

## CATCHING UP WITH *Meredith Whitney*

*The Wall Street superstar discusses her career and love of Bermuda.*



**MY PHILOSOPHY: I LOVE YOU, OR I DON'T KNOW YOU**  
 “As a Brown University graduate, working on Wall Street wasn’t considered cool. My career has been a whirlwind. What I enjoy most about the industry is you are paid to learn. Since you are responsible for funding growing businesses, you need knowledge on all industries and trends. It is a never-ending process.”

“Wall Street attracts some of the brightest minds, but it can bring bad behavior. I don’t know why. Sometimes it’s an act of desperation.”

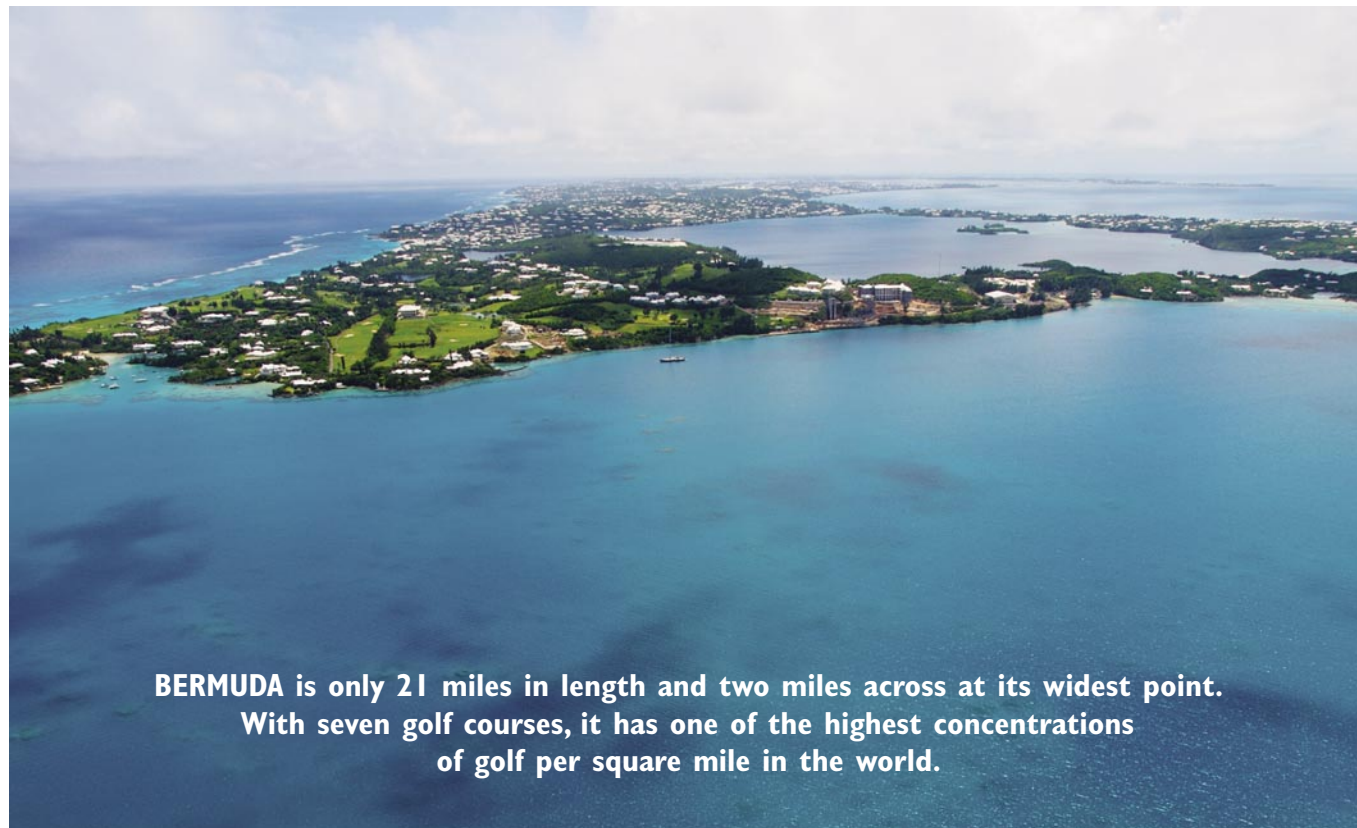
“When you start out, you don’t know who to trust and who the stand-outs are. You must be careful. Integrity counts. I have never wanted something so badly to change myself and break my principals.”

“Since the credit crisis, our financial system has been gummed-up. At some point, the media [and public] will stop hating banks. We need them.”

“My muni bond call was controversial and required a lot of work. I dug deep and math is math. The fact is many governments are not facing reality. Don’t shoot the messenger.”

“I heard a great quote from the actor, Richard Burton: ‘Don’t hate the critics. Feel sorry for them. They are like eunuchs at an orgy.’ Many municipalities, including Chicago and Puerto Rico, will have real upheavals and, at the end of the day, social services will be significantly cut and the neediest will suffer.”

“My financial advice: Don’t live beyond your means. Investing is not complicated. I recommend stocks that pay steady dividends. Each stock in my portfolio [with the exception of PayPal] pays at least a 2% dividend.” — MEREDITH WHITNEY



**BERMUDA is only 21 miles in length and two miles across at its widest point. With seven golf courses, it has one of the highest concentrations of golf per square mile in the world.**



Port Royal Golf Course

HAMILTON, BERMUDA: Meredith Whitney is one of the most influential women on Wall Street. She is best known for her pessimistic forecast of Citigroup during the financial crisis and then predicting significant municipal bond defaults. *Forbes* listed Whitney as the second-best stock picker in 2007 and *New York Post* named her one of the fifty most powerful women in New York City in 2008.

With her financial background, it shouldn’t come as a surprise that Bermuda, where 15 of the top 40 global reinsurers base operations, would be high on her radar.

“My love of Bermuda has little to do with my finance career,” said Whitney. “I am an avid runner. I average 40 miles per week. Bermuda has such a pristine, natural environment, it is a joy to be outdoors. The island seems to have a different celebration of life each week. It’s like visiting fictional city Mayberry USA on the *Andy Griffith Show*. It is that good.”

“There is a simple rule to follow in Bermuda—make sure you say hello with a smile. Manners count. The island is small with a real sense of community. When I go on long runs, I am constantly flashing quick hand waves and smiles. If I acted the same way jogging in Manhattan’s Central Park, folks would think I was crazy!”

Meredith’s love of Bermuda extends beyond occasion-

al visits. She and her husband, former WWE champion and now commentator and *Fox News* contributor, John Layfield, have called it home for the past four years.

“Both John and I commute often to New York City,” said Whitney. “Access from the East Coast is convenient. We can fly from JFK and be sitting on our front porch in Hamilton within a couple of hours.”

### **GO AHEAD, DITCH YOUR HUSBAND FOR THE DAY**

Known around the world for its pink sand beach, turquoise water, and oceanfront golf courses, Bermuda has been a favorite destination for generations of travelers. The country is an archipelago composed of 181 islands. As you would expect, water activity

is the lifeblood of its 60,000 residents.

In 2017, Bermuda will host the 35th America’s Cup, presented by Louis Vuitton.

*Outside Magazine* selected Bermuda as “Best Island” in the world in its 2015 Best of Travel awards and TripAdvisor chose the city of Hamilton as a 2015 Traveler’s Choice Winner.

Superstar Chef Marcus Samuelsson recently opened his newest restaurant, Marcus’ at the Hamilton Princess & Beach Club. The menu is crafted by Samuelsson to fuse his signature international style with the rich flavors of Bermudian cuisine.

“Encourage your husband to play Port Royal Golf Club and ditch him for the day,” teased Whitney. “Explore the island. It is one of the safest places I have ever been.” ■

**GETTING TO BERMUDA:** Bermuda is located 650 miles east of North Carolina, or about a two-hour flight from most East Coast cities. Passports are required. Time zone is one hour later than EST. Fly to Hamilton, Bermuda—L.F. Wade International Airport. Seasonal nonstop flights are available from Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Charlotte, Miami, Philadelphia, Toronto, Washington Dulles, and from all three greater New York City airports: EWR, JFK, and LGA.

### **PLAY LIKE A CHAMPION, AND BE TREATED LIKE ONE TOO**

Bermuda’s Golf Around Eagle Package: The 3, 4, and 5 night packages include nightly accommodations, daily breakfast, daily golf (including one round on Mid Ocean and two rounds at Port Royal), and 50% off rental clubs. Available until March 31, 2016. Value priced from \$830/person. For more information, please visit [www.GoToBermuda.com](http://www.GoToBermuda.com).