

# VINEYARD GAZETTE

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## Clean Up, Island Style

By Susan Catling

Soap used to be just an everyday necessity for hygiene but now it's more like home décor. Whether left in a guest bath or used as persuasion to get a recalcitrant child into the tub, these unusual offerings may come in handy. Or they may just be too pretty to use.

Raised images of lighthouses, angels, and footprints in the sand appear on soaps at Sanctuary in Oak Bluffs. One called a massage bar has nubby bumps that could almost pass for a horse's rubber currycomb. Another is a hexagon-shaped, clear glycerin soap with real seashells and sea glass embedded in it. That could be a bit scratchy after the first few baths.

Dogs gone wild could be the warning at Alley's where one collection of soaps comes in the shape of pugs, Westies, Chihuahuas, and golden retrievers. They keep company with cats, hens, horses, and robin's eggs nesting in an apothecary jar.

They also carry Mental Case Soap, which suggests that you check yourself in to five ounces of deluxe therapy. The box carries a warning about symptoms, including an intense desire to upgrade, thigh-high boots, an attraction to shiny red things, and cleaning up for the pool boy.



photo by Jason White  
Sweet soaps may be too good for guests to use.

Conveniently, Rainy Day carries different breeds than Alley's so here there are black and chocolate Labs as well as Westies. Rounding out the menagerie are doves in a ceramic dish, bee-shaped bath beads, and soap with a raised butterfly design in a wicker basket.

Pinecone and acorn shaped soaps are collected in an apothecary jar while cupcakes looking incredibly edible turn out to be "bath bombs" that detonate under warm water.

What happened to Ivory? After all, it's still 99 and 44/100 per cent pure — and it floats.



Pet this pup and hope the suds leave you looking as cute as a canine cake of soap.