyard Vines. But I keep coming back to that lobster roll, a far cry from the often-greasy fare at the clam shacks the Cape is better known for. Oh, and about those seals: I didn't even know they were seals until later on, when I spied them again through the antique telescope on the veranda. The lesson: Even a setting as traditional as they come can be full of surprises. *Double rooms from \$400, suites from \$900, Spa Suites from \$1,080. 297 Shore Rd., Chatham, Mass.; 800-527-4884; [chathambarsinn.com](#).*