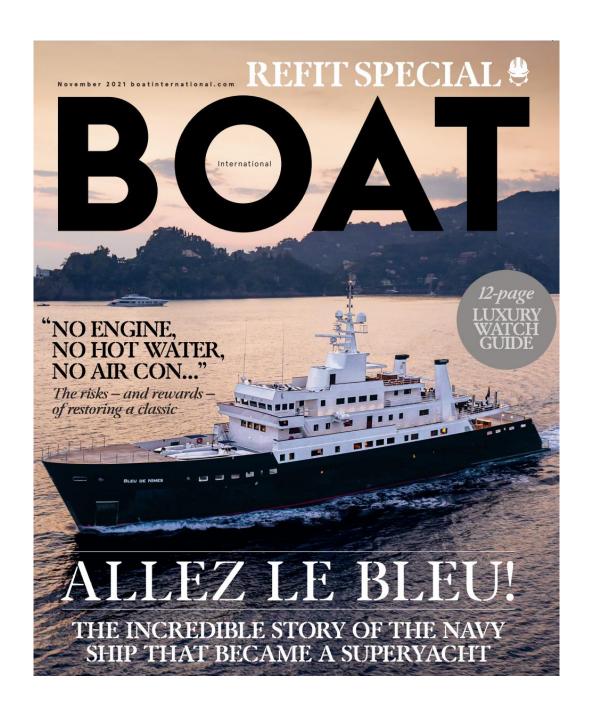


Sotheby's International Realty

Boat International

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rhapsody



Some may dream of a private island in a remote tropical paradise, but for the practical minded this bolt hole, less than 120km from Manhattan, is perfect, says Sophia Wilson

bere may be no swaying palm trees or fish-filled lagoons bere, but Wheeler Island has plenty to enchant a new owner. Nicknamed the "Queen of the Thimble Islands" this small but perfectly formed chunk of land is the

perfect escape for stressed-out city folk.

At the heart of the island sits an eightbedroom cedar-shake home, which is being
sold furnished. Currently used as a holiday
home, it features a bright colour palette with
quirky themes, including stars and stripes and
rubher ducks. The three-storey property could
be easily converted for year-round use and
already has a spacious eat-in country kitchen
with granite worktops. The top floor serves as
guest bedrooms, but it could be reconfigured
into a spectacular master bedroom, offering
views over the Long Island Sound.

The property has two wraparound porches and an outdoor fireplace. There would be room to build a small pool but there is also a private beach for swimming off or launching a kayak. It might be worth taking the time to explore the area: legend has it that in the 1600s Captain William Kidd buried a chest of gold somewhere in the Thimble chain while fleeing pirate hunters.

The island has been considerably modernised since the days of Captain Kidd and year-round electricity and water is already in place. A granite dock offers easy access, and the village of Stony Creek is only a couple of hundred metres away across the water. Once ashore, the town of Branford, Connecticut, and its rail connections back to the city are a short drive away.



The island home's wroperound parches offer spectacular week of the Long Island Sound; above right the interior theme is quicky and bright.



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Fact file

Location 4115'36.2"N 72'45'09.1"W Price \$2,999,000 Agent 5otheby's International Realty, sothebysrealty.com USP A burnkey island less than two hours from New York City

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