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EBEN HOUSE OPENS IN CAPE COD'S PROVINCETOWN

Text by Andrew Sessa | Photography courtesy of Salt Hotels | June 25, 2015



The entrance to Cape Cod's Eben House, a new boutique property from Salt Hotels.

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An oft-overlooked fact: While Plymouth Rock generally gets all the credit, the Mayflower, and the Pilgrims aboard it, actually first made landfall in Provincetown, Massachusetts, the point at the very tip of Cape Cod that today can count itself among New England's most charming and artistically minded beach retreats.

So it stands to reason that a creatively colonial aesthetic rules the day at the new boutique property Eben House. The brainchild of Salt Hotels founders David Bowd (until recently, a top executive for industry gurus Ian Schrager and André Balazs) and his husband, Kevin O'Shea (a former designer with Starwood), Eben House occupies a trio of centuries-old structures a block off Commercial Street, Ptown's aptly named main drag.

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The conservatory-inspired lounge where breakfast is served.

The hotel's small reception area, conservatory-like lounge, and seven of its 14 rooms and suites sit in one of only three Federal brick homes remaining in Ptown: a white-clapboard-fronted residence built by the hotel's namesake, Captain Eben Snow, in 1776. Five more accommodations can be found in a yellow-painted Victorian next door, with the last two, including one with a trio of dramatic fan windows, in a carriage house out back.

Throughout, delightful and smartly sourced or custom-made accents and furnishings, both Federalist and industrial, 18th and 21st century, sit against a background of wide-planked wood floors, plaster moldings, multi-paned windows, and plaster walls, most original and all lovingly restored.



The Captain's Suite.

Never ones to shy away from a cheeky wink, Bowd and O'Shea filled Eben House with playful details. Chief among these? Imagined portraits of Captain Snow and his family, created by local artist Michael Gredler. At first, these pictures may seem like run-of-the-mill 18th-century artworks, but upon closer inspection, they reveal the Family Snow getting, well, a bit saucy. Look once and you'll see Snow standing at attention; look twice and you'll note his chandelier earring and, why, is that a bit of blush on his cheek? To say nothing of the hip flask his sister seems to be tipling from.

What *would* those puritanical pilgrims have thought?

From \$195/night; ebenhouse.com

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