N ow this is Maine. Escape to the most romantic retreat you could ever imagine. Only six minutes from Exit 53 off the turnpike and 10 minutes from Portland, this year-round getaway on Highland Lake in Falmouth makes you feel you’re in Shangri-La. As you take the Blackstrap Road in Falmouth and turn onto Mast Road, you can almost feel the silent lake moving closer as you turn right on Huston Road and approach below whispering pines.

When you reach the lake, you’ve made it. No. 66 is a classic cedar-shingled cottage with red metal roof and storage building. Inside the vaulted knotty-pine threshold, the door opens to a dramatic stone gas fireplace for intimate nights as you look beyond to enormous blue views of the lake through a wall of windows that opens to a spectacular second-floor deck. At night, the stars. It’s impossible to walk out here without catching your breath. To your left in the kitchen is stainless and Deer Isle granite. Off the kitchen is a bath with shower, and tucked in a corner against the water like the bow of a ship is a romantic dining room below the sweep of spruce trees. You’ll see eagles from here as they glide and fish across the lake, as well as deer, foxes, pheasants, and loons. You’ll find yourself, too. It’s such a fantastic getaway that no fewer than three novels have been written from the writer’s desk that looks across the water, by three different residents. In winter, there’s legendary ice fishing, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling.

A spiral staircase descends to the lake-level bedroom with gas heater, all in knotty pine (you’ll love morning coffee on your private lakeside deck), while a stairway to the second floor opens up to the master suite, with full bath, windows on the water, and walk-in closet. This idyll is ideal for young families who love Falmouth schools and desire an easy commute to downtown Portland, or dreamers who crave the most private lot on this three-and-one-half-mile lake—the closest experience of this kind to Portland and the Old Port. Visit Pine Cone for a tour. You’ll never forget your time here. Not just great for making family memories, Pine Cone can also pay for itself with its great potential and history of weekly rentals. Priced to sell at $325,000.