

hamptonstyle

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Elisabeth Robm's Sultry Summer

Media Hampton

Russell Simmons:
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Legally Blonde

by Marla Wasserman | photography by Patrick McMullan | stylist Basia Zamorska

Even the lure of Tinsletown cannot keep this beauty from getting her Hamptons fix.

If spending days leisurely kayaking on Peconic Bay or lolling on Shelter Island is a crime, then Elisabeth Rohm is guilty as charged. Sentencing Rohm to time already served at her recently purchased Hamptons retreat would be justice well received. Rohm, a Hamptons regular since her childhood days, loves the idyllic life here and makes it a point to visit frequently throughout the year. "It's like being an adult in summer camp," Rohm explains of her time in the Hamptons.

Rohm has announced she will soon be leaving her role

as assistant district attorney Serena Southerlyn on *Law & Order*, to pursue other acting opportunities, so she'll probably still have to find time to sneak off to the Hamptons. Rohm's house overlooks the Peconic Bay, nestled in the woods off Noyac Road. Despite having a childhood home on Flying Point Road in Southampton, Rohm says these days she prefers the privacy and topography north of the highway. "There is something dramatic about the beaches but something tranquil about the bay. I fell in love with it because of that quality," she says. Rohm, who shares her house with boyfriend Dan Abrams, NBC News Chief Legal Correspondent, likes staying off the beaten path, so to speak. Her charming home, with its beautiful view of the

Dress, Moschino | Earrings, Veronica Moore at Antony Todd Nina Griscom, Southampton | Hair, Michael Silva | Makeup, Nick Berose





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bay gives her access to all the water sports she so enjoys, including swimming, canoeing and kayaking. Between the activity outside and the beauty of her luscious home inside, Rohm feels she never has to leave—as long as she stocks up at Schmidt's or Caratella. Rohm loves to spend quality time at her house with friends: "You just don't have the luxury in Manhattan of spending the whole day relaxing."

But don't be fooled. Although she loves to relax Chez Rohm with Abrams and her intimate circle of friends, she is no stranger to the allure of the various towns on the East End. Rohm—whose effervescent personality reminds you that life is indeed good—reports that there are aspects of each Hampton that she loves. "I like to shop in East Hampton and go to movies there, and have dinner in South. If you are open minded, you will always find something to do in the Hamptons," she says. You might spot Rohm wandering the nature preserve of Shelter Island one day, and stopping at Ram's Head Inn or Vine Street Café for a bite, or you may catch a glimpse of the blonde beauty

in Sag Harbor, a town she calls "incredibly cool because of the marina and the whaling houses." And Rohm loves Montauk, which, for her, equals Southampton for the best beaches. A true lover of the East End, Rohm says she does come out all year long (as production schedules allow), even spending last Christmas holed up in her house with family and friends.

While Rohm loves both her Hamptons and New York City lives, she confesses to having "the gypsy bug," maintaining a bi-coastal existence with a her life in Los Angeles. Even while working on New York based *Law & Order*, Rohm says that she actively went to L.A., although never succumbed to buying a house there (she much prefers staying in hotels).

Perhaps the need to travel and explore is innate for Rohm. Born in Germany and raised in Manhattan, she maintains dual citizenship to this day, although she speaks no German and visits no more than once a year. Majoring in European history at Sarah Lawrence College also fueled

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her desire to travel, which Rohm hopes to do a lot more of once the very busy television season is over.

Far more than an accomplished actress, Rohm's peripheral interests are as varied as anyone's. She rides horses, sings and even writes fiction. In fact, Rohm has already finished writing a novel and is contemplating whether to publish it. But acting is her true calling. Rohm departs the series at the conclusion of the next 13 episodes, despite loving her character and the cast. As she explains, "When you are involved with something that is a great success, it might seem as if it makes no sense to leave it at the top." However, she quickly adds that the risk is worth it because she'd like to expand her thespian horizons by taking on various other roles. Before joining *Law & Order*, Rohm starred in the cable drama series *Bull* with Stanley Tucci and played the recurring role of the beautiful detective on *Angel*. Her goal now is to focus on film. She recently wrapped filming on *Misc. Congeniality 2* with Sandra Bullock, which is set for a

ELISABETH ROHM'S STYLE PROFILE Favorite Restaurants **Sant Ambroeus, The Candy Kitchen** ("It's sentimental to me."), **Rams Head Inn and Vine Street Café, American Hotel, Armand's Pizza** | Favorite Beaches **Southampton and Montauk** | Favorite Shops **Jennifer Miller, Brooklyn Handknit** | Favorite Sports **Any water sport, riding horses** ("I will definitely go to the Hampton Classic.")

Spring release. While she hopes to get involved in more films, Rohm doesn't eliminate the possibility of doing another television series in the future, joking that if NBC honcho and fellow

Hamptonite Jeff Zucker

called, she would definitely pick up the phone.

When Rohm begins talking about being ready to leave the safety of her network perch it's all she can do to get the words out fast enough. The future looks bright, though. While she has some trepidation about leaving an established show, Rohm believes that taking risks is the only way to grow as an actress, and as a person. "We all need to remind ourselves to take risks and realize that where we are is not the only place. There is so much out there, and it is all really exciting." For now though, Rohm is enjoying exactly where she is, both professionally and personally (namely, in the Hamptons with Abrams) saying, "What matters most is that I can follow my heart." It doesn't take the verdict of a jury to acquit her on that count.

