

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT

PREP STATION
A VIEW OF
NANTUCKET'S
GREAT POINT
LIGHTHOUSE.

TRAVEL AMERICAN SUMMER

As vibrant hues and short hemlines reign supreme, travelers heading to the beach can look forward to some updated classics. Among the lighthouses and sailboats of Nantucket, the island stalwart White Elephant has opened the stand-alone three-bedroom **White Elephant Loft** (whiteelephanthotel.com; rates from \$1,800), with

THREE STORIED SEASIDE HOTELS GET A MODERN TWIST.

picture windows looking out over the former whaling capital's cobblestoned Main Street. Guests can make use of the gourmet kitchen (private chefs are on call) and eat by the fireplace on breezy nights, or head to the main resort to take advantage of the spa and heated pool.

Down south, on Florida's Gold Coast, Palm Beach's

legendary watering hole **The Breakers** (thebreakers.com; weeknight rates from \$329) has unveiled a decade-long \$250 million expansion of its 540 rooms and suites, with crisp white sheets on the mahogany poster beds and preppy pastel accents. Built in the 1920s, the palm-studded resort, whose entryway fountain was modeled after

one at the Boboli Gardens, is still owned by the family of its founder, oil-and-rail magnate Henry Flagler. Along with the property's eight restaurants, visitors can enjoy a new set of private oceanfront cabanas, a mid-century-style cocktail bar, and—naturally—an on-site Lilly Pulitzer boutique.

Meanwhile, on the eastern tip of Long Island, **Gurney's Montauk Resort & Seawater Spa** (gurneysinn.com; high-season rates from \$875) recently renovated, with a new, 38-room oceanfront building and a refreshed, surf-chic design. Jennifer LeRoy (whose family once ran New York institutions the Russian Tea Room and Tavern on the Green) oversees the food and drink offerings, borrowing chef Seth Levine from Manhattan's Hotel Chantelle. Sun-seekers can sip a gin rickey from the beach bar while lounging on a 1,000-foot stretch of pristine shoreline—or by the Olympic-size salt-water pool—while dreaming of endless summer.—JENNIFER CONRAD PATA >80

MOVIES

It's a sign of our wised-up times that most filmmakers fear unabashed romanticism. Not so John Carney, the Irish writer-director who scored a surprise hit with *Once* (now a Broadway musical), the sort-of-true-life story of a Dublin street musician falling (slowly) for a Czech pianist. He's as swoony as ever in **Begin Again**, which is essentially *Once* on steroids. Everything is bigger—the city, the budget, and especially the stars. Keira Knightley plays Gretta, a gifted but shy English singer-songwriter who comes to New York with her ambitious lover, Dave, played by perma-shifty Adam Levine. When Dave lets fame go to his head, the heartbroken Gretta begins performing in a bar where she's spotted by Dan (Mark Ruffalo), a drunken, crazy-yet-adorable ex-record label exec, on the very night he's feeling suicidal. Bound by loneliness—and their love of soulful music—Dan and Gretta set out to record a guerrilla album on the streets of Manhattan.

Although Carney's idea of a plot is a cavalcade of shamelessly good-hearted absurdities, including a beaming cameo by CeeLo, he gets the most from a terrific cast. James Corden is especially amusing as Gretta's busker best friend, Steve. He offers the comic counterpoint to the warm chemistry between Gretta

STARTING OVER

WITH THE BAND
KEIRA KNIGHTLEY
PLAYS GIRLFRIEND
TO ADAM LEVINE'S
ROCKER CHARACTER.



and Dan, who seem to feed off each other's emotion. Knightley has always excelled at portraying the battle between enthusiasm and disappointment; this time she does it to music, and you'll have fun hearing her sing.—J.P.