



Definitely Destin

Florida's Emerald Coast Gem

Rush and Reed McKelvey are doubly loving life. Not only do the identical twins share the fun of their new Cirrus SR20-G2, but the Dadeville, Alabama brothers, 35, also have a gem of a destination they thrill to fly it to: Destin, Florida.

Ah, the Emerald Coast. White sand beaches. The world's "luckiest" fishing village. Scuba and sailing; jet boating and golf. "It's awesome!" says Reed, who with his brother owns Dadeville's McKelvey Chevrolet. Rush agrees: "In a 50-minute flight we're at the condo at the beach, having oysters, watching the porpoises..." And blissfully chilling, he might add, in north-west Florida's most upscale and fastest-growing vacation destination.

Broad and beautiful Chocatawatchee Bay flows into the Gulf of Mexico; here Destin dazzles the brothers McKelvey like nothing else. Not like close-to-home's Lake Martin, where Rush, a 200-hour pilot currently IFR training, met his wife, Lisa. And not like Talladega, AL, where Reed, also a 200-hour pilot currently IFR training, loves some fast NASCAR action. Destin's a delight, they say, because besides October's month-long, world-class fishing extravaganza, the Destin Fishing Rodeo (www.destinfishingrodeo.com), this harbor-side resort is all about wonderful watersport. Hobie Cat, Wave Runner, jet boat, jet ski, speedboat

and parasailing fun pervades the bay; Destin Watertoys (850.837.7755) provides the gear. Pontoon boats are oh-so-popular for floating parties in the back bays; Adventure Pontoon Rentals (850.837.3041) outfits the revelers. And the scuba? Out of this world. Scuba Tech Diving Charters (www.scubatechnwfl.com) makes Destin's glittering underwater wonderworld accessible.

To Rush and Reed there is nothing finer than flying the Cirrus in for a little – or a lot – of all this. When in 2004 the twins became pilots, and that same year bought the parachute-equipped, leather-luxe SR-20, the brothers were thinking ahead. "We knew we wanted to keep flying this airplane," says Rush, who admits work stress takes its toll. "It will keep us young. It's just so simple, so fun to fly that all that stress stuff just rolls right." Right, says Reed. "It spoils you!" Stress-busting is best, say the lookalike McKelveys, with Destin.

Excellent golf at gorgeous Emerald Bay Golf Club (www.emeraldbaydestin.com). Nearby, the picturesque village – and hideaway – of Seaside. And, at the imposing Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort (www.sandestin.com), where 81 holes of golf, lagoons, and marina keep the R&R coming, there is dining at the elegant Elephant Walk restaurant (followed perhaps by a cigar and cognac upstairs at the swanky

Governor's Attic). What could be more sublime? For the oyster-mad twins there is AJ's Seafood & Oyster Bar, where raw or steamed Apalachicola oysters headline, and at Cooper Grill, an amazing steak fondue.

For the brothers McKelvey, all this is the prize for working hard and well at the auto dealership their father founded (one in sales, the other in service – jobs every two years they swap). So with their wives and three children each – plus the hunting dogs who fly along – they zip the Cirrus to the Emerald Coast often. "Destin is just beautiful," says Rush. "Crystal-clear water, white, white beaches..." And more. There is shopping (the 120 upscale Silver Sands Factory Stores). Park-going (Eden Gardens State Park (www.floridastateparks.org/edengardens)). And there is romance: an overnight and lavish Southern breakfast on the veranda at beautiful Henderson Park Inn (www.hendersonparkinn.com). Then there is swimming, sunning and sailing, like aboard the schooner *Nathaniel Bowditch* (www.bowditchsailing.com).

Really, "it is awesome!" says Reed McKelvey, or is it Rush? Either way, these brothers share more than identical looks. It is Destin – in the Cirrus – that they are convinced will keep them young.

Visit www.destinfwb.com for further Destin travel details. ✕