

Why I Love ... Cape Cod

Viewers spent more than a decade waking up with Meredith Vieira. These days, she's just as busy but stills find time to sneak out to her favorite summer getaway

Meredith Vieira has long been known for a seamless ability to maneuver multiple irons through a fire, whether it's reporting for 60 Minutes, co-anchoring the Today show or serving as the voice-of-reason moderator on The View for its first nine seasons.

These days, she divides her time between contributing to NBC's Rock Center with Brian Williams, producing movies and hosting the long-running syndicated game show Who Wants to Be a Millionaire.

"It's a show I loved from the minute it came on the air because our whole family sat down and enjoyed it," says Vieira, who begins her 11th season on the show in September. "I love hosting it. I feel good at the end of the day because someone's had fun and they've won money." When it's time to unplug from the intensity of back-to-back Millionaire tapings, she and husband Richard Cohen head to Cape Cod, Mass., to immerse themselves in walks among unspoiled sand dunes and bowls of flawless clam chowder.

"My roots are in New England, so everything about the Cape is wonderful to me. There's not just one thing—it's the whole place," says the Providence, R.I., native whose primary residence is in Westchester, N.Y. "As soon as we hit Route 25 the landscape changes, and that's when my vacation begins."

Vieira, who owns a beach house on the Cape, finds the laid-back vibe as therapeutic as the ocean breezes.

"It's not manicured like the Hamptons.

The water can get rough and the dunes are a little scruffy," she says. "There's nothing like three days at the Cape ... it's where I go to decompress." — STACEY MORRIS

The best places to ...

ENJOY A CUP OF ROADSIDE CHOWDER

PJ's Family Restaurant 2616 Route 6, Wellfleet; 508-349-2126, pjscapecod. com • "It's the best chowder ever. I love their lobster rolls," Vieira says. "And their walk-up windows for easy ordering."

FLOAT THE DAY AWAY

Gull Pond

Route 6, Wellfleet; 508-349-7553 • "Gull Pond has row boats and a big raft in the middle of it," Vieira says. "It's a great place to hang out for an afternoon."

RIDE A BIKE

National Seashore 50 Nauset Road, Eastham; 508-771-2144 • "The trails are beautiful and go for miles and miles."

GRAB A SCOOP OF ICE CREAM

Nauset Ice Cream 4550 State Highway 6, Eastham; 508-240-2649 • "They have the best peach ice cream ever."

