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The First Resort: Fun, Sun, Fire And War In Cape May, America's Original Seaside Town



Synopsis

Cape May, NJ in America's oldest seaside resort and in fact, America's First Resort. It began with an advertisement in a Philadelphia newspaper in 1801. Soon, city dwellers were descending on Cape May, at the tip of the Jersey Shore, and the American seaside vacation was born. Presidents stayed in Cape May, and famous industrialists from the north mixed with renowned plantation owners from the south. But the Civil War and an inferno that destroyed forty acres of majestic beachfront hotels sent Cape May lurching toward oblivion. During two world wars, the town hosted a huge garrison of soldiers and sailors, and the city was front-page news when a German U-boat surrendered off its coast in 1945. It took a bitter battle between the city and preservationists for Cape May to be reborn. Ben Miller tells the compelling story of how Cape May went from boom to bust and back again in this lavishly illustrated, meticulously researched book.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“As complete a look at the ups and downs of the Jersey Shore's proto-resort as you are likely to see.” — Frank Wilson, The Philadelphia Inquirer

Ben Miller was formerly in the United States Navy before a series of injuries overseas forced him to accept an early honorable discharge. He has received international acclaim for both his writing and philanthropic work, appearing on NBC, ABC, CBS, FOX, Good Day Philadelphia, and the Rachael Ray Show. He lives in Nazareth, Pennsylvania.

Great!

Beautifully illustrated and masterfully written history of authentic Americana.

There are far, far better books about the town and history of the Cape May area. The settlers who came from New England certainly came to slaughter the whale for oil, but Miller states that very little whaling went on. This is where he fails to tell the complete story of our history. The reason we have more Mayflower descendants than anywhere outside the state of Mass, is because they migrated south to make a living from whaling. When the mammals were wiped out, settlers turned to farming. The book jumps almost directly to tourism after that and the ups and downs that come over the years of catering to the whims of outsiders. There were many newspaper articles jammed in which isn't something you normally see in a history book. As a coffee table, oh and ah at the pictures book, it looks great. But a concise, well written history it isn't. I like Summer City by The Sea for a good overview of the town.

Ben Miller has surely done his research. This book has everything you would want (and then some) on the history of Cape May. As summer resident of Cape May this book has included numerous facts that I didn't know about as well as many photos from the past, present, and future of CM. I am an employee of the Mall in Cape May, in a shop that sells 'The First Resort,' I've heard nothing but wonderful comments and we can't help but selling out of the book week after week. Also, the book is not "filled with ads" as someone had commented and for about \$30 is a steal for what your getting in return. Ignore the negative comment. This is by far the best book on Cape May!

As a life-long fan of Cape May I was pleased to get this book, a history in text and pictures of my ancestral stomping grounds. I even found a picture of my father as a child and references to various family members and ancestors.

Ben Miller has done a fabulous job creating a memorable keepsake about my hometown, Cape May, N.J. His dedication toward recreating Cape May's history has resulted in a must have book for any one who has fallen in love with Cape May. I have a business in Cape May and am one of the advertisers in the back mainly because I knew Ben would do a fabulous job and I wanted to support him. He certainly did not let me down. As a matter of fact his book surpassed all my expectations. If you love history and Cape May treat yourself to a copy of The First Resort.

Ben Miller has created a wonderful treasure on the history of Cape May, NJ. This book, an incredible value at 29.95, is filled with 300 pages of amazing historic photos and wonderful stories about Cape May's interesting history. This is by far the most comprehensive history ever published about Cape May. If you or a loved one loves Cape May, NJ (and who doesn't), then this is a "Must Own" book. It is a wonderful read, and something that I'll be leaving on my coffee table for years to come. I've already purchased 3 copies as gifts for family and friends.

I purchased this book in Cape May and was fortunate enough to have it signed by the author. I have never read such a detailed and informative book. Each page is packed with pictures which are very interesting. I was amazed at how far back in time the photos are from. This is way more than a coffee table book. If you are a Cape May fan you must have this book! You will be amazed at some of the history of this fine city that you will read about in The First Resort.

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