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MANSIONS HAMPTONS ESCAPES

Retailers Offer Both Luxury And Everyday Goods Year-Round

By Joseph Dobrian

The Hamptons aren't all about luxury homes, water sports, the beach, golf, fine dining and partying at the hippest clubs: they're also about shopping. Seasonal boutiques there have struggled since the economic downturn of 2008, but Faith Hope Consolo, New York-based chairman of the Douglas Elliman Retail Group, reports that the Hamptons continue to offer high-end retail on a par with almost anywhere on the East Coast outside of Manhattan. She warns that it's still early for the announcement of seasonal store openings, but she sees signs that retail activity will heat up this summer and continue into the off-season.

"Sag Harbor's Harbor Market and Kitchen is returning to the area in mid-March at the former site of Espresso," she reports, "and many retailers have recently decided to locate



Harbor Market and Kitchen returns to Sag Harbor in the spring.

in the Hamptons year-round, so there are fewer seasonal stores to announce.

"The main shopping streets are Main, Pantigo and Newtown in East

Hampton. Riverhead Outlet Center is on the outskirts of the area and it's a must-see. Keep an eye on Sag Harbor. That area has seen considerable residential development and should see even more retail."

Ms. Consolo notes that shopping in the Hamptons isn't all luxury boutiques. It's easy to find home-improvement centers, if you've bought a fixer-upper home, and plenty of stores that offer everyday necessities.

"We have Waldbaum's and King Kullen for basic supermarket needs, as well as Citarella, which is more specialty-oriented," she says. "Home Depot and Lowe's are in Riverhead. Areas such as East Hampton, Southampton and Montauk have become ever more expensive, so potential homeowners are looking a bit farther west, to Springs, Quogue and other areas. Those villages are closer to more traditional retail, closer to New York, and right now they're more affordable. Look for more retail to be developed around there."