

COASTAL LIVING[®]

31 best BEACH vacations

SECRET HIDEAWAYS,
FUN-FILLED TOWNS,
AND GREAT DEALS

**FOOD,
WINE &
FRIENDS!**
Host a
super-easy
cookout

HGTV
GREEN HOME
pg. 71

**SEASIDE STYLE
MADE SIMPLE**
The colors, fabrics &
looks we love most

MAY 2010

plus Our all-time favorite Key lime pie pg. 121

the art of conservation

We check in on Palmetto Bluff to find out how the South Carolina community maintains its mission to respect regional architecture as much as the Lowcountry landscape



The water's edge isn't clearly defined in the South Carolina Lowcountry. Twice a day, the tide spreads out over marsh grasses rooted in the dark, rich, ancient soil locals call "pluff mud;" those grasses eventually give way to stout live oaks rooted in solid ground. There's no dramatic sea cliff or powdery beach in sight, just a shoreline of subtle layers that combine to create a beautiful, mysterious landscape.

But subtle and mysterious don't always sell real estate. In most coastal developments, "sublime" and "beachfront" are the

preferred adjectives. Jim Mozley, developer of Palmetto Bluff, a 6-year-old project 30 minutes northeast of Savannah, takes a different approach—and it begins at the entrance. "We don't have a huge welcome gate or rows of mansions as the centerpiece," says Jim, an architect and community planner from Atlanta who previously lived and managed property on the Hawaiian island of Molokai for nine years. "Our property owners look for meaning more than status, and they're willing to tone it down a notch in deference to the natural landscape." >



Palmetto Bluff has shops and cafés under ancient oaks adjacent to the May River.