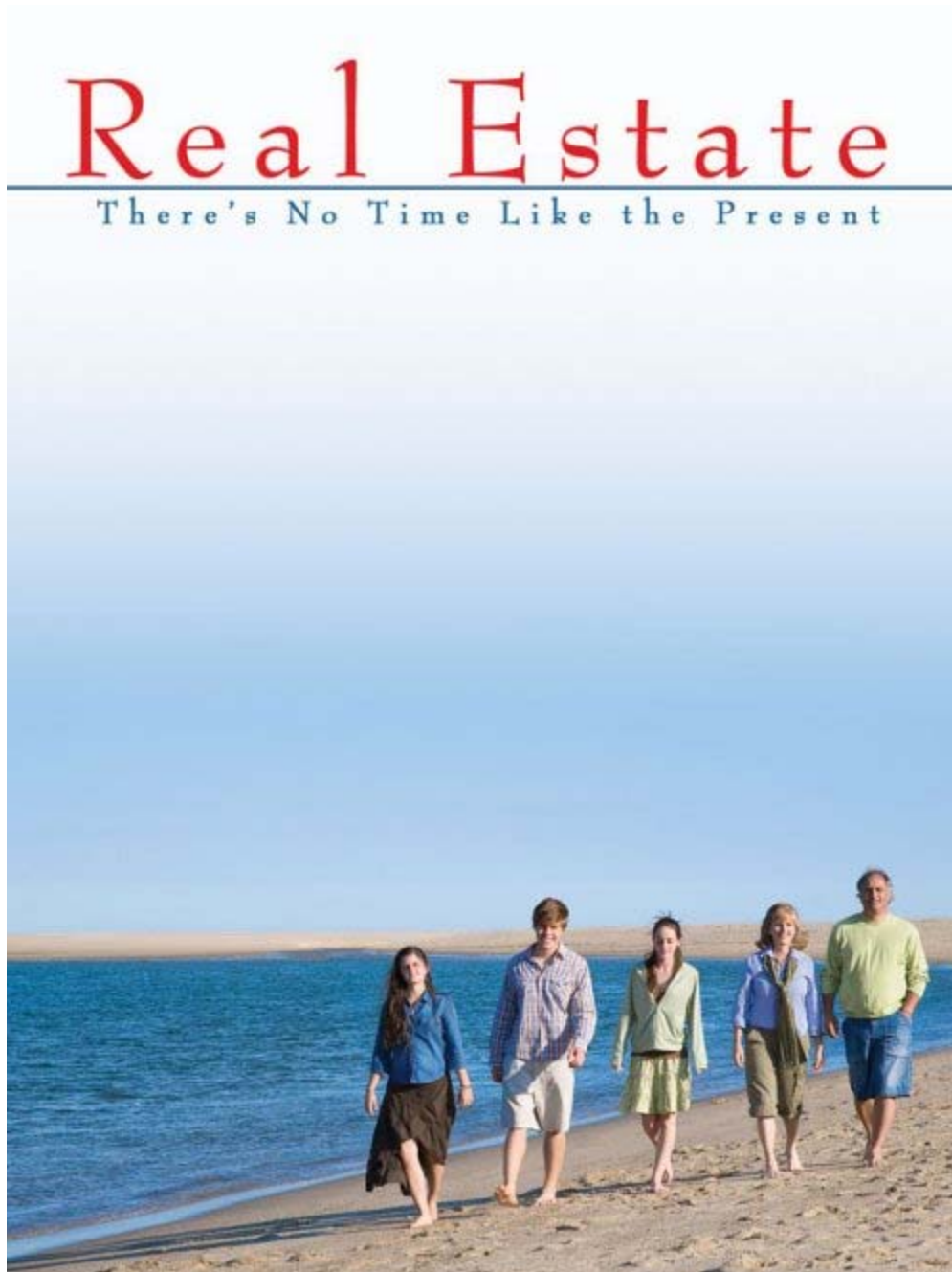


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# Gulf Coast Real Estate

There's no time like the present



The days are getting longer, the weather is warming and the city is gearing up for spring festival season. That can mean only one thing – summer is just around the corner. There is no better motivation to start thinking about a seaside escape than imagining that long, hot season in the city. New Orleanians are fortunate, however, to be situated in such an excellent location with myriad getaway options within easy driving distance. From the stunning white sand beaches of Florida's Emerald Coast, to the terrific opportunities to invest in a revitalized Bay St. Louis area, here are a few great

picks to get you started this spring.

## **Florida**

Imagine long stretches of pristine beaches of brilliant white sand, refreshing breezes blowing off the Gulf of Mexico and the peace and tranquility of gently lapping surf, singing gulls and sandpipers. Welcome to Rosemary Beach.

Rosemary Beach is a neo-traditional town located on northwest Florida's gulf coast, between Panama City and Destin, at the eastern end of Scenic Route 30A, and easily accessible by air or by car. The 107-acre, gulf-front town is built on the notions of community, neighborhood and convenience; it's a safe and livable place with a small-town atmosphere, where the distances are short and people are friendly. Pedestrian footpaths, boardwalks and secret pathways wind through neighborhoods and lead to all public areas including the beach, the Town Square, tennis courts, swimming pools and other town amenities. Cars are restricted, and the town's pedestrian scale ensures that every place within the community is easily accessible by foot.

Twelve basic building types establish the character of each neighborhood and ensure the integrity of the Town Plan. Every home is architecturally unique and is custom-designed and built to reflect each owner's tastes, needs and lifestyle while at the same time consistent with the style and character of this seaside paradise. Deep eaves provide shade from the afternoon sun. High ceilings draw breezes through houses. Gardens, fountain-filled courtyards and porches become outdoor rooms.

For more information, visit [www.rosemarybeach.com](http://www.rosemarybeach.com) or call Rosemary Beach Realty at (800) 736-0877.

The Magnolia Private Residence Club is a family-friendly property that offers 17 beautifully furnished, three-bedroom residences along Florida's Emerald Coast. One-eighth fractional ownership is priced at \$159,000, enabling Emerald Coast visitors to own a luxurious vacation home at a fraction of the cost of whole-ownership real estate in the area.

The Club's staff handles all maintenance, so there's no need for owners to worry about their home when off-site. Magnolia features a rooftop deck with heated pool, hot tub, two grilling areas and owners' lounge. Families can explore the coastal bike paths on club-owned beach cruisers and the property provides beach chairs, umbrellas and coolers. Other amenities include a media and activity room, state-of-the-art fitness center, daily housekeeping, concierge services, pre-arrival grocery shopping and private owner storage.

Unlike many fractional properties, owners may vacation at Magnolia as often as they wish, in accordance with reservation policies. They also are welcome to visit on a short-notice or space-available basis – with no additional fees. Larger groups may even reserve more than one residence.

This spring, Magnolia is accepting reservations for preview stays, which allow interested parties to visit for a rate of \$225 per night. The cost of up to three nights' stay will be fully refunded, upon closing, for those who decide to buy. In addition, Magnolia offers financing, something a lot of similar vacation properties do not have.

For more information visit [www.magnoliaresidenceclub.com](http://www.magnoliaresidenceclub.com) or call (866) 466-9268.

## **Louisiana and Mississippi**

John Schaff, working with Latter & Blum, is straddling the best of both worlds – working on exciting projects in both New Orleans and Bay St. Louis. In New Orleans, a major reconstruction and renovation project has been recently completed on two historic properties on Camp Street along Coliseum Square. Dating back to the 1850s, the two gorgeous properties have been brought into the 21st century with modern foundations, piers, roofs, windows and more. Condominiums come equipped with all new amenities, and they're well priced, from \$139,000 to \$239,000.

Meanwhile, Latter & Blum Coastal Living in Bay St. Louis is gearing up for an exciting 2009. With more than 400 listings, now is the time to think about returning to the Bay. The area is making tremendous progress in rebuilding, with roads, bridges, businesses and facilities, including the landmark Sycamore House Restaurant, reopening at a near constant rate. Events such as the Second Saturday Art Walk are back. Real estate prices are still low, with lots selling for as little as \$10,000.

One of New Orleans' leading realtors, John Schaff is a Certified Residential Specialist and an Associate Broker, with more than 14 years' experience in his field. He has won numerous awards for achievement and was named one of the "TOP 200 REALTORS" in the nation by The Wall Street Journal in 2006. John's attention to detail and exceptional people skills make him the realtor of choice for the discriminating client.

For more information, visit [www.johnschaff.com](http://www.johnschaff.com) or call (504) 895-4663.