Headline: Delaware beach town is a blessing

Deckhead: Rehoboth turns peace, good times into a winner

Rehoboth Beach is a slice of heaven tucked away off Route 1. It’s a small town blessed with a Norman Rockwell appeal.

Trees line the streets. Serenity fills the air. The locals welcome you into their tiny village and leave a lasting impression.

Few things are more relaxing than a morning walk in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. It often begins on the boardwalk and meanders through a series of streets comprised of beautiful homes, stunning landscaping and cordial visitors. Dogs walk in step with their owners. They stop to say hello.

Cross a small bridge over a calm, pristine lake. Mansions surround the waterway. They sit like castles and add to the ambiance. It makes you wonder how beautiful this setting must be during the holidays.

Rehoboth Beach warms your heart and raises your spirits. The sun awakens from the horizon of the Atlantic. Puffy clouds dot blue skies. Your day begins with a smile and ends the same way. It’s fulfilling and deserved. Rehoboth meets any challenge travelers might offer.

It’s teeming with mom-and-pops that only enhance its reputation as a family destination. Have breakfast at a cozy diner; lunch at a legendary greasy spoon; and dinner at an intimate restaurant.

Hundreds of locally owned businesses take up residence throughout town. Bars and eateries have eclectic themes and menus, satisfying the tastes of all who visit. Shops sell unique jewelry, clothing and other items. Motels snugly fit among their peers. They’re small and comfy. Some have patios that rise above Rehoboth Avenue. People-watching doesn’t get much better.

The gem among eateries, meanwhile, is a scruffy diamond. It opened in 1956. Owners rebuilt it following a storm six years later. It’s doubtful it’s been updated since.

This is Gus & Gus Place – the iconic joint on the corner of boardwalk and Wilmington Avenue. Burgers, hot dogs, sausages, eggs and other sandwich meats sizzle on a worn grill engulfed in flavors engraved by past ingredients. Delectable aromas envelop the area for blocks. Lines form early and don’t end until the final order is taken.

The star of this show is the cook – also known as the GOAT. He hovers over the grill. A bad back keeps him from standing upright, but it doesn’t deplete his skills. He works a full grill the way Michael Jordan worked helpless defenders. How he never botches an order is amazing.

He’s an interesting character among Rehoboth’s fairytale setting. It’s a lengthy cast meant to engrain special memories and make sure you return.

Conversations spark at watering holes. The grapefruit crush ranks atop Rehoboth’s list of signature cocktails.

Obie’s By the Sea plunges the fruit in front you. The establishment highlights the northern end of the boardwalk. The scent of saltwater wafts from the ocean and tickles your nostrils. It doesn’t get much better.

Grotto Pizza can be found throughout Rehoboth, including the boardwalk. Order a slice or a whole pie. You won’t be dissatisfied, either way.

Enjoy a bucket of fries. Have an ice cream cone. Or just find a seat and people-watch.

And don’t forget about the beach – miles of wonderful sand. Take up residence under an umbrella, grab a book and allow your concerns to wash away.

This isn’t a dream. It’s Rehoboth.

Cutline: SERENITY NOW – Mansions sit around a calm lake in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Image: Frank Verdecchia. AAA.