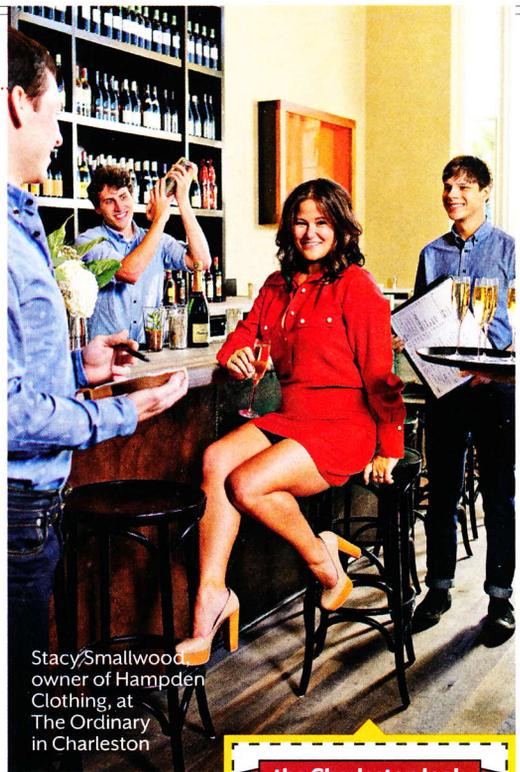




Sugar Bakeshop in the stylish Cannonborough/Elliottborough area



Stacy Smallwood, owner of Hampden Clothing, at The Ordinary in Charleston

Charleston

With a flourishing arts and fashion scene and centuries of deep-seated tradition, this coastal Atlantic town is elegant to its core.

SEE AND BE SEEN

This month's **Charleston Fashion Week** (March 19-23; charlestonmag.com) and international arts festival **Spoleto** (spoletousa.org) keep the city in the news and the local cultural scene engaged. **Upper King Street**

has exploded with design stores, galleries, and a slew of hot new eateries such as FIG owners Adam Nemirow and Mike Lata's **The Ordinary** (eattheordinary.com), a modern riff on a classic oyster bar. Middle King claims fashion-forward boutiques, such as **Hampden Clothing** (hampdenclothing.com) and **James** next door with its killer accessories. In the quickly gentrifying **Cannonborough/Elliottborough** area, neighbors have united to

create green spaces, public murals, and other multi-use community areas.

DRESS LIKE A LOCAL

Manly men aren't afraid of pastels and ladies revere their grandmothers' pearls in this town where classic, windblown preppy rules. Younger generations wear each with designer jeans and well-intentioned irony. With textiles as **Stacy Smallwood's** family business, it makes sense that the owner of Hampden Clothing sets the style here.

the Charleston look

Casual Elegance

BRIGHT SHIRTDRESS
(hampdenclothing.com)

+
CLASSIC-BUT-SEXY PUMPS
(bobellishoes.com)

+
BARE LEGS

STAY HERE

In the "Historical Theme" rooms at **Vendue Inn** (vendueinn.com; rooms from \$155) find antiques, local art, and working fireplaces. The **Rooftop Bar** has views of the city's famous harbor. ☼

THREE MORE FROM THE STYLE FILES

No. 1

DALLAS, TEXAS

In art-loving Big D, first impressions are everything, and this town goes bold. Locals embrace bright colors; skyline-enhancing additions like the new Santiago Calatrava-designed bridge pepper the cityscape.

No. 2

FLORENCE, ALABAMA

This Main Street town draws fashion lovers thanks to design darlings Billy Reid and Natalie Chanin. And with a rock star roster of local music talent (Alabama Shakes, The Secret Sisters), Florence has the lock-down on cool.

No. 3

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Preppy and polished still holds court in RVA, but bold youngsters are trading in pearls and cardigans for mix-matched vintage and urban flair. Find the hippest of locals clinking glasses at Heritage in the Fan District.