Made by Southern Hands

**Breakfast Time**

**Fruit Preserves**
Greenville, South Carolina–based moms Paula Kavolus and Jill Bondura make wholesome and delicious fruit preserves using a 150-year-old family recipe. sonsrising.com; $6–$8 a jar.

**Stone-Ground Grits**
True Southerners know the difference between blah instant grits and the creamy stone-ground variety, like these from Charleston-based Food for the Southern Soul. foodforthesoulsoul.com; $5.59 (2-lb. cloth bag).

**Golden Eagle Syrup**
Made in Fayette, Alabama, since 1928, this sweet and mild combination of honey and corn syrup continues to be a Southern pancake favorite. goldeneaglesyrup.com; $15 (six 15-oz. jars).

**Fair-Trade Coffee**
Made with fair trade, organic beans and roasted in Marfa, Texas, this full-bodied Big Blend of Texas coffee makes for a smooth start to your day. bigblendcoffee.com; $10.95 (1-lb. bag).

**Tou Savor**

**Cheese-and-Chive Biscuits**
Carrie Morey ships her mother’s signature handmade biscuits fully baked and frozen from her Charleston bakery. Just reheat them for a tender, buttery breakfast. calliesbiscuits.com; $35.90 (2 dozen).

**Organic Granola Mix**
Start with a granola base, and then choose fruits, nuts, or even gummy bears to create your own custom granola blend, which ships straight to your door from Miami, Florida. mixmygranola.com; starts at $4.99 (16 oz.).
Mama taught us not to brag, but it has to be said—there’s no richer, more soulful place than the South. And we can prove it. From boutique hotels to the best hamburger you’ve ever eaten, here are our favorite new sights, sounds, and flavors across the region.

BY JENNIFER V. COLE
WITH BILL ADDISON, GRAHAM AVERILL, RAUL BARRENECHE, ANDREA BENNETT, BELLE BOOGS, CHIP BRANTLEY, TAYLOR BRUCE, KIM CROSS, BEVILLE DARDEN, PAULA DISBROWE, STEPHANIE GRANADA, JENNIFER KOPF, NELLAH BAILEY MCGOUGH, AND CAROLINE MCKENZIE
t took Texas hotelier Liz Lambert 100 days—what she calls “super-speed”—to transform a circa 1914 Mediterranean Revival eyesore into the finest addition to San Antonio’s River Walk in a decade. Welcome to the Hotel Havana, a 27-room property where Liz sheds the ranch minimalism and rock-and-roll posh of her Austin hotels for what feels like the glory days of pre-Castro Cuba. Twelve-foot ceilings and master-craftsman woodwork pair with reupholstered armchairs and couches. (Nothing like bloodred patent leather and neon orange wool to catch your eye.) And the city’s dreamiest rum bar casts a spell. But, as with all of Liz’s projects, it’s the onetime attorney’s handpicked nuances that set the hotel apart. Authentic Cuban movie posters. Wrought iron beds. Brightly colored Smeg fridges chockful of local goodies like Mirasol salsa, Mexican Coca-Cola, and Picosos chile peanuts. This is the new San Antonio made from the best of the bygone. bavanasanantonio.com or 210/222-2008. Rates from $149.
5 MORE NEW FAVES  Our favorite newcomers, from beach retreats to city stays

**BEST FOR**

**ROMANCE**

**THE RESTORATION ON KING**
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA
restorationonking.com; 877/221-7202

**YOU’LL LOVE IT IF**
You want the feel of a sexy Charleston pied-a-terre. Plus: in-room breakfast and nightly wine and cheese.

**DON’T MISS**
The sleek rooftop terrace, an intimate guests-only spot (perfect for an evening cocktail), overlooking King Street (with designer boutiques, fine art galleries, and antiques shops) and the church steeple-spiked downtown panorama.

**VALUE**

**POSTCARD INN ON THE BEACH**
ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA
postcardinn.com; 800/237-8918

**THE DIGS**
The 196-room rehabbed U-shaped Travelodge resurrects 1950s surfer cool with a modern twist. Crisp white bedding, flat-panel TVs, free Wi-Fi, patios with hammocks, and beachy murals make it current.

**FROM $260**

**YOU’LL LOVE IT IF**
You’re craving style—and a beautiful beach—at a retro price. The hotel, owned by New York restaurant impresario Stephen Hanson, also showcases the barbecue stylings of pitmaster “Big Lou” Elrose and a wide variety of bourbons.

**DON’T MISS**
PCI Beach Bar and Snack Shack. This revamped take on the Swigwam, a favorite local beach bar, draws a mix of salty old-timers and hipsters.

**CITY STAY**

**THE JEFFERSON**
WASHINGTON, DC
jeffersondc.com; 202/448-2300

**THE DIGS**
After a two-year renovation, the 99-room, 1923 Beaux Arts beauty (just four blocks from the White House) isn’t new, but it’s new to you. Suites have marble entries, velvet couches, and handcrafted chandeliers.

**FROM $300**

**YOU’LL LOVE IT IF**
You’re a history buff who loves luxury. Look for touches like original Jefferson-signed documents and spa treatments based on the herbs grown at Monticello.

**DON’T MISS**
New in-house restaurant Plume (presided over by former Alain Ducasse chef Damon Gordon) for classic fine dining inspired by Monticello’s bounty and executed with a light hand. Plus, an impressive 1,200-bottle wine cellar.

**FAMILY**

**THE RITZ-CARLTON**
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
ritzcarlton.com/charlotte; 704/547-2244

**THE DIGS**
146 eco-luxurious rooms: Bose entertainment systems, flat-panel TVs, rich wood furniture, Frette linens, and floor-to-ceiling windows. You’d never suspect you’re at an environmentally focused, LEED-designed property.

**FROM $249**

**YOU’LL LOVE IT IF**
You’d like to show your kids they don’t have to suffer to love the planet: a rooftop garden, staff uniforms made of recycled plastic bottles, a bike valet, and bedtime stories.

**DON’T MISS**
The beehives on the roof (80,000 honeybees hard at work), and the hotel’s honey-pecan ice cream they help produce. “Mother Nature,” takes families on hotel eco-tours and delivers toys and games to kids via wagon.

**BEACH**

**THE SEAGATE HOTEL & SPA**
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA
thesegatehotel.com; 561/665-4800

**THE DIGS**
Classic British Colonial meets sporty Palm Beach County: 162 large rooms and suites, outfitted in tropical mahogany woodwork, marble spa baths, crisp white and curu linens, and sitting areas with wet bars.

**FROM $299**

**YOU’LL LOVE IT IF**
You want a beachy, exclusive getaway without paying South Beach prices. Guests get complimentary access to the members-only Seagate Beach Club, with its beachside swimming pool, restaurants, scuba diving, and kayaking.

**DON’T MISS**
The aquatic life: a 5,000-gallon lobby aquarium with reef fish, dragon and moray eels, and technicolor coral; moon jellyfish in the tank at the 245-seat Atlantic Grille.
MILLER UNION, Atlanta, GA Modern Southern cooking, stripped of pretension. Here, the luscious regional bounty simply shines. DON'T-MISS DISH: Farm egg baked in silken celery cream or the seasonal veggie plate. millerunion.com or 678/733-8550

GIJI, Miami, FL The raucous love child of a down-home Southern diner and a big-city noodle bar. DON'T-MISS DISH: Pillowy steamed buns stuffed with shredded pork or brisket. giginow.com or 305/573-1520

HUSK, Charleston, SC The archetype of what chef Sean Brock does best: heirloom Southern food prepared with a connoisseur's sensibility and a deft culinary touch. DON'T-MISS DISH: The hyper-local menu changes daily, but the cornbread is constant—crisp, scented with Benton's bacon, and piping hot in a mini cast-iron skillet. huskrestaurant.com or 843/577-2500

HAVEN, Houston, TX Chef Randy Evans’s nod to The Omnivore's Dilemma—farm-fresh cooking in an eco-conscious environment. (He's even got a cistern for watering the garden out back.) DON'T-MISS DISH: Wild boar chili with Redneck Cheddar, a sharp local cheese washed with Texas-brewed Saint Arnold's beer. havenhouston.com or 713/581-6101

A MANO, New Orleans, LA A gustatory celebration of rustic Italian traditions, NOLA-style. DON'T-MISS DISH: Housemade salumi or succulent Mississippi rabbit roasted with garlic, olives, and thyme. amanonola.com or 504/208-9280
THE SOUTH’S BEST

SPEAKEASIES

WITH THE RISE OF THE CRAFT COCKTAIL MOVEMENT—
artisanal ice, house-made infusions, a newfound
appreciation for bourbon—it was only a matter of time until
we got more suitable digs. Enter the modern speakeasy. The
low light and cozy quarters create a Prohibition-era vibe of
incognito, while the meticulous bartenders remain entirely
conspicuous in their reverence for a well-made drink.

1. **THE GIBSON**, Washington, D.C.
Reservation required? Check. The 48-seat Gibson is a dark,
intimate spot along D.C.’s U Street Corridor. You wouldn’t call
the bartenders “chummy,” but watch one spend five minutes
building your cocktail—a torched orange peel here, a furious
muddle there—and you’ll understand the drink is meant to
speak for itself. thegibsondc.com or 202/332-2156

2. **THE PATTERSON HOUSE**, Nashville, TN
Since The Patterson House introduced the modern speakeasy
to Nashville in 2009, nowhere in the Deep South has pressed
bourbon into such inventive service (e.g., the Bacon Old
Fashioned). And the house rules keep it civilized: No seat, no
drink. No cell phones. No “shenanigans.” thepattersonnashville
.com or 615/636-7724

3. **B BAR**, Miami Beach, FL
Truly underground, the B Bar is accessible only by descending
a hidden staircase off the lobby of The Betsy hotel to an
unmarked, locked door. Inside it’s dusky and tight but plush
with maroon banquettes, a reflective vinyl ceiling, and
clusters of beautiful people. Bold and bright cocktails, such
as the cumin-spiked Sun Virgin, will keep you in the basement
all night. bbarmiami.com or 305/531-3934
Be still our hearts. It was love at first sight when we spotted Charleston, South Carolina-based Lucinda Robinson's airy, feminine line Lucinda Eden in the eponymous King Street boutique (194 King Street; lucindaeden.com or 843/200-2682). Our hands-down favorite in a talented crop of Southern designers, Lucinda incorporates classic silhouettes and playful fabrics to unite sophistication and whimsy. “The idea behind my designs is that women ages 16 to 60 can feel comfortable and beautiful in the clothes,” she says. Case in point: her one-size-fits-all Grecian dress, worn to special occasions by everyone from debs to mothers-of-the-bride.

The line officially debuted last March at Charleston Fashion Week, one of nearly a dozen such events that have popped up in recent years. Fashion weeks now stretch from Austin to Baltimore. Unlike their New York or Milan counterparts, these events forgo couture fashion to highlight up-and-coming local designers. They also put a down-home spin on the traditionally haughty affairs, welcoming more than just socialites and celebrities. (Anyone can get a ticket.) This year, put a little fashionista in your annual girls’ trip—and help support local artisans—with a trek to the fashion tents of the South.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**OUR FAVORITE FASHION WEEKS**

**March 22-26**
Charleston, SC  
charlestonfashionweek.com; tickets from $45

**April 6-10**
Gainesville, FL  
gainesvillefashionweek.com; tickets from $15

**August 11-14**
Baltimore, MD  
baltimorefashionweek.com; tickets from $40

**August 20-27**
Austin, TX  

**Late October**
Greenville, SC  
fashiongreenville.com; tickets from $50

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*From left: Hand Painted Silk Dress, $350; Grecian Full Length, $575; Swiss Dot Dress in pink, $425; Grecian Short, $375; Grecian Tea Length, $475; Damask, one-of-a-kind original, $375; Eyelet “Picnic” Dress, $325; "You Want Me" Dress, $700; Sari Dress, $350.*

CHRIS M. ROGERS, STYLING: ELIZABETH DEMOS; HAIR AND MAKEUP: ASHLEY BROOK PERRYMAN
THE SOUTH'S BEST
BLUE JEANS

With a focus on craftsmanship and exceptional fit, Southern-designed and Southern-made jeans are the new denim must-have. Here, our picks for the leaders of the pack.

IMAGENE + WILLIE
Nashville, TN
In a gas station-turned-workshop, Matt and Carrie Edmondson specialize in last-a-lifetime denim with perfectly frayed hems thanks to a looming process called selvedge. Imogene Stretch, $225; imogeneandwillie.com

Baldwin Denim
Kansas City, MO
Made from coveted indigo-dyed denim, these sleek, sophisticated jeans are so beautiful they’d almost pass for your Sunday best. The Ten, $220; baldwindenim.com

RALEIGH DENIM
Raleigh, NC
True to the name, these jeans—from the first pass on the loom to the final hand-stitch—are crafted within a couple of hours of the North Carolina capital. Union Slim Straight, $250; raleighdenim.com

Levi’s Workwear
BY BILLY REID
Florence, AL
Fashion phenom Billy Reid adds denim to his Southern gentlemen-inspired label with a limited edition Levi’s collaboration. 501-Straight Fit, $178; billyreid.com

Sucker
Charleston, SC
Leave it to Charleston to marry seersucker and denim. The result? A dapper but comfortable (think: stretch fit) year-round jean. Monroe, $165; suckerjeans.com