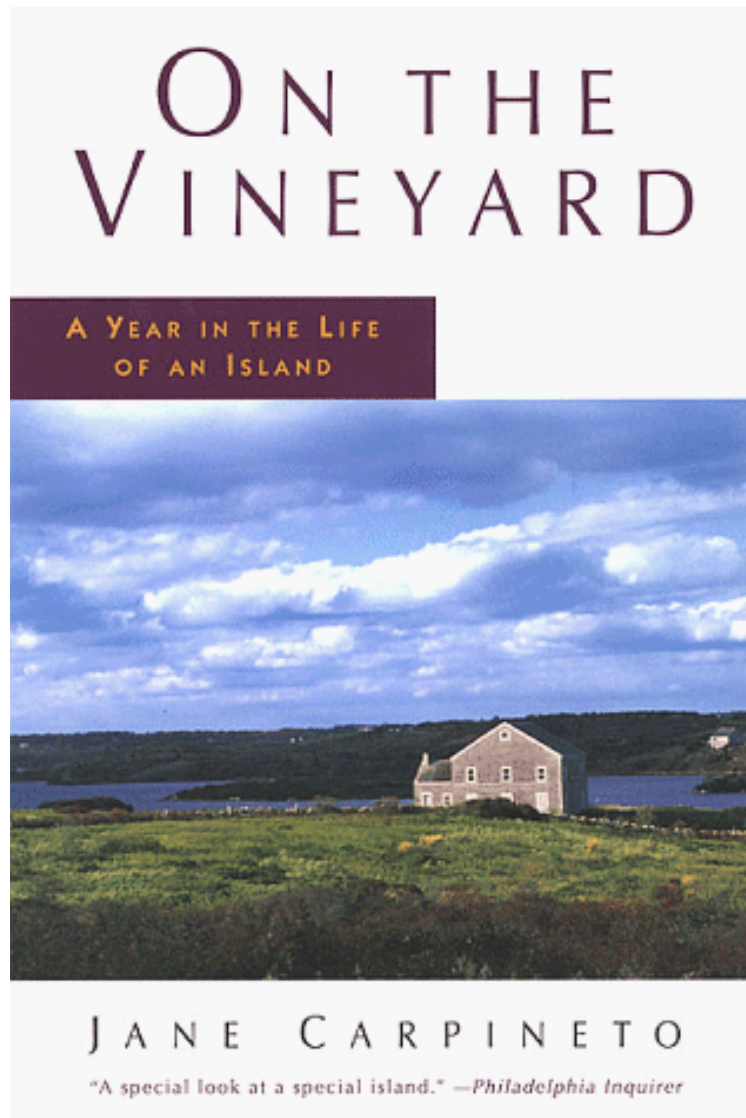


(Free read ebook) On the Vineyard: A Year in the Life of an Island

On the Vineyard: A Year in the Life of an Island

Jane Carpineto

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Jane Carpineto : On the Vineyard: A Year in the Life of an Island before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On the Vineyard: A Year in the Life of an Island:

4 of 8 people found the following review helpful. next best thing to being thereBy A CustomerI really enjoyed this book. I needed a vacation, but couldn't take one - so this book transported me to the island of Martha's Vineyard for the week. I had always thought year-round island living would be ideal, but the author shows both the wonders and the downside of such a closed society.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Self-indulgent and guilt-infusedBy JacoAs an insight into the people, culture and natural places of Marthas Vineyard, this book is pretty

useless. As an insight into the thought process and angst of a wealthy white suburbanite trying to relate to the average and less-entitled population of the Island, it is an interesting read. Ms. Carpineto spends a considerable portion of the book trying to convince the reader that she is not a wealthy Bostonian (which is admittedly a subjective measure, given that with the extremes of wealth and privilege in Boston it is likely she knows of people better off than herself), and that she can relate to the less fortunate and people of ethnicity and color on the Island (as she points out, she is part-Jewish, so she has known what its like to be an oppressed minority yeah right). All youll take away from this tome is a politically-correct, self-indulgent and guilt-distorted narrative of island life.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Really unsatisfying

By Alexander M. Moir I decided to add a review to the gallery on this book because the previous reviewers are primarily Vineyarders or frequent visitors, whereas I have never been there save for in my dreams and my viewings of "Jaws." As such, I wanted to add the perspective of someone who picked up this book in hopes of lounging on the porch and trying to be swept away to Martha's Vineyard. To my dismay, this book never really reached a pleasing pace, and I felt that I didn't get much of an understanding of or appreciation for the place. Interestingly, I have noted that an search for this book by its title does not even bring the book up, and a search for the author's name only grudgingly brings up the book in the results. A google search of Jane Carpineto's name doesn't bring up anything definitive about her in any way, save that she appears to have written a book about doctors as well (if it's even the same woman). Of course, this isn't to say that every small-time writer is a dud; it does reinforce my feeling, though, that this Jane Carpineto is a mystery: that's exactly how she comes across in the book. I never felt that the author let us in on anything significant about her or why she is interested in the Vineyard. This almost reads as an anthropological text devoid of feeling and emotion. Carpineto does not come across as a great writer, nor even a very good one. The narrative in "On the Vineyard" is an endless flow of one-dimensional people, events and places. In fact, she seems to dwell on an interview in Boston with Bill Clinton's lawyer, with whom the former President stayed when vacationing on the island, more than any other personality in the book! I also personally found Carpineto to be one of those sheep-like New England liberals who is ridden with white guilt: she focuses so lovingly on black residents of the Vineyard and describes their heroic quests against adversity (and I really rolled my eyes when she feels the superior need to comment that a white guy carrying a cooler on the beach was making a "blanketed racial slur" when he shouted to his family that he felt like a servant boy or something). Come on, enough of the brownnosing guilt. The author writes in a very flowing poetic style, which doesn't help this book much. Half the text seems to be endless poetic babble about the beautiful sand and the ignorance of the daytrippers. As one previous reviewer noted, none of this makes me either love the island or want to go there ever.

Even before the Clintons made Martha's Vineyard one of their favorite vacation spots, the island had a firmly established reputation as a special place. In this profile, Carpineto interviews the natives to examine how the island has changed, where it has come from, and where it is going. of photos.

From Library Journal "An island is the real world in microcosm." So discovered Carpineto during her sojourn on the island of Martha's Vineyard. Intending to write about the fascination that is the Vineyard, playground for the rich and famous, Carpineto immersed herself in island life, and it's not long before she discovered that there's more to the Vineyard than the media reveal. True, presidents and movie stars frolic there; but it is also a year-round home to fishers, Native Americans, and organic farmers. There is a centuries-old summer colony for middle-class African Americans who visit the island when the population swells by thousands with the arrival of summer visitors. Carpineto (On Call: The Lives of Three Doctors, LJ 6/15/94) delves deeply into the fabric of the Vineyard and finds its true character. She talks to residents and visitors, goes behind the scenes of the community, and examines how the island has changed, where it has come from, and where it is going. Anyone familiar with Martha's Vineyard will find this book of interest. Suitable for public libraries but not a necessary purchase.

ASandra Knowles, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sA full complement of seasons on Martha's Vineyard, experienced from the common man's perspective, by Carpineto (On Call, 1994, etc.). After visiting the island a number of times, Carpineto decided to dig deeper than the tourist surface, to gain a sense of why so many people think of the Vineyard as a special place. She wanted to take its pulse from the man on the street, not the glitter folk heavily associated with it, from Bill Clinton to James Taylor. For two years, on and off, she sampled each of the months and each of the towns, beaches, and festivals, and interviewed a slew of residents, both year-rounders and summer people, conservationists and developers, T-shirt sellers and boat builders, long-time citizens and new arrivals. She successfully contacts people who have interesting things to say about their circumstances or the history of their towns (in particular, her interviews with African-American residents of Oak Bluffs detail the genesis of its black community), or funny stories to relate about the island's celebrities (much of this communicated to her in the usual way at the hairdresser's). And though she avoids gossip and never intentionally digs for dirt, she does uncover a mean seam in island life: substance abuse, physical abuse, unemployment and the glaring class differences lurk in the background, unavoidable and often nasty. Carpineto passingly nods at the landscape, but her portrait of the Vineyard is painted with conversations, and if the people turn out to be eccentrics, so much the better: for instance, a square peg

known as Johnny Seaview, whom she is sure will be the island's archetypal original, but Carpineto is smart enough to know the oddities are a spice, and the main ingredients lie elsewhere. A shrewd look at Martha's Vineyard, mercifully celebrity-free and pleasingly idiosyncratic within the quotidian. (16 pages bw photos, not seen) -- Copyright 1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. From the Publisher "This is a book to contentedly while away the trip on the ferry that casts off hourly from Cape Cod to the Vineyard." --Publishers Weekly "Martha's Vineyard gets a soft-focus lens (think Peter Mayle's *A Year in Provence*) in Jane Capineto's *On the Vineyard*, a nonfiction romp dotted with island regulars Carly Simon and the Clinton Contingent." --Harper's Bazaar "A shrewd look at Martha's Vineyard...pleasingly idiosyncratic within the quotidian." --Kirkus s