

# wander charleston, south carolina



## THE NEW SOUTH

BY ANDREW SESSA

A colonial classic, Charleston might initially come off as a little *ye olde*. But if you look more closely, this 340-year-old harbor city actually lives in the present. Bars reinvent Southern spirits, boutiques showcase new spins on cotton, and the annual Spoleto Festival (May 25 through June 10) draws world-class actors, dancers, and musicians.

### BOOKSTORE

The year-old Heirloom Book Company is two parts cookbook store and one part culinary center. Pick up a copy of *Notes from a Kitchen*, a 900-page, photo-filled look into the personal lives of some of the best young American chefs, including Charleston's own Sean Brock of McCrady's and the recently opened Husk. 123 King St., (843) 469-1717, heirloombookcompany.com



### DRINK

A James Beard Award winner, chef Mike Lata holds court nightly at Fig (eatatfig.com), where he oversees a menu inspired by the Lowcountry's agricultural bounty. He also proves to be *the* man to guide you through Charleston's new cocktail scene. Here are his picks:



**1. BELMONT LOUNGE**  
At this brick-walled bar, order the Boulevardier, with bourbon, Campari, and sweet vermouth. 511 King St.

**2. THE BAR AT HUSK**  
Based on an Old Fashioned, the Julian is crafted from a Pappy van Winkle Bourbon recipe. 76 Queen St.

**3. THE GIN JOINT**  
The modern speak-easy serves a refreshing Gin and Basil Smash, featuring Boodles gin, lemon, basil, and sugar. 182 E. Bay St.

### HOTEL

Originally built in 1844 as a dry goods store, Planters Inn offers high-ceilinged rooms with mahogany beds modeled after historical designs. Don't miss the decadent coconut cake served at the hotel's Peninsula Grill restaurant. From \$250. (800) 845-7082, plantersinn.com

### FESTIVAL

Spoleto Festival USA kicks off its 17-day performing arts lineup on Memorial Day weekend. The U.S. premiere of the Chinese opera *Feng Yi Ting*, staged by Academy Award-nominated director Atom Egoyan, and the one-man show *Making Up the Truth* by local author Jack Hitt are two of this year's highlights. (843) 579-3100, spoletousa.org

### SHOP

Owner Brett Carron launched his men's shop, Indigo & Cotton, in April 2011. He has amassed a small collection of independent all-American brands, such as Raleigh Denim, a North Carolina jeans company that stitches every pair with vintage sewing machines. 79 Cannon St., (843) 718-2980, indigoandcotton.com

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: TERRY WILD; COURTESY OF HEIRLOOM BOOK COMPANY; NICK PRONIO; ILLUSTRATIONS BY MICHAEL HOEWELER