

On Our

Radar

News, Finds, Opinions, Obsessions

On King
Street, in
Charleston,
S.C.

TUCKER PAYNE ANTIQUES

MY TOWN

SOUTHERN CHARMER

Long before he agreed to take over as host of the *Late Show*, Stephen Colbert was just another Charleston boy—swimming, fishing, and skateboarding down the quiet streets of what he recalls as a “sleepy Southern town.” Today, the South Carolina city is still one of his favorite vacation spots. Turn the page for Colbert’s down-home haunts.

Photographed by Squire Fox

TRAVEL+LEISURE JUNE 2014 25



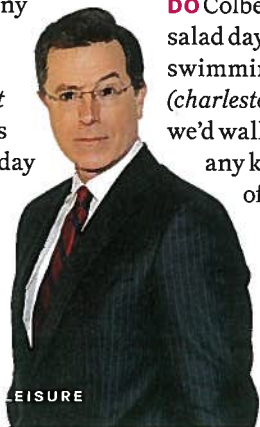
Clockwise from top: The Sullivan's Island Lighthouse; outside Husk; shrimp and grits at Hominy Grill.



Return of the Native: Stephen Colbert's Charleston

STAY Growing up, Colbert helped his mother run a now-defunct B&B in their house in the South of Broad neighborhood. "Back then, if I booked a guest, I got ten percent. A kid could have a whole weekend of fun on fifteen bucks." Hotels he remembers from boyhood: the **Francis Marion Hotel** (francismarionhotel.com; \$)—with views of the harbor—and 1853's **Mills House Wyndham Grand Hotel** (millshouse.com; \$).

EAT "I want shrimp and hominy when I'm in Charleston, at whatever place doesn't call hominy grits," Colbert declares with the emphatic authority of his *Colbert Report* persona. He gets that or the catch of the day at **Hominy Grill** (hominygrill.com; \$\$). Another pick? "**Husk** (huskrestaurant.com; \$\$\$)



has fantastic fried chicken skin and a watermelon salad that's really delicious. I like that everything there is focused on being from south of the Mason-Dixon Line."

SHOP King Street is the de facto center of retail and antiques stores. "In the past, it had no chains," Colbert says. One of the oldest merchants, **George C. Birlant & Co.** (birlant.com), has carried 18th-century furniture and silver since 1922.

DO Colbert spent most of his salad days outside. "We'd go swimming off **Sullivan's Island** (charlestoncvb.com). Afterward, we'd walk in to local bars with any kind of fake ID—a piece of paper that just about announced you were 18—and they'd serve you a beer."

—TOM AUSTIN

Three More Hot Spots

Charleston Distilling Co. *The place for only-in-South Carolina tastings (local corn and rye vodka) and barrel-aged gin.* charlestondistilling.com. \$

Chez Nous *Francoophile dishes—saffron-and-fennel mussel salad; pan-roasted chicken—in a revamped 1835 house on Payne Court.* 843/579-3060. \$\$

Edmund's Oast *The brewery is laser-focused on its farm-to-fork menu, with tobacco-and-peach-tree-smoked charcuterie and pickled shrimp on grilled rye bread.* edmundsoast.com. \$\$\$

DRINKS

To Your Health!

The summer's big cocktail trend? Boozy versions of cold-pressed juices. Three places to get your, uh, nutrients.



At the **Roof**, on top of the Viceroy New York hotel, midtown briefcase warriors hang with margaritas made with beet and pear juices and spiked with Cholula. theroofny.com.



Join the sun-kissed crowd at **Area 31**, on the 16th-floor terrace of Miami's Epic Hotel, for a Green with Envy—gin blended with kale, kohlrabi, spinach, and apples. area31restaurant.com.



Atticus is a hangout for Denver's organic-obsessed locals, thanks to such libations as the carrot, ginger, and rum Boracho Bunny. tabletotavern.com.

—NATE STOREY

STEPHEN COLBERT: STEPHEN LOVENIK/GETTY IMAGES FOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS. COCKTAILS: FROM TOP: DAVID ALEXANDER ARNOLD; SIMON HARE/COURTESY OF AREA 31; ADAM LARNEY/COURTESY OF ATTICUS