

THE CHARLESTON HOME

Discovering Dewees

A Cincinnati couple find an unexpected place for family, friendship, and fun on a very special island

—written by JENNIFER PATTISON TUOHY // photographs by JULIA LYNN

There's a well-kept secret off the northern end of the Isle of Palms, one that can be spotted during a round on Wild Dunes' Links Golf Course or an afternoon boat ride along the Intracoastal Waterway. This hidden gem is Dewees Island.

The 1,200-acre barrier island is a beautiful mix of maritime forest, pristine beaches, and unspoiled wetlands, a sanctuary where humans and nature coexist in near perfect harmony, thanks to a conservation easement. Dewees has no bridge leading to it, no paved roads, no motor vehicles, and only 150 houses will ever be built there.

One of those homes belongs to Mark and Toni Beischel. The couple, originally from the Cincinnati area, retired to this island paradise last year after spending 35 years vacationing on Isle of Palms. "My brother went to MUSC, and we came to visit him in the '80s and fell in love with the area," says Mark. Both siblings now live here full time, the Beischels having traded in their summer beach cottage in Isle of Palms' Wildwood neighborhood for a custom oceanfront home on Dewees.



OF EARTH & SEA: A striking red "coral" chandelier by Villa Tosca Design in Italy hangs above a handcrafted dining table by Landrum Tables of North Charleston. The juxtaposition is the centerpiece of the Beischel family house on Dewees Island, designed by architect Myles Trudell to be a multigenerational home that's comfortable, casually elegant, and infused with a sense of whimsy.



DINNER A DEUX-OR MORE: The dining table extends into this breakfast nook, creating a space for every-day use, while providing plenty of room for a large family gathering when connected to the main table The floors throughout are reclaimed heart pine from a former denim factory in North Carolina.