

# Decor Maine

ISSUE NO. 5

EXPLORE  
**150**  
of MAINE'S  
BEST SPOTS  
*with our*  
**DEFINITIVE  
GUIDE**

COAST,  
MOUNTAIN,  
CITY,  
BEACH—  
**OUR  
PORTRAITS  
OF PLACE**  
*cover it all*

Living  
Beautifully  
*in Maine*

**HOME  
TOURS**  
*in Sutton Island,  
Bernard, &  
Kennebunkport*

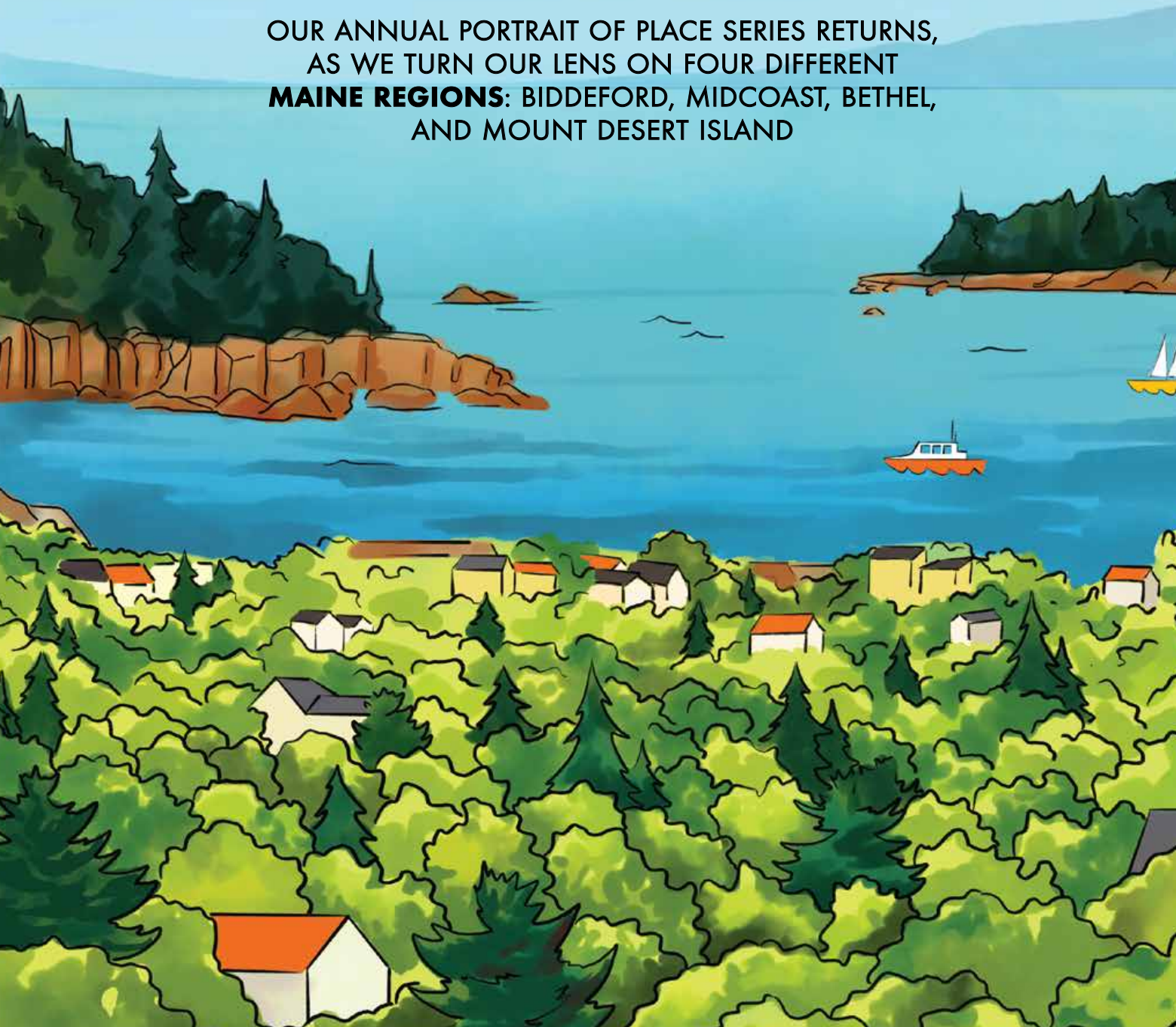
**Plus!**  
PAPI *brings* PUERTO RICO  
*to* Portland

ILLUSTRATION BY **VICTORIA GORDON**

# MAINE

*Portraits of Place*

OUR ANNUAL PORTRAIT OF PLACE SERIES RETURNS,  
AS WE TURN OUR LENS ON FOUR DIFFERENT  
**MAINE REGIONS:** BIDDEFORD, MIDCOAST, BETHEL,  
AND MOUNT DESERT ISLAND



Biddeford's beaches and coastline offer dramatic beauty for homebuyers and beachgoers alike. Heidi Maynard loves Fortunes Rocks and Granite Point.

# ALL EYES ON BIDDEFORD

Industrial history and artistic panache find accord in York County

WRITTEN BY **MICHAEL COLBERT**

photo: Lauryn Hottinger



photo: Trent Bell



photo (and bottom, right): Alexandra Roberts



PORTRAIT OF PLACE

There's something in the air in Biddeford. Take a walk through its downtown Mills District and you'll feel it: vintage diner cars, brick walls painted with geometric murals, mills now home to breweries and restaurants that source their ingredients locally. A city of 22,000 people and an economic hub of York County, Biddeford has a deep mill and textile history, which is a central feature of its growth today. Take **The Lincoln**, Tim Harrington's bespoke hotel in a renovated former mill. Visitors and locals alike can enjoy a nightcap in the hotel's swanky **Lobby Bar** or pair a brew with brunch downstairs at **Batson River Brewing & Distilling**. Biddeford is booming, and it's growing with style.

A small coastal city with easy access to beaches, Biddeford is also lauded as one of the state's best food cities—a hub for creative energy, drawing great minds in food and hospitality to Maine's southern coast. Heidi Maynard, designated broker and owner at Pack Maynard & Associates in Kennebunk, thinks it's an exciting place to watch—and an even better place to live. “There are parts of Biddeford that are absolutely gorgeous: **Granite Point, Biddeford Pool, Fortunes Rocks**. Those have been beautiful, beautiful areas for years, but now the downtown is going through a renewal,” said Heidi. “It's still a place where you can get some good buys downtown. It's going to be a hotbed. I think if you look at it over the next three years, it's going to be a whole different place.”

The city's renaissance has brought along some of Maynard's favorite spots. The Mills District has undergone a rebirth with more housing, businesses, and restaurants cropping up—its growth is a feature of the city's comprehensive plan, the neighborhood selected for its “compact urban livability.” In 2022, *Food & Wine* named Biddeford one of the country's “next great food cities.” On a Saturday morning, visitors could put their name in for one of the 15 seats at **Palace Diner**—The

James Beard Award semifinalist that makes flapjacks and deluxe breakfast sandwiches in its classic “Ladies Invited” diner car—and then pick up a pistachio cream latte from **Time & Tide Coffee** for a stroll downtown. Portlanders make the trip down to **Pepperell Mill** for an egg and cheese on a wood-fired bagel at **Rover Bagel** or the tasting menu at **Elda**, curated from Maine's seasonal offerings. Heidi counts **The Jewel of India** and **Magnus on the Water** among her favorite restaurants in the city.

“Biddeford is probably one of the best places to invest now because it's going through a drastic change,” she said. “Transition always is exciting because things happen. They're really starting to enhance the beauty of Biddeford, and I think that's exciting.”



“It's still a place where you can get some good buys downtown. It's going to be a hotbed. I think if you look at it over the next three years, it's going to be a whole different place.”

—Heidi Maynard

While the Mills District sits at the heart of the city's revitalization, there's true synchronicity between the city's development and its landscape. A short drive from downtown, the two-mile stretch of Fortunes Rocks Beach connects the scenic Biddeford Pool with the eponymous Fortunes Rocks, a favorite among locals and day trippers alike.

Maynard has helped families connect to the communities around southern Maine for over 39 years. A Bay State native, she spent her summers in Kennebunk as a child and relocated here after college. The magic of Maine was alluring. It's kept her family here since she moved. Now her daughter, Corey Burns Tracy, is a partner at her firm, too. From her vantage, Biddeford embodies the state's motto: *Worth a visit, worth a lifetime*.

While change can bring along worries about costs of living, Heidi feels inspired by the city's industry; people will continue to be able to move to Biddeford and find work locally. Biddeford is home to the **University of New England** and **Southern Maine Health Care**. For commuters, the trip north on 295 to Portland only takes 25 minutes by car.

(OPPOSITE) CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM, LEFT: Biddeford Pool is a favorite getaway for both locals and day trippers. Iced coffee from Time & Tide accompanies a skate downtown (photo by Julie K. Gray). Located inside an old mill, The Lincoln Hotel's upscale accommodations sit at the heart of downtown. Locals unwind at Magnus on Water with al fresco dining and a view of the Saco River (photo by Lauryn Hottinger). Sweetcream Dairy makes delicious, handmade ice cream with locally sourced ingredients.

## PORTRAIT OF PLACE

An artistic city with industrial flair, the City of Biddeford developed a cultural plan in 2020 to foreground the arts in the community's economic development. Numerous murals color the streets downtown, and **City Theater** puts on shows year-round.

"The arts are also part of involving, hearing from, and reflecting the needs of the local community," said Delilah Poupore, executive director of **Heart of Bid-**

**eford**, an organization that promotes the city's arts, culture, history, and heritage. "Biddeford is making it partly because we haven't given up the soul of the place—haven't tried to be another town. The arts, culture, heritage, and language are all part of that."

**SPREAD:** With murals adorning Biddeford's downtown, the arts scene is something the whole community can enjoy.



photo: Alexandra Roberts

# MILL CITY MAGIC

Biddeford is bursting with hip hot spots housed in history-steeped buildings; here's what to do and see first

WORDS BY **HEATHER O'DAY** ILLUSTRATION BY **VICTORIA GORDON**

## **BIDDEFORD MILLS MUSEUM** 2 Main St., Building 18, Suite 108

While modern day Biddeford might be a culinary- and art-mecca, the repurposed brick buildings once housed a robust textile industry. Visit the museum website to book a walking tour with a former mill worker, available May through October.

[biddefordmillsmuseum.org](http://biddefordmillsmuseum.org)  
[@biddefordmillsmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/biddefordmillsmuseum)

## **TIME & TIDE COFFEE** 35 Main St., Suite 102

Creamy, sweet, nutty—Time & Tide Coffee's pistachio cream latte is unrivaled. If that's not your speed, the specialty shop serves classic cafe drinks and seasonal specials, tasty treats from local bakeries, and thoughtfully-sourced roasted green coffee beans bagged to-go.

[timeandtidecoffee.com](http://timeandtidecoffee.com)  
[@timeandtidecoffee](https://www.instagram.com/timeandtidecoffee)

## **BIDDEFORD VINTAGE MARKET** 156 Main St., Suite 104

If your ideal weekend consists of window shopping, book browsing, and thrifting, Biddeford Vintage Market should be on your radar. This treasure trove is bursting with retro relics, like vinyl records, vintage posters, clothing, and early-American and mid-century modern furniture.

[biddefordvintagemarket.com](http://biddefordvintagemarket.com)  
[@biddefordvintagemarket](https://www.instagram.com/biddefordvintagemarket)

## **DAPPER & CO.** 17 Alfred Rd.

For the gentleman in your life, visit Dapper & Co. Shop a selection of conscious apparel, handcrafted accessories, body products, and more, all tucked within a sophisticated masculine interior.

[dappermaine.com](http://dappermaine.com)  
[@dapperandco\\_me](https://www.instagram.com/dapperandco_me)

## **PART & PARCEL** 17 Alfred Rd.

Pop over to Part & Parcel—a sweet, women-owned specialty market and scratch kitchen—and enjoy a panini and a cool beverage on their private, outdoor patio. Don't miss the popular monthly oyster pop-ups and brunches (on Friday and Sunday, respectively) all summer long.

[partandparcelme.com](http://partandparcelme.com)  
[@partparcelme](https://www.instagram.com/partparcelme)

## **ROUND TURN DISTILLING** 32 Main St., Building 13W, Suite 103

Located within the historic Pepperell Mill, Round Turn distills award-winning Bimini Gin using a Maine-made still. Post up at the bar for a craft cocktail or G&T flight, or shop for bottles of Bimini, cocktail mixers, bitters, barware, and more.

[roundturndistilling.com](http://roundturndistilling.com)  
[@roundturndistilling](https://www.instagram.com/roundturndistilling)

## **STEM & VINE** 2 Main St., Building 15, Suite 207

For whimsical arrangements crafted with hyper-local cuttings, visit stem & vine. Whether you're looking to brighten a rainy day with a colorful bouquet, or dreaming up over-the-top florals for your wedding, owner-florist Brianne Emhiser will sensitively bring your vision to life.

[stemandvinefloral.com](http://stemandvinefloral.com)  
[@stem\\_and\\_vine](https://www.instagram.com/stem_and_vine)

## **PALACE DINER** 18 Franklin St.

As seen on the foodie-beloved Netflix series, *Somebody Feed Phil*, Palace Diner is a Biddeford icon. Built in 1927, the eye-catching diner car serves wholesome breakfast and lunch staples with a twist, and feels like a step back in time.

[palacedinerme.com](http://palacedinerme.com)  
[@palacediner](https://www.instagram.com/palacediner)

## **THE LINCOLN HOTEL** 17 Lincoln St.

Soak up the sunset from the Lincoln Hotel's luxe rooftop pool after a busy day exploring Biddeford by foot. Before retiring to one of the boutique's 33 guest rooms, venture downstairs for dinner and drinks at Batson River Brewing & Distilling.

[lincolnhotelmaine.com](http://lincolnhotelmaine.com)  
[@lincolnhotelmaine](https://www.instagram.com/lincolnhotelmaine)

## **BATSON RIVER BREWING & DISTILLING** 17 Lincoln St.

Cozy up in the newest outpost of the ever-popular Batson River Brewing & Distilling. Located on the lower level of the Lincoln Hotel, the stylish restaurant features approachable fare with new-American flare, and signature brews such as the Loon Call Pilsner.

[batsonriver.com](http://batsonriver.com)  
[@batsonrivermaine](https://www.instagram.com/batsonrivermaine)

