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 culturalists engaged. Upper King Street has exploded with design stores, galleries, and a slew of hot new eateries such as FIG owners Adam Nemiro 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 (hampden clothing.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.

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.