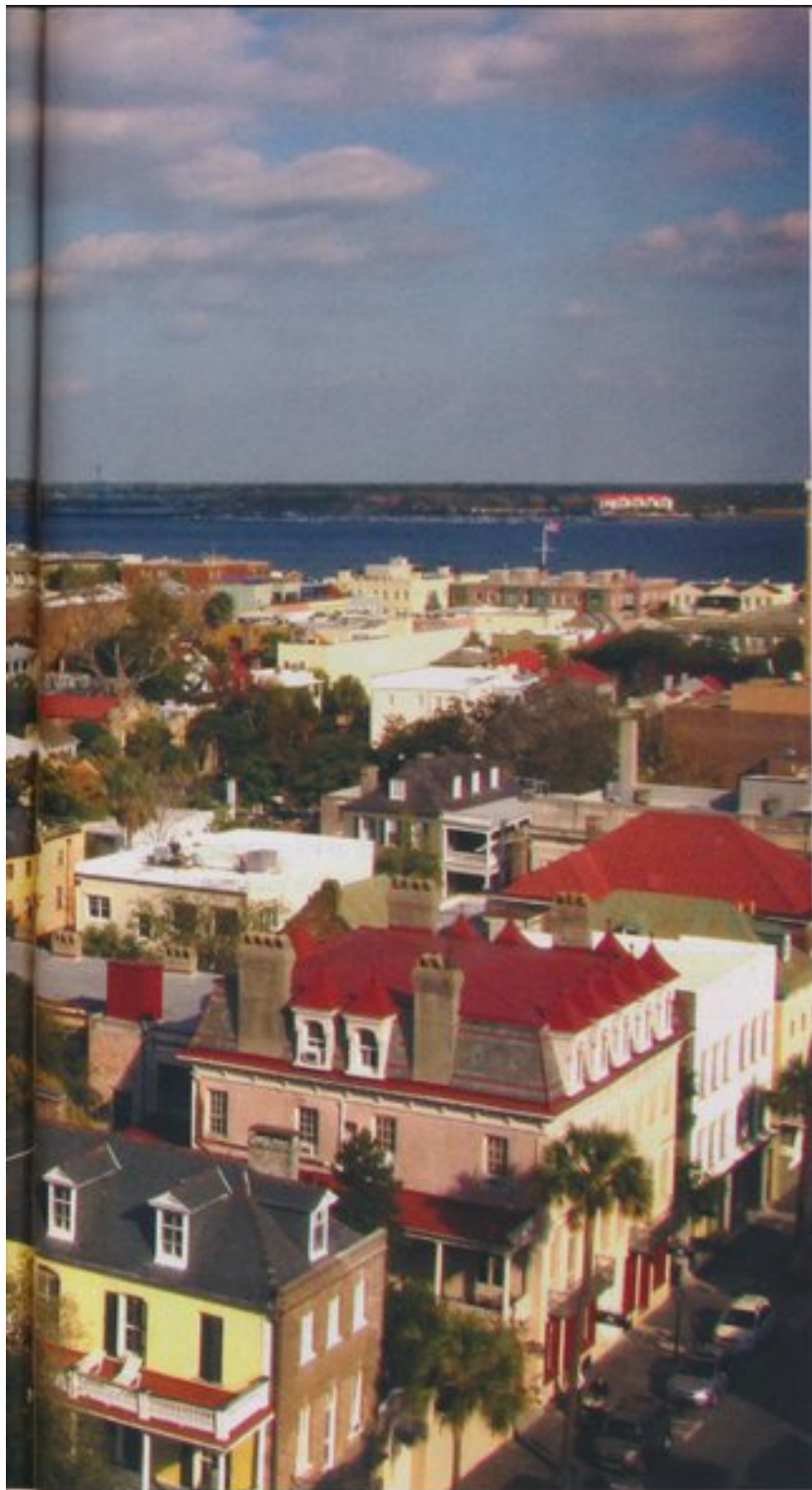


Simply CHARLESTON





A Southern coastal city where history lives

Picturesque Charleston charms with its three hundred year-old cobblestone streets woven between confection-colored Antebellum mansions, flowering trees showering the sidewalks with colorful petals, and church steeples — not skyscrapers — dotting the skyline. One of North America's most architecturally significant destinations, Charleston is a repository for decorative arts, with well-preserved history on display at every turn. By day, horse-drawn carriages meander through the historic district. By night, flickering carriage lanterns emit a warm glow.

The city sits on a peninsula overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, and a lush palate of straw and cerulean colors the landscape. Manicured public parks and private gardens mean Charleston is also a botanical wonderland, where the delicate aromas of tea olive trees and Carolina jessamine vines dance amid the sea breezes. Locals lovingly call it the Lowcountry, an idyllic place that etches its imprint on visitors.

At the very heart of Charleston is a genteel community known for its warm hospitality. Visitors are greeted with friendly nods and sincere welcomes. A morning or afternoon spent strolling the blue slate sidewalks is an invitation for discovery and excites the senses of locals and visitors alike.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHARLESTON CVB





As Charleston's population of colonists grew during the 1700s, an urban development plan called the Grand Model established an orderly grid of streets, much like Manhattan. It's fun to wander — but difficult to get lost — amid the peninsula's elegant parks, civic monuments, and stunning neighborhoods.

For an up-close look at how Charleston's merchant elite lived and entertained in the early 1800s, tour the Nathaniel Russell House Museum (51 Meeting Street). Widely recog-

nized as one of North America's premier neoclassical dwellings, the home's vividly painted interior is adorned with elaborate plaster ornamentation, a stunning free-flying staircase, and the original setting of 17th century Sacred Bird & Butterfly porcelain. A uniquely Charleston invention known as the



joggling board, a kind of wooden bench, is also on display amid the home's gardens.

Take in the length of King Street, where Charleston's most venerable merchants have conducted business for several generations. Valuable treasures are nestled in the antique shops and boutiques that line the lower section, while well-heeled residents head to fashionable shops located along the middle blocks. And chic home decor emporiums and lively night-

Explore the Local Scene

Want insider tips on ways to experience Charleston like a native? Visit charlestonly.com for itineraries written by locals with an abiding passion for sharing the city's many charms.



life can be found on upper King Street.

At the Charleston City Market, one of the nation's oldest public markets, more than 300 artists and vendors set up shop daily. This four-block attraction houses a large and diverse range of Certified Authentic: 100% Handmade in Charleston gifts, food products, and souvenirs, including tradition-steeped sweetgrass baskets.

Made to winnow rice on plantations, sweetgrass baskets are one of the oldest handicrafts of African origin in the United States, and several examples are on display in the Smithsonian's permanent collection. See the beautifully coiled baskets come to life as more than 50 artisans weave a variety of styles onsite at the Charleston City Market daily.

There is much to savor in Charleston, too, thanks to its nationally celebrated culinary scene. To experience the city's heart and soul, taste the food. Comprised of heirloom recipes proudly passed from one generation to the next, Charleston's Low-country cuisine has evolved over the past 300 years. Today's chefs harvest the best local ingredients to create classic dishes that celebrate Charleston's authentic flavors, including benne seed wafers, Carolina Gold rice, shrimp and grits, and she-crab soup.

Starting in 2008, three Charleston chefs consecutively won the esteemed James Beard Foundation Best Chef Award, one of the culinary world's highest honors. The string of wins signaled to the world that Charleston, with its three-century legacy of farm-to-table cuisine and fresh seafood, was ready to be recognized for its sophisticated interpretations of Southern cuisine. Today, the area is both an incubator and a playground for culinary talent.



Charleston has been named the #1 Best U.S. City by *Condé Nast Traveler* Readers' Choice Awards for the past three years and *Travel + Leisure* World's Best Awards for the last two.

Charleston is home to a volume of world-class dining normally associated with cities five times its size. Food lovers consistently list it as the one American city they absolutely, positively must visit.

The city has been named the #1 Best U.S. City by *Condé Nast Traveler* Readers' Choice Awards for the past three years and *Travel + Leisure* World's Best Awards for the last two. There truly has never been a better time to explore Charleston. ✦

Clockwise from above: The Nathaniel Russell House Museum, Broad Street, Gullah culture, and local oysters

Previous spread, clockwise: aerial view, Waterfront Park, sweetgrass baskets, antebellum architecture, and Salade Niçoise at Brasserie Gigi



Art of the City

Charleston is home to vibrant cultural offerings.

From top:
Carmen de
Lavallade, and
The Best Friend
Train Museum



To discover more, visit
charlestonarts.org.

The City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs is committed to enhancing the quality of life for all of Charleston's citizens through artistic expression.

Established in 1977, the Office of Cultural Affairs produces and supports programs that educate, inform, and inspire by celebrating creativity, contributing to economic development, and reinforcing Charleston's reputation as an international cultural destination. The efforts have paid off: In 2008, *Travel + Leisure* ranked Charleston number seven in the nation in the category of Arts & Cultural offerings.

The monthly Arts in Charleston calendar and charlestonarts.org serve as central resources for discovering Charleston's many exciting cultural offerings. Annual events and festivals

abound in the city, such as the MOJA Arts Festival (Sept. 25–Oct. 5), Charleston's 11-day celebration of African American and Caribbean arts. This year's festival features dance icon Carmen de Lavallade's eloquent performance *As I Remember It* at the historic Dock Street Theatre on Friday, October 3.

Charleston is home to many wonderful museums and attractions, too, including The Best Friend Train Museum, which showcases a fully restored scale replica of one of the first steam locomotives to operate in the U.S. (The train made its inaugural run on Christmas Day, 1830.) The museum is open seven days a week from 9 a.m.–4 p.m., and admission is free.

And don't forget there are many other free events and community gatherings in Charleston, from outdoor concerts to farmers markets and so much more.

PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER DODD AND COURTESY OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON

A Decade of Lowcountry Flavor

BB&T Charleston Wine + Food hosts top chefs, winemakers, and culinary storytellers — Southern style. BY CATHRYN DAVIS ZOMMER

Offering food is how Southerners say hello, and Charleston's culinary community delights guests with welcoming flavors from the Lowcountry.

Inspiration surrounds the city in the region's estuaries, rich with shrimp, fish, crabs, and oysters, and marshlands, where rice and vegetable production thrives. "I'm inspired by nature, and you experience this in my dishes," says Michelle Weaver, executive chef of the award-winning Charleston Grill. The love of Charleston cuisine has transformed the Holy City into one of the most delicious and passionate restaurant and hospitality communities in the country.

In 2006, chef Marc Collins of Circa 1886 asked an inspiring question: Why doesn't a festival celebrating Charleston's culinary traditions exist? That very year, the BB&T Charleston Wine + Food Festival was born.

A decade later, the not-for-profit Festival — led by a group of dedicated volunteers — has blossomed into one of the most talked about culinary events in the world. Every year during the first weekend in March, locals and visitors gather to eat, drink, and share stories. Esteemed local talent joins forces with some of the nation's most renowned chefs and the world's top winemakers and beverage professionals for more than 75 incredible events that celebrate homegrown flavor, Lowcountry style.

Praised as one of the top five food and wine festivals in America by *Forbes Traveler*, the heart of the festival is its friendly Culinary Village in historic Marion Square, featuring memorable cuisine, intimate chef demos, hands-on experiences, an artisan

market, grilling area, beer garden, pop-up shops, and rousing music. Come taste what everyone is talking about!

BB&T CHARLESTON
WINE + FOOD
March 4-8, 2015
Charleston, SC
843.727.9998
charlestonwine
andfood.com



Locals and visitors gather to eat, drink, and share stories.



Succulent Charleston oysters



Workshops



Joyful Noise



Jazz and blues to big-band and bebop, Charleston's jazz scene will keep you humming. BY MAURA HOGAN

In search of the perfect soundtrack for your Charleston visit? Take note: It's all about jazz. On any given night, there are as many ways to tune in to the Lowcountry's jazz scene as there are ways are to sing scat.

Clockwise from above: Maestro Charlton Singleton, jazz processional, Charleston Music Hall, Leah Suárez, Charleston Jazz Orchestra, and Charleston Jazz House

Pop down to a restaurant lounge to discover a homegrown quartet, or sup and swing at a white-tablecloth jazz club with a white-hot ensemble as the centerpiece. For elegant digs, head to downtown venues like the Charleston Grill at the Belmond Charleston Place Hotel or The Mezz, the popular jazz listening room and dining spot featuring master percussionist and musical director Quentin Baxter. You can even get a big band experience that fills a large music hall — and your soul — at a Charleston Jazz Orchestra performance.

American jazz is as much a part of Charleston's past and present as the city's culinary mainstays. The sounds born in this port city synthesize a distinct mix of cultures, and in particular draw from the West African and Gullah rhythms and language.

This joyful noise resounded through peninsula streets as early as the late 1800s, by way of the Jenkins Orphanage bands. The brainchild



PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) COURTESY OF TESSA BLAKE; BETSE MOORE; BEN WILLIAMS; ALICE KERRICK; AND MELANIE VESILIND (2)



of Reverend Daniel Joseph Jenkins, its members went on to become standout musicians in the bands of Count Basie and Duke Ellington, and paved the way for South Carolina jazz icons like Dizzy Gillespie and countless others.

Today, Charleston's jazz heritage is alive and swinging, thanks in large part to the research of the Charleston Jazz Initiative at the College of Charleston, founded by Jack McCray and Karen Chandler. The community of musicians, composers, enthusiasts, and others remains active through Jazz Artists of Charleston (JAC), under the executive leadership of popular local vocalist Leah Suárez.

From its hub in the Charleston Jazz House in the Cannonborough-Elliottborough neighborhood, JAC is the go-to spot for jazz lovers looking for shows around town. The organization also produces an annual calendar of concerts featuring the 20-piece big band Charleston Jazz Orchestra, which is heading

into its seventh season under the direction of Maestro Charlton Singleton, who also serves as its musical director, bandleader, and conductor.

JAC also supplies plenty of high notes to the annual city-sponsored Piccolo Spoleto Festival in May and June, presenting a range of jazz offerings during its 17-day run.

The newest arrival on the vibrant scene is the annual Charleston International Jazz Festival, which will debut January 22–25, 2015. Featuring local and regional talent, and internationally known musicians, the festival seeks to further the city's storied jazz tradition in unprecedented, toe-tapping ways.

Your musical itinerary in Charleston awaits with performances listed on the Jazz Around Town Calendar at charlestonjazz.com.

Jazz Artists of Charleston

93 Spring St., Ste. A
Charleston, SC
843.641.0011
charlestonjazz.com



First and Finest

America's oldest theater brings professional productions to Charleston. BY LAURA MAZURAK

Clockwise from left: Gershwin at Folly (2014), the Historic Dock Street Theatre, and Annie (2013)

Charleston Stage

135 Church St.
Charleston, SC
843.577.7183
charlestonstage.com/
usairways

Located in the heart of downtown, Charleston Stage occupies the Historic Dock Street Theatre.

As the first theater built in the Thirteen Colonies, the cypress-paneled, Federal-style venue carries a unique legacy.

The Historic Dock Street Theatre's recent \$19 million renovation affirms Charleston Stage's importance to both the arts community and surrounding area. Each year, the company brings full-scale, professional productions to over 40,000 visitors from around the world and continues to expand its arts education mission by bringing drama and literature to over 20,000 students in the Lowcountry.

Although Charleston Stage presents works

at America's oldest theater, it prides itself on premiering new productions, especially those that speak to the Lowcountry's rich history. Recently that included the original, full-scale musical *Gershwin at Folly* — the story of George Gershwin's 1934 vacation on Folly Beach, a small island near Charleston. During their summer off the South Carolina coast, Gershwin and DuBose Heyward began writing the beloved folk opera *Porgy and Bess*.

Now in its 37th year, Charleston Stage presents a diverse lineup ranging from classics to comedies in its 2014–2015 season. Highlights include the great American stage comedy *You Can't Take It With You* (August 29–September 21); Dickens' holiday classic, *A Christmas Carol*, which will feature flying ghosts (December 5–21); *The Underpants*, a farce-filled physical comedy by Steve Martin (March 6–22); and *Catch Me If You Can: The Musical*, a flashy Broadway production inspired by the Leonardo DiCaprio film (April 3–26).

The Sound of Charleston

Capturing the city's musical heritage
"from gospel to Gershwin"

Summertime, and the livin' is easy," a line from George Gershwin's opera *Porgy and Bess*, could well describe life in Charleston.

In fact, the composer spent a summer on nearby Folly Beach in 1934 writing *Porgy and Bess* with DuBose Heyward.

Gershwin's visit is one of many musical connections to Charleston's history brought to life weekly in the highly popular *The Sound of Charleston*, a 75-minute live show staged at the historic Circular Congregational Church.

Over one half of all the slaves brought to

America arrived through the port of Charleston. Come experience the legacy of their gospel spirituals and the fascinating coded messages embedded in them. These spirituals, including "Swing Lo, Sweet Chariot," and "Go Down, Moses," are a highlight of every show.

Hear songs sung around the campfires during the Civil War, accompanied by musicians playing period instruments, as well as light classics once performed at concerts of the St. Cecilia Society, the preeminent musical organization founded in colonial America.

Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* or selections from *Porgy & Bess* round out this historical showcase of Charleston's music.

The show ends with the beloved hymn "Amazing Grace." The composer, John Newton, worshipped at Circular Congregational Church several Sundays in the spring of 1749 on his road to conversion, only to return to England and later write this powerful hymn.

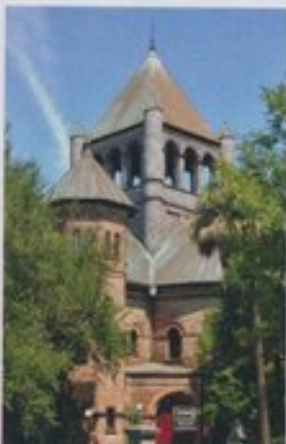
The Sound of Charleston is an enlightening, entertaining, and emotional journey through Charleston's past.

From left: Ann Caldwell sings gospel; Circular Congregational Church, pianist Ghadi Shayban, and Bill Schlitt and Bart Saylor play Civil War music



The Sound of Charleston

Circular Congregational Church
150 Meeting St.
Charleston, SC
800.838.3006
843.270.4903
soundofcharleston.com



Palmetto State Performances

Theatre Charleston members thrive after more than a decade.



The Testament of Mary at PURE Theatre

← PURE Theatre

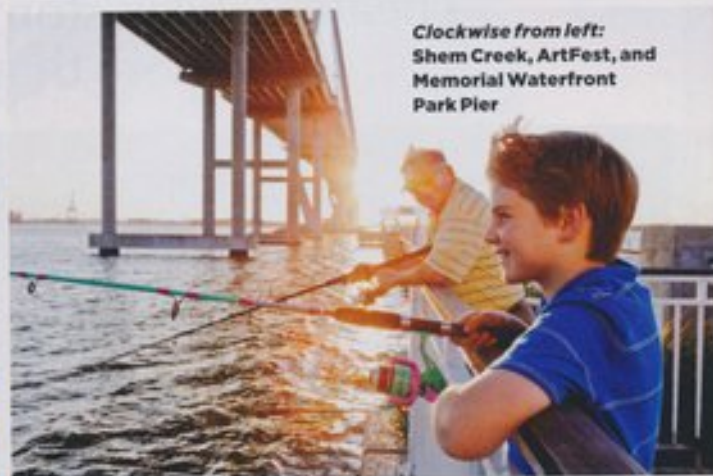
Entering its 12th season, "PURE Theatre continues its reign as Charleston's go-to for the best in contemporary theatre" (*Charleston City Paper*). The award-winning Core Ensemble of professional actors, directors, and designers are the soul of PURE's work. The company presents a compelling year-round season in its intimate 99-seat theater located in the heart of Charleston's vibrant Upper King Street district. puretheatre.org

South of Broadway Theatre Company →

South of Broadway Theatre Company (SOBTC), dubbed a "mainstay of the South Carolina theater scene" by the *New York Times*, is located in the revitalized Olde Village of historic North Charleston. Now in its 11th season, SOBTC produces a range of shows including Tony award-winning plays, original works, and classic Irish plays featuring local professionals and talent from around the country. southofbroadway.com



The Sisters Rosenweig at South of Broadway Theatre Company



Clockwise from left:
Shem Creek, ArtFest, and
Memorial Waterfront
Park Pier

A Pleasant Diversion

Mount Pleasant's many charms and lively events are its main attractions. BY CAROLINE EUBANKS

Visitors to Charleston may get caught up in all the pleasures the historic city has to offer, but getting out of downtown is a great way to experience the region's festivals and events.

Mount Pleasant

Check out ComeOnOverMP.com for more information on the town's festivals and attractions.

Across the iconic Ravenel Bridge is the town of Mount Pleasant, where traditional sweetgrass baskets are still made at roadside stands and the 17th-century Boone Hall Plantation still provides produce at the local market.

Mount Pleasant brings in thousands of visitors annually for events like the Cooper River Bridge Run 10K, the Blessing of the Fleet and Seafood Festival, and a seasonal farmer's

market, but even if you're not visiting during these times, there's still plenty to enjoy. Memorial Waterfront Park underneath the bridge has views of downtown Charleston, a 1,250-foot pier, parking for those walking the bridge, and a play area for kids. Nearby Patriot's Point, a popular field trip stop, is home to the USS Yorktown and the Congressional Medal of Honor Museum.

Shem Creek is known as the seafood capital of Charleston, with many waterfront restaurants and a picturesque park and pier. Kayaking excursions also leave from here, where one can spot crabs, birds, and dolphins. The town is also a jumping-off point for day trips to beaches on the Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island.

Wherever your interests lie, Mount Pleasant is well worth the trip across the river.

PHOTOS BY TERRY AND MICHAEL PULASKI

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOONE HALL PLANTATION

If These Trees Could Talk

Experience living history at Boone Hall Plantation



You see it. You feel it. Spanish moss grows on historic live oaks, swaying gently in the coastal breeze.

And if you listen closely, you might even hear the whispers of over 300 years of history, beauty, and grace. The Avenue of Oaks at Boone Hall Plantation transports you back in time to an era gone but never forgotten.

Boone Hall is one of the South's greatest treasures and has earned the reputation as "America's Most Photographed Plantation"

— a place NBC Daytime Television says is "a must see on any trip to Charleston."

Visitors can tour the plantation mansion, take in the critically acclaimed *Black History In America* exhibit on display in original slave cabins, explore the unique Lowcountry Gullah culture through one of-a-kind live presentations, and enjoy a plantation coach tour across the entire 738 acres.

The plantation, one of America's oldest, has been continuously growing and producing crops for more than three centuries.

Boone Hall is also home to a number of high-profile special events presented throughout the year. And Boone Hall is no stranger to Hollywood either — it's a frequent location for filming numerous movies and television shows.



Boone Hall Plantation

1235 Long Point Rd.
Mt. Pleasant, SC
843.884.4371
boonehallplantation.com



Meet Me in Charleston

Share (and make) history with friends during the Preservation Society's Fall Tour of Homes.

Never is there a more beautiful time to enjoy a rare peek inside some of America's most distinctive, historic private residences than during the Fall Tour.

Held each October, the tour highlights the history and beautifully preserved architecture of Charleston, providing the perfect backdrop for making memories with friends and family. A nonprofit founded in 1920, the Society is the nation's oldest membership-based preservation organization.

Each Fall Tour showcases the interiors of private houses rarely seen by visitors. Experience the "inside" story behind these stately homes and absorb American history through a series of upscale tours, lectures, and special events. Featuring different properties each day, the 38th annual tour begins October 2 and continues through October 26. Once you've seen Charleston behind the scenes, you'll understand why Preservation Society members are so committed to preserving this very special place. All proceeds from the home tours directly support the Preservation Society's mission to protect Charleston's architectural history and cultural resources.

Come let native Charlestonians show you why the city they've worked so hard to preserve has been named a "Top Destination in the World" by *Condé Nast Traveler* readers three years in a row. Become a part of Charleston's long and storied history on your next visit to the South. For more information about the Fall Tour of Homes, visit thefalltours.org.



**Preservation
Society of
Charleston**

147 King St.
Charleston, SC
800.514.2849
preservationsociety.org



PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS

Drayton Hall

An American architectural icon



Surviving seven generations of natural disasters and war, Drayton Hall has stood the test of time.

Founded in 1738 along the banks of the Ashley River, Drayton Hall stands alone as the oldest unrestored plantation house in America still open to the public. It is the nation's earliest example of fully executed Palladian architecture and was acquired by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1974 from the Drayton family.

Drayton Hall is different from other area

plantations. Instead of restoring it to a certain time period, the National Trust stabilized the architecture and showcases it today in its authentic form so that visitors can fully appreciate unique details influenced by European designs and executed by American, African, and European craftsmen.

The grounds are equally impressive—live oaks drape their limbs across the landscape, and there are nature trails where guests can spot wildlife. Tours and programs operate daily, including guided tours of the house and programs on the African American history of the property, which has one of the oldest documented African American cemeteries in the nation still in use. For a deeper understanding of Charleston's plantation history, there's no better place to start than Drayton Hall.

Clockwise from left:
Drayton Hall, view of
landscape from the
portico, the Withdrawal
Room, and decorative
hand-carved detail



Drayton Hall

3380 Ashley River Rd.
Charleston, SC
843.769.2600
draytonhall.org



Natural Heritage

Magnolia Plantation & Gardens boasts award-winning year-round gardens. BY LAURA BURKEHART

Nature envelops you as soon as you enter the beautiful, historic grounds of Charleston, South Carolina's Magnolia Plantation & Gardens.

Clockwise from left: Long White Bridge, azaleas bloom, and Lady Fernanda camellia

Magnolia Plantation & Gardens

3550 Ashley River Rd.
Charleston, SC
magnoliaplantation.com

The branches of live oaks bow gracefully toward the ground, draped lavishly in lacy Spanish moss. In springtime, azaleas line the winding gravel and dirt paths, creating explosions of color under the great, shady trees.

Despite its name, the plantation's horticultural claim to fame is its extensive collection of rare and ancient camellias, many of which bloom profusely from January to March. Free camellia walks are held at the plantation each winter from November to March. Enjoyed by the public since the 1870s, *Travel and Leisure* magazine has named Magnolia one of Ameri-

ca's 17 most beautiful gardens.

The gorgeous blooms offer more than just a pretty view—they help tell the history of the plantation and those who lived and worked here. Established in the 1670s, some of the gardens on the land are more than 325 years old.

Before the Civil War, slaves cultivated and tended the camellias, and after the war, free African Americans continued to serve as master gardeners. "Magnolia's camellia collection includes two plants named for African Americans," says Tom Johnson, the plantation's executive director. "Tina Gilliard was a longtime greeter here in the early 1900s, and the Reverend John Bennett was a garden superintendent."

Visitors today can tour the romantic grounds and the Ashley River shoreline of Charleston's most popular plantation on foot, or via the nature train or marsh boat tours. No matter how you explore Magnolia Plantation, expansive gardens, timeless beauty, and fascinating history await.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MAGNOLIA PLANTATION

A Storied Landmark

Middleton Place offers a look at life in a bygone era.

Middleton Place, a National Historic Landmark, is one of South Carolina's most enduring icons — a remarkable survivor of the American Revolution,

the Civil War, changing fortunes, and natural disasters. Two of America's Founding Fathers called it home: Henry Middleton, a president of the First Continental Congress, and his son, Arthur, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Middleton Place is home to America's oldest and perhaps finest landscaped gardens. Created by Henry Middleton in 1741, the gardens are recognized for their international importance and reflect the classic formal style that remained in vogue in Europe into the 18th century.

The House Museum tells the story of the Middleton family through its extraordinary collection of family-owned fine furniture,

English and American silver, rare books, and portraits by major artists such as Benjamin West and Thomas Sully.

Professional interpreters in the Plantation Stableyards demonstrate the day-to-day working

life of a rice plantation, growing Carolina Gold rice, Sea Island cotton, and sugar cane, and tending to heritage breeds of domestic farm animals documented to have been here more than 150 years ago.

The Middleton Place Restaurant offers authentic Southern cuisine with seasonal menus crafted around the bounty of the on-site organic farm. The secluded Inn at Middleton Place, adjacent to the gardens, was a recipient of the American Institute of Architects highest national award. The 55-room inn is perfect for quiet working retreats or romantic getaways. Its outdoor programs, such as kayaking, bicycling, and horseback riding, complete the unforgettable Middleton Place experience.

From left: the sweeping vistas of Middleton Place, and a Camellia Allée in the gardens

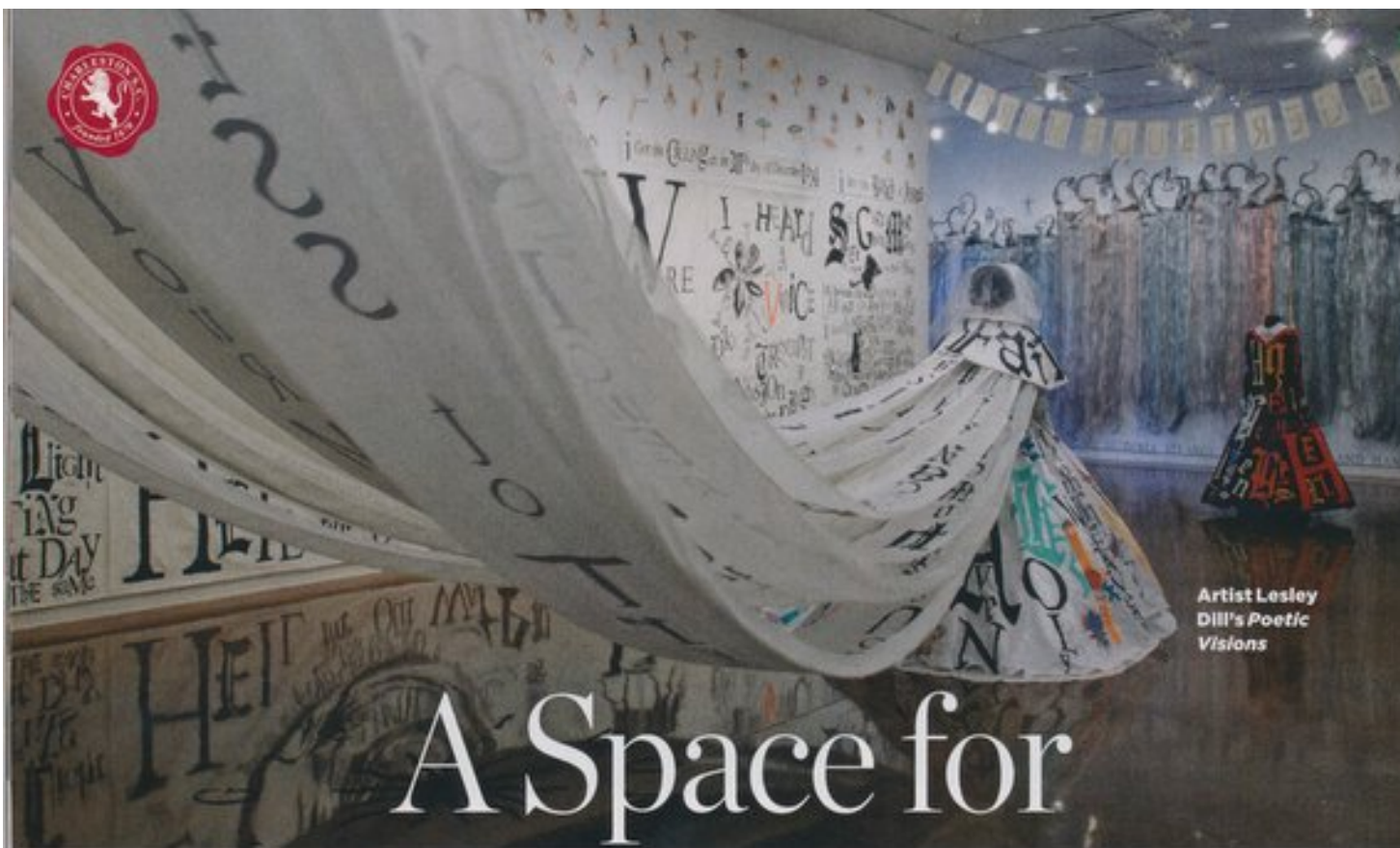
MIDDLETON PLACE

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

4300 Ashley River Rd.
Charleston, SC
843.556.6020
middletonplace.org



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIDDLETON PLACE FOUNDATION



Artist Lesley Dill's *Poetic Visions*

A Space for Imagination

The Halsey Institute offers a glimpse inside the artistic process.

A multidisciplinary lab for the production, presentation, and dissemination of ideas by innovative visual artists, the Halsey Institute is a perennial favorite among art lovers.

Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art

161 Calhoun St.
Charleston, SC
843.953.4422
halsey.cofc.edu

As a nonprofit museum, the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston creates meaningful interactions between adventurous artists and diverse audiences, emphasizing the historical, social, and cultural aspects of the art of modern times.

The Halsey Institute's facilities include two interlinked museum-quality exhibition spaces totaling 3,200 square feet, as well as a dedicated media room, a reference library, and an archive. Besides originating between five and seven exhibitions per year, many of which

travel nationally, the Halsey Institute also hosts a year-round schedule of lectures, panels, symposia, screenings, discussions, and other events.

The space also provides artists from around the world with opportunities to produce new work. The Halsey Institute commissions essays by prominent writers and critics to accompany exhibition catalogues, and produces and presents artist videos in conjunction with exhibitions that offer insight into the life of an artist and their creative process. About once a year, the Halsey Institute hosts an artist-in-residence for one to six weeks, seeking to foster community dialogue whenever possible. Each exhibition and all videos are archived on the Halsey Institute's website, and audiences can participate in free guided exhibition tours to learn more about the work and the artists.

At this adventurous art museum, much can be learned by seeing how an artist turns "a thought into a thing."

Art Meets Nature

Experience artists at work and more at the
Southeastern Wildlife Exposition BY NICOLE ESPLIN



Every February, nature lovers and wildlife art enthusiasts converge in Charleston, South Carolina, for the annual Southeastern Wildlife Exposition (SEWE).

SEWE began in 1983, when a group of local sport enthusiasts decided to bring some life to downtown Charleston during a slow tourism month for the town. The event focused on the art of sport and wildlife, and 100 artists showcased their skills for around 5,000 visitors.

Today, more than 40,000 people attend every year to enjoy art, music, food, and exhibits. The exposition still holds true to its original goal: to showcase wilderness sport through art. Visitors can watch net-casting demonstrations, check out fly-casting demos, learn about local ecosystems, and see birds of prey in action with their trainers. Past presenters include notable television personality and zookeeper

Jack Hanna and local chefs Michelle Weaver (Charleston Grill) and Fred Neuville (Fat Hen).

Whether you're watching the DockDogs® competition, where agile dogs jump over 30 feet off the docks before plunging into the water,

bidding on art, or enjoying a cooking demonstration, you'll find more than enough activities to fill three days' worth of events.

"We find that people who plan on only coming for one day usually come back the second and third days of the festival," says executive director John Powell. "We also encourage people from out of town to book hotels and dining well in advance."

"Charleston really comes to life during the Exposition weekend," says Powell. "For some, it's a reunion — it gives them a reason to see their friends again. Then there are first-timers, who are wide-eyed at everything going on."

Clockwise from left: birds of prey, music at Marion Square, canine capers, and the art of sport on display



Charleston, SC
843.723.1748
sewe.com



Historic Charleston Foundation →

Historic Charleston Foundation operates two house museums with vastly different interpretive approaches. The Nathaniel Russell House (c. 1808) at 51 Meeting Street accurately depicts Regency life in one of the nation's most important urban neoclassical structures. Meanwhile the Aiken-Rhett House (c. 1820) at 48 Elizabeth Street is "preserved as found," providing an evocative link to Charleston's antebellum period.



Visit the Market Shop of Historic Charleston Foundation at the City Market or the location at 108 Meeting Street. You can browse through a distinguished collection of jewelry, books, and home and garden furnishings, all carefully selected to emulate the beautiful objects found either in the sophisticated urban setting of the city or the tranquil beauty of the South Carolina Lowcountry. historiccharleston.org



From left: The Philip Simmons Heart Collection, and free-flying staircase at the Nathaniel Russell House Museum

Museum Mecca

Charleston is a modern city with a history worth exploring.

Charleston, with its famous four and five-star restaurants and eclectic shops and boutiques, is beloved by foodies and fashionistas alike. But did you know it's also an art, culture, and history buff's paradise? Read on to discover the best museums in the Holy City.



From left: Joseph Manigault House sitting room, and an interior shot of The Charleston Museum

← The Charleston Museum

Charleston visitors interested in the city's vivid history need look no further than The Charleston Museum. Founded on the eve of the American Revolution, it's commonly regarded as "America's first museum." Today, the museum boasts an unmatched collection of South Carolina history, plus two National Historic Landmark houses: the exquisite antebellum Joseph Manigault House and the Georgian-style Heward-Washington House. The museum also hosts seasonal programming, like this fall's



curator lecture series, family picnic, and indigo dying and calligraphy workshops. Stop by and experience firsthand why The Charleston Museum is considered "America's first and Charleston's essential museum." charlestonmuseum.org

PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) COURTESY OF HISTORIC CHARLESTON FOUNDATION AND BY MICHAEL MOHAWITTO (1); AND PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CHARLESTON MUSEUM

Patriots Point →

Patriots Point, located on Charleston Harbor, preserves the history of America's bravest through engaging and educational exhibits and storytelling. First established in the mid-1970s, the Patriots Point Development Authority intended to develop a naval and maritime museum around an iconic piece of WWII history, the aircraft carrier USS *Yorktown*. Today, Patriots Point welcomes over 270,000 visitors annually and boasts a large educational and overnight camping program. As first intended, it's home to the Patriots Point Naval and



Maritime Museum, including National Historic Landmark ships (one is the USS *Yorktown*), the Cold War Memorial, and the only Vietnam Support Base Camp in the country. The site also headquarters the official Medal of Honor Museum, another historic and educational establishment found nowhere else. patriotspoint.org

This page, clockwise from left: a young museumgoer, Patriots Point, Tod Williams and Billie Tsien, and exterior view of the Barnes Foundation



Distinguished Lecture with Tod Williams and Billie Tsien

Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 6 p.m.
Memminger Auditorium
56 Beaufain St., Charleston, SC

To purchase tickets, visit gibbesmuseum.org or call 843.722.2706 x 21.



← The Gibbes Museum of Art

On November 19, the Gibbes Museum of Art will present its annual Distinguished Lecture featuring New York-based, internationally recognized, and National Medal of Arts

recipient architects Tod Williams and Billie Tsien. Their studio, located in New York City, focuses on work for cultural nonprofits, particularly museums and schools and organizations that value issues of aspiration and meaning, timelessness and beauty. Their buildings are carefully made and useful in ways that speak to both efficiency and the spirit. A sense of rootedness, light, texture, detail, and most of all experience are at the heart of what they build.

Founded with the generous support of Gibbes Board member and philanthropist Esther Ferguson, the Gibbes Distinguished Lecture Series brings outstanding world-renowned artists, architects, art collectors, museum leaders, philanthropists, and art historians to Charleston to stimulate public discussion about the visual arts and creativity.

The Gibbes Museum of Art will offer a variety of programs, events, and classes, while undergoing renovations that will restore the museum to its original Beaux-Arts grandeur. For a full listing of events, please visit gibbesmuseum.org.



The Perfect Match

Charleston serves world-class tennis with the Family Circle Cup.

From its cobblestone streets and historic plantations, to five-star dining and shopping districts, Charleston is home to a wide variety of activities and events,

including the largest women's tennis tournament in the world — the Family Circle Cup. Travel to this coastal oasis April 4–12, 2015 to experience the 43rd Family Circle Cup, held on beautiful Daniel Island.

Every spring, the tournament welcomes nearly 100,000 spectators who come to watch the best female tennis players. Past champions include Chris Evert, Martina Navratilova, Jennifer Capriati, and Serena and Venus

Williams. Records are broken and memories are made, as extraordinary tennis stars take to the green clay court to compete for the coveted Cup.

The nine-day event is packed with matches that will have you on the edge of your seat. When the final ball is served on Sunday afternoon, a winner will be crowned the 2015 champion.

The excitement continues off the court, too. In between matches, the tournament offers spectators many exciting activities for all ages, from happy hours with live music to a two-day Family Weekend, theme nights, and food trucks.

With an open-air stadium that seats 10,000 spectators, and center court less than a mile from the Atlantic Ocean, the Family Circle Cup's backdrop features the best of the South Carolina Lowcountry. For ticketing and travel information, go to FamilyCircleCup.com.

Family Circle Cup

April 4–12, 2015
Charleston, SC
800.677.2293
familycirclecup.com

City Chic

Find style and entertainment at
Baker Motor Company Charleston Fashion Week®.



Experience one of the nation's finest fashion events while relishing the charms of one of its crown jewel cities, historic Charleston, during Baker Motor Company Charleston Fashion Week® (CFW) March 17–21, 2015.

Known as the South's premier fashion event, CFW includes top-notch emerging designer and Rock the Runway model competitions, along with the luxurious *Charleston Weddings' Spring Bridal Show*. This year, the bridal show blossoms into a weeklong series of events held throughout the Holy City.

Credited with launching the national careers of numerous designers and models, CFW features scores of high-end runway shows; vibrant, interactive entertainment; chic after-parties; and a myriad of press events.

Guest attendees soak up shows featuring

both up-and-coming and established designers and fashion-forward local boutiques, shop in the CFW Style Lounge & the Belk Tent, and

mingle in the VIP tent. The event is held in the heart of Charleston in Marion Square, steps from King Street, home to two-plus miles of historic buildings housing the nation's finest restaurants and one of its most unique shopping and design districts. Throughout the week, CFW designers welcome you to trunk shows and events when they're not headlining the runways. Sound like a week full of fashion bliss?

Visit CharlestonFashionWeek.com for updates, ticket information, and to download the CFW app for Charleston's revolutionary fashion experience.

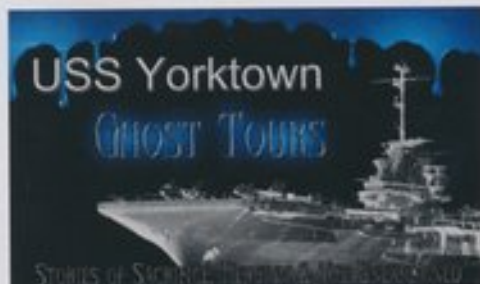
From left:
Rock the Runway
Model Competition™
finalists, and Charleston-
based designer
Katherine Mullins
McDonald of
LulaKate debuts
a wedding gown
at the 2014
*Charleston
Weddings' Spring
Bridal Show*

BAKER MOTOR COMPANY
**CHARLESTON
FASHION
WEEK**
MARCH 17-21, 2015

For more information,
schedule, and tickets, visit
CharlestonFashionWeek.com



↑ **Charleston 101 Tours** Let a fourth-generation Charlestonian guide you through the city's history, architecture, and culture. Mary Coy is the author of six books on Charleston and has written about the Lowcountry for local and national publications. charleston101tours.com



↑ **Yorktown Ghost Tours** Explore the sacrifice, heroism, and unexplained mysteries of the decommissioned USS Yorktown with Yorktown Ghost Tours. Learn the devastating history and strange activity documented and reported, including the startling results of the Syfy Channel's *Ghost Hunters*. yorktownghosttours.com

Tour and Explore

Discover the best of Charleston — from boats, breweries, and everything in between.



↑ **The Original Pub and Brewery Tours of Charleston** The Original Pub and Brewery Tours of Charleston's daily tours are two and a half hours — come drink, eat appetizers, and explore history on a walking pub tour of the oldest section of Charleston. pubtourcharleston.com

↓ **The Reel Deal Charters** Join The Reel Deal Charters for year-round inshore/offshore, deep-sea, big game, and saltwater fishing, with licenses and bait and tackle included. The company operates several boats at the lowest prices in the Lowcountry for a "reel" fishing experience. thereeldealcharters.com



↑ **Charleston Culinary Tours** Charleston Culinary Tours combine the best of local cuisine, cocktails, and history with tours that highlight the Lowcountry. Each tour visits different restaurants, bars, or the Farmer's Market, combining a historical tour with a culinary adventure. charlestonculinarytours.com

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHARLESTON 101 TOURS, YORKTOWN GHOST TOURS, THE ORIGINAL PUB & BREWERY TOURS OF CHARLESTON, THE REEL DEAL CHARTERS, AND CHARLESTON CULINARY TOURS



Island Escape

Recreation and relaxation are yours at Seabrook Island. BY ELLIE BALDINI

Take a short drive from historic Charleston, and discover an island sanctuary.

Seabrook Island is a convivial community situated along three miles of powdery white beach.

Unlike most destinations, Seabrook Island is free of hotels. Instead, visitors rent local condos, villas, and vacation homes where they enjoy comfort and convenience paired with the charm and recreation of island living.

A trip to Seabrook Island truly holds something for every taste. For adventure-seekers, there's kayaking, tennis, horseback riding, and golf. Visit the equestrian center for a morning ride — Seabrook Island is one of the few destinations on the East Coast where you can horseback ride on the beach.

The island also boasts two championship golf courses: Ocean Winds, designed by Wilford Byrd, and Crooked Oaks, designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr.

Looking for some oceanfront R&R? Visitors can access the Atlantic from many points or visit the island's three distinct beaches. Pelican Beach is dubbed "Sunset Beach" for a reason. Stop by in the evening for a stunning display of red and orange while gentle waves lap the shore. Early birds will revel in the eastern-facing North Beach's soft sand, the perfect place to settle in for a South Carolina sunrise. And for some energetic fun in the sun, there's The Sands at the Beach Club, where guests can take a dip in oceanfront pools and grab a bite at the full-service bar and restaurant before returning to their beach chair.

The island's close proximity to Charleston means you're only minutes from the city's famous attractions. But with Seabrook Island's unending allure, you may just find you don't want to leave.



Clockwise from top:
Seabrook Island,
and island bikers



2001 Seabrook Island Rd.
Seabrook Island, SC
843.768.2500
TownofSeabrookIsland.org



Inside Charleston

See the city behind-the-scenes. BY GARY WALTHER



From top:
touring the city
in style with a
classic carriage
ride

Rick Burton, Belmond Charleston Place's Chief Concierge, is your key to exclusive Charleston travel.

A member of Les Clefs d'Or, the concierge professional association, Burton oversees the hotel's Hidden Charleston Program of tours and customized experiences. The combination of his insider knowledge and the hotel's connections equal an unparalleled visitor experience.

The city is famous for its private gardens, and through Hidden Charleston, guests see the best examples with local authority Louisa Pringle Cameron. Plus, Burton can arrange to open up sections of historic houses that are not on standard tours. Charleston also has the second-largest historic district in America. You can

experience it for yourself with Linda Sanders, who has written extensively on the city's architectural heritage.

The Hidden Charleston tours also allow you to explore the culture and communities of the city. The Gullah Tour takes visitors to the Sea Islands, guided by a Charlestonian of Gullah descent, to learn about the society and

culture created in the Lowcountry by the descendants of slaves. The Reform Judaism Movement, also begun in Charleston, is another exclusive tour of the city's heritage.

There are also culinary tours to restaurants, purveyors, and distilleries like Firefly, producer of the famous Sweet Tea Vodka; personal shoppers who can help you find the perfect Lowcountry highboy or antique silver; and of course, tee times that can be arranged at members-only country clubs in the area. Whatever is on your wish list for Charleston, Burton can help you experience it. All you have to do is ask.

Hidden Charleston

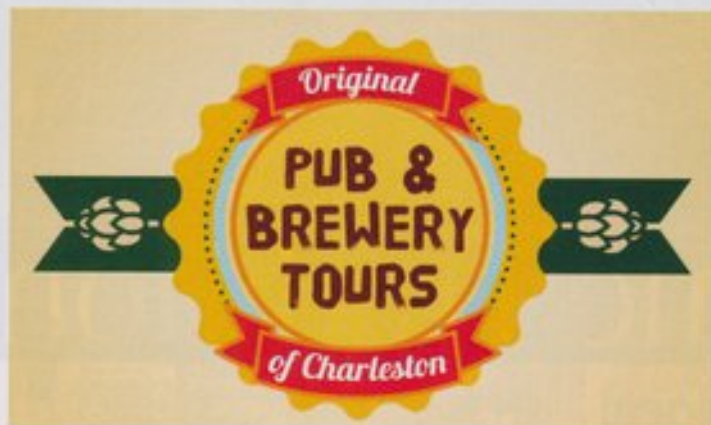
For more information,
go to [Hidden
Charleston.com](http://HiddenCharleston.com)

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BELMOND CHARLESTON PLACE

Craft Masters

Say "cheers!" to Charleston's lively and growing brewery scene.

Charleston's burgeoning craft beer scene offers finely tuned originals and local flavor.



Original Pub & Brewery Tours

The Original Pub and Brewery Tours of Charleston brings the people to the beer using its motorized Brew Bus, which visits Charleston's local breweries. Get a taste of craft beers while visiting three to five breweries. pubtourcharleston.com



TOMMY CONDON'S

A genuine Irish pub in the heart of downtown Charleston, Tommy Condon's offers live music, Irish and American pub fare, and 20 beers on tap, including local and craft brews. tommycondons.com



Kudu Coffee and Craft Beer

Locally owned and operated, Kudu Coffee and Craft Beer in downtown Charleston boasts a 1,300 square foot courtyard and 22 taps, featuring many locally brewed beers as well as traditional cask ales. kuducoffeeandcraftbeer.com

Tradesman Brewing Co.

Traditional American style ales are on tap at Tradesman Brewing Co. Located just minutes from historic Charleston, it's James Island's only brewery. For more details visit tradesmanbrewing.com.



Revelry Brewing Company

This craft brewery — which has an antique piano built into the bar — is making noise in downtown Charleston. Try the Pass the Lemon-grass IPA, the Slack Tide Saison, and the Santa's Leftovers Stout. revelrybrewingco.com





A Maritime Tradition

Fleet Landing uses local seafood in classic Charleston dishes. BY CAROLINE EUBANKS

Visitors to the historic city of Charleston are spoilt for choice when it comes to places to enjoy quality local seafood.

From top:
the interior of
Fleet Landing, and
shrimp and grits

Fleet Landing

186 Concord St.
Charleston, SC
843.722.8100
FleetLanding.net

The city's signature dishes, she-crab soup and shrimp and grits, prove how important the ocean is to the way of life in the Holy City. In 1988, 21-year-old local Tradd Newton noticed an abandoned structure on Charleston's waterfront. He told his mother that one day he'd make something of the building, and after sixteen years and time spent in the restaurant industry, he did just that. Fleet Landing was a decommissioned 1940s Navy building when Newton decided to transform it into downtown Charleston's only waterfront dining restaurant in 2005. Fleet Landing's history lives on through "nautical-chic" decor, which is thematic without being kitschy. Life jackets are



artfully arranged on the wall and the light fixtures would look at home aboard a yacht. Chef Drew Hedlund's reasonably priced dishes incorporate as many local ingredients as possible, such as the pan-fried South Carolina lump crab cakes, which use delicious Charleston blue crab. The whole fried flounder is another popular choice, and landlubbers needn't worry — there are plenty of other delicious seafood-free dishes on the menu.

Grab yourself a seat at one of the outdoor tables, which overlook the harbor, for an amazing view of the sunset. And pair your meal with a specialty cocktail or a cold glass of a locally made beer for the ultimate Charleston evening.

PHOTOS BY PAUL CHENEY

Bon Appétit

Don't miss Caviar & Bananas, Charleston's premier boutique market and cafe.



From the ordinary to the extraordinary, Caviar & Bananas is a distinctive culinary experience designed to indulge and gratify the senses with all things gourmet.

Owned and operated by a dynamic young couple, C&B — as regulars call it — provides a big-city feel with a softer Charleston touch. Using only the freshest ingredients, sourced locally and beyond, offerings are prepared daily by its team of chefs.

Choose made-to-order salads such as the West Coast Cobb and Prohibition, and sandwiches such as the famous Duck Confit Panini, Veggie Banh Mi and Pimento Cheese BLT, or select from a vast array of gourmet prepared foods. Additional offerings include a cheese

and charcuterie counter, dedicated sushi chef, espresso and tea bar, homemade pastries and baked goods, a boutique wine and beer selection, and a curated set of specialty goods — including the finest locally

produced items. There's even a made-to-order weekend brunch at its flagship location on George Street.

Services include custom-made gift baskets (shipping available), holiday, bridal, and special event catering, themed dinners, cooking demonstrations, wine tastings, and more. First opening its doors in 2008, Caviar & Bananas now has two downtown locations with a third opening in the new Charleston International Airport in 2015. Bring an appetite. Bring a friend. Bon appétit.

Clockwise from top left: Greek salad, breakfast burrito, and espresso bar

Caviar & Bananas

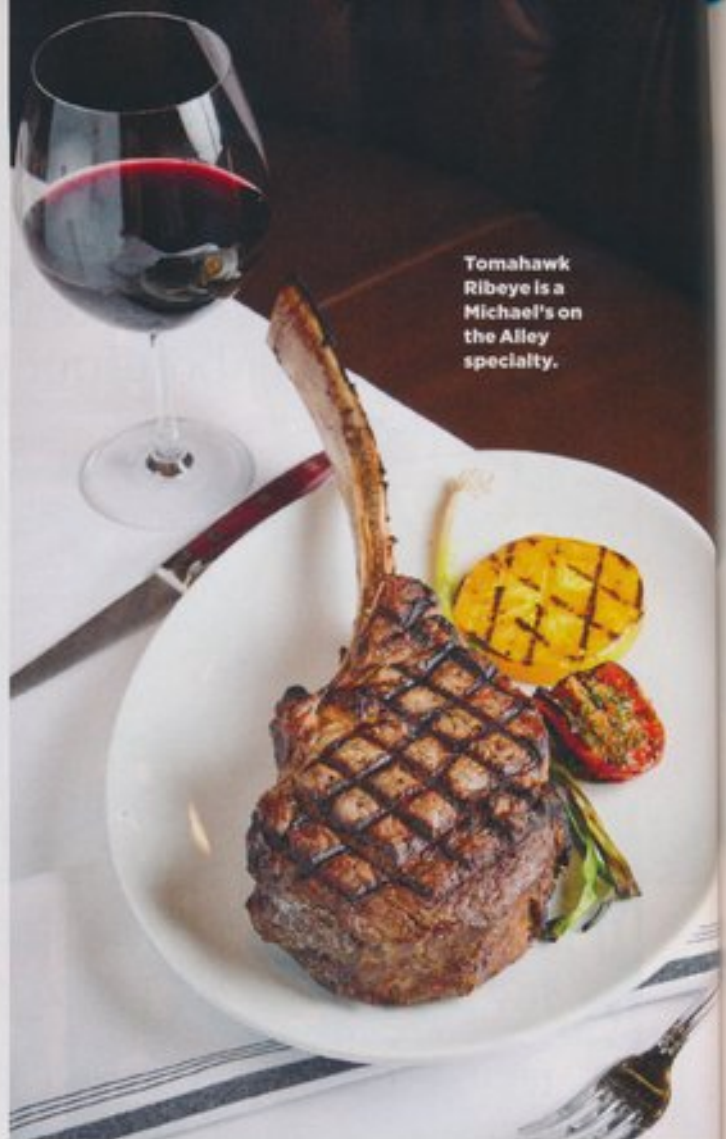
51 George St. and
188 Meeting St.
Charleston, SC
caviarandbananas.com



New Kid on the Alley

Meet Michael's on the Alley, Charleston's newest steakhouse.

BY LAUREN EBERLE



Tomahawk Ribeye is a Michael's on the Alley specialty.

Tucked down Hutson Alley off historic King Street, Holy City Hospitality's new restaurant features steaks so superior that it's worth the few extra steps.

In fact, Michael's on the Alley is turning the heads of Charleston's choosiest diners.

The interior is dressed in rich leather and dark wood, while cheerful servers' culinary knowledge elevates the dining experience. From succulent steaks, fresh seafood, and signature prime rib to tableside salad preparations, sharable side dishes, and enticing desserts, the Michael's on the Alley menu goes beyond the stereotypical steakhouse.

"We consider ourselves an artisan steakhouse," says executive chef Aaron Lemieux.

"We like to play with the staples and offer our guests unique takes on favorite dishes." Chicken, pork, and fish features change daily, while seasonal tasting menus showcase Lemieux's talent.

Executive chef of three of the newest concepts launched by the Holy City Hospitality restaurant group, Lemieux has said he knows it's harder to find poor-quality food in Charleston than it is to find high-quality fare. But he isn't daunted by high expectations — Lemieux says he's more driven than ever to make meals at Michael's memorable.

Proud members of the Sustainable Seafood Initiative, Lowcountry Local First, and South Carolina's Fresh on the Menu program, Michael's on the Alley also has a rooftop garden full of fresh herbs that often appear in the evening's amuse-bouche. Small-bite starters to after-dinner port, fresh flavors and standout service are sure to keep Michael's on the map.

Michael's
on the ALLEY

Hutson Alley,
39-E John St.
Charleston, SC
843.203.3000
michaelsonthealley.com

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLY CITY HOSPITALITY

A Taste of the Lowcountry

Magnolias and its sister restaurants are among Charleston's finest.

With its innovative cuisine and sophisticated atmosphere, Magnolias paved the way for countless other fine-dining restaurants across the South.

Now led by Executive Chef Donald Drake, Magnolias continues to lead the charge in upscale Southern cuisine with artistic presentation and modern flair blending seamlessly with traditional ingredients and cooking techniques.

The soul of the South meets the spark of innovation in dishes such as the Down South Egg Roll stuffed with collard greens, chicken, and Tasso ham, served with red pepper puree, spicy mustard sauce, and peach chutney; Boiled Peanut Hummus with pickled okra, hot pepper relish, and Charleston flatbread; and Shellfish Over Grits with sautéed shrimp, sea scallops, lobster, creamy white grits, lobster butter sauce, and fried spinach.

In February 2014, this iconic Lowcountry establishment underwent a complete renovation, debuting a fresh new look to complement its ever-evolving menu. The new design offers patrons an enhanced experience complemented

by the South Carolina charm for which Magnolias is best known. As its 25th anniversary approaches in 2015, Magnolias continues to be a culinary destination for world-class Southern cuisine, alongside its sister establishments, Blossom and Cypress. Blossom serves

American fare, concentrating on Lowcountry seafood (sample the Cast Iron Skillet Scallops), and Cypress offers award-winning artisan meats and tableside presentations (try the Caesar salad or Chateaubriand for two).

All three restaurants are located downtown on East Bay Street, only a few blocks from both Waterfront Park and the Battery.

From left:
Boiled Peanut
Hummus,
Shellfish Over
Grits

Magnolias

185 E. Bay St.
Charleston, SC
843.577.7771
magnolias-blossom-cypress.com





Specialty from Eli's Table



Tabbull's Bloody Mary



Breakfast at Toast!

Tasting Tour

Visit Charleston Hospitality Group's downtown restaurants. BY LAURA BURKEHART

Ask anyone — Charleston is known for its food. Charleston Hospitality Group (CHG) has six downtown restaurants offering memorable and unique culinary experiences exclusive to the Holy City.

Eli's Table, named for the son of CHG's owner, serves up new twists on Charleston Classics at 129 Meeting Street, offering breakfast, lunch, and dinner all week, and brunch on Saturday and Sunday.

Brunch aficionados will want to make sure Toast! is on the itinerary. Sit down to sparkling mimosas and fresh biscuits at this popular breakfast and lunch spot at 155 Meeting Street.

Tabbull's menu and open-air style brings a touch of Mediterranean flair to the Lowcountry.

With lunch and dinner weekdays, and brunch and Charleston's only hookah bar on weekends, it's undeniably a downtown hotspot, located at 6 North Market Street.

For a morning wake up, hit Whisk at 209 Meeting Street. Enjoy a fresh pastry with coffee, tea, espresso, cappuccino, or a specialty drink. Opt for a smoothie or fresh-squeezed juice for a healthy start.

Looking for something a little different? Market Street Saloon, at 32 North Market Street, is a 21st-century take on watering holes of the Old West. With dancing saloon girls, nightly drink specials, and award-winning barbecue, you won't want to miss this party spot.

Featured on the TV show *BBQ Pitmasters* on Destination America, Queology's barbecue is famous nationwide. Stop in for smoked ribs, pork, wings, and local beer. Located next to Market Street Saloon at 32-C North Market Street.



Charleston
HOSPITALITY
GROUP

Hungry for more? Visit
charlestonhospitalitygroup.com

PHOTOS BY J. MICHAEL WALKER/COURTESY CHARLESTON HOSPITALITY GROUP



Wine and Dine

Experience epicurean luxury at Charleston Grill.

BY GARY WALTHER

You don't expect to hear this from a restaurant director: "Eight years ago I would tell you other places were better," says Mickey Bakst, director of Charleston Grill.

Since his arrival in 2004, Bakst and the hotel's regional managing director Paul Stracey have evolved Charleston Grill into the city's premier fine dining spot — starting by taking some of the starch out of the place.

The color scheme was lightened, the staff encouraged to loosen up, and live jazz was brought into the room. The band is now there seven nights a week — Bakst claims it's the best music program in the city — and is key to what he calls "a perfectly balanced evening."

Diners enjoy a tasting experience like no other, thanks to the close partnership between

executive chef Michelle Weaver and wine director Rick Rubel: She creates six-course tasting menus, and he expertly pairs the sumptuous dishes with wine, like Weaver's beef tenderloin served with a Chave 2004 Hermitage.



Both the Hermitage and the exceptional 2005 Château d'Yquem are examples of extraordinary wines served at few other restaurants in the country.

Wines are available by the glass and by the bottle, and there are some real values on the restaurant's list of 1,300. Rubel cites the 2009 Le Croix de Beaucaillou, the second label of the great Chateau Ducru Beaucaillou and the 2008 Louis Latour Grand Cru Corton red. So relax in the elegantly appointed Charleston Grill and enjoy one of the finest culinary experiences in the city.

Charleston Grill

224 King St.
Charleston, SC
843.577.4522
CharlestonGrill.com



Savor the City

Taste and sip your way through Charleston.

Charleston, with its famous Southern food scene, is a city best explored with your taste buds. From hidden gems serving up local flavor to five-star spots with innovative menus, the city boasts many restaurants worth a taste (or two). Read on for some of the best.

➔ **Tommy Condon's Irish Pub & Seafood Restaurant** Half a block from Charleston's historic market on Church Street, Tommy Condon's Irish Pub & Seafood Restaurant is a Charleston institution. For 33 years, Tommy Condon's has been serving lunch and dinner daily as well as Sunday brunch, along with 20 beers on tap including local craft brews. The fare is both traditional Irish and classic American, with an emphasis on fresh, local ingredients. Try the shepherd's pie, fish and chips, or prime rib. Live Irish music plus antiques and memorabilia from Tommy's trips to the Emerald Isle help create an authentic Irish pub atmosphere where you can have a pint with friends or dinner with the whole family. TommyCondon.com



← **Virginia's on King** A member of Holy City Hospitality restaurant group, Virginia's on King is inspired by proprietors Warren J. and Virginia Bennett, whose love of family, tradition, hospitality, and delicious food endures at this Charleston gem. Stop in for breakfast, dinner, and supper to sample head chef Jonathan Greene's Southern-inspired favorites, including weekend brunch temptations like the Strawberry Banana Stuffed French Toast. HolyCityHospitality.com/Virginias-on-King



↑ **Stars Rooftop and Grill Room** is located on Upper King Street, Charleston's new downtown dining and entertainment district. With the city's only rooftop bar with 360-degree views and notable "Carolina Cuisine," it's a must for visitors. StarsRestaurant.com



↑ **Amen Street Fish & Rawbar** is located in the heart of downtown Charleston at 205 East Bay Street. This Charleston seafood restaurant is known for its welcoming atmosphere, exceptional service, artisan menu, and relaxed bar. AmenStreet.com



Clockwise from left: Tommy Condon's Irish Pub, Stars Rooftop, oysters at Amen Street Fish & Rawbar, Poogan's Porch, Chicken and Waffles, Strawberry Bannana Stuffed French Toast, and Pulled Pork Sandwich

Poogan's Porch For quintessential Charleston hospitality and cuisine, stop by Poogan's Porch, one of the city's oldest independent culinary establishments. Nestled in a beautifully restored Victorian house complete with a two-level porch for dining al fresco, Poogan's Porch has been a Charleston staple for breakfast, lunch, and dinner since opening in 1976. Executive chef Daniel Doyle prepares homemade Low Country cuisine and twists on Southern classics, like Plantation Fried Chicken stuffed with smoked Gouda, spicy collards, and country ham, drizzled with Texas Pete au jus. And for brunch, try Doyle's unique take on crispy Chicken & Waffles with decadent blueberry Texas Pete maple syrup. PoogansPorch.com



Clockwise from top: the iconic lobby chandelier, a new Premier room, arriving at Charleston Place, and a beautiful street view.



At Belmond Charleston Place

Where the city celebrates. BY GARY WALTHER

There are two kinds of urban luxury hotels in this world: Those that are *in* a city and those that embody one.

Achieving the latter is another realm of hospitality entirely, which is what makes Belmond Charleston Place such an exceptional establishment. Built in 1986, the hotel is fairly new compared to other iconic luxury hotels.

A member of the Belmond brand (formerly Orient-Express), it joins a confederation of other exceptional properties, among them the Cipriani in Venice and Maroma in Mexico, in addition to luxury trains and river cruisers.

What's also striking is that the hotel was built in a part of the city that was then "a no man's land," says Mariana Hay, proprietor of Croghan's Jewel Box, a well-loved Charleston establishment since 1908. Over the past 28 years, the hotel has become a cornerstone of Charleston's downtown revival — King Street, just behind the hotel, is now the city's luxury shopping district, and *Condé Nast Traveler* has voted Charleston "No. 1 City in the United States" for the past three years.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BELMOND CHARLESTON PLACE

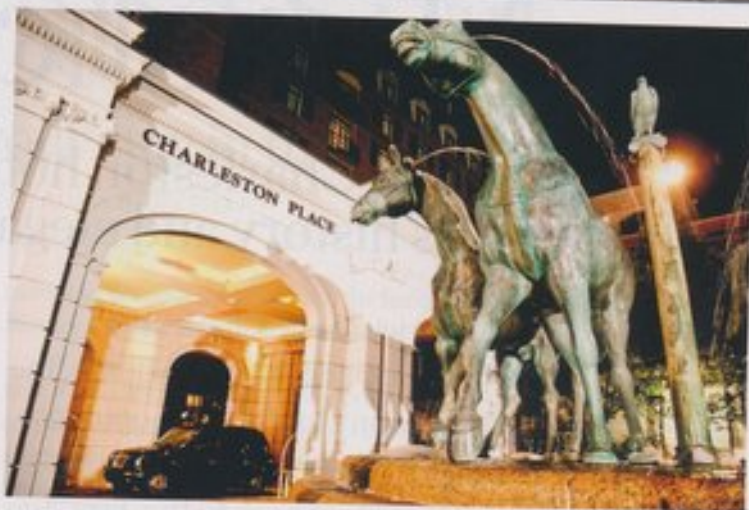


Of course, a hotel has to stay current when it comes to decor. The latest project includes the creation of a new top category of double rooms, Premier. These elegant accommodations nod to the historic side of Charleston in their wainscoting, moulding, inlaid mahogany furnishings, and antique velvet upholstery, while also featuring a contemporary gray-blue and green color scheme.

Like every hotel that symbolizes its city, Belmond Charleston Place has become a hotspot. The hotel's Thoroughbred Club is one of Charleston's best-loved spots for after-work or before-dinner cocktails and Happy Hour. It's also *the* place to celebrate special occasions — in fact, the glittering lobby chandelier is the most photographed spot in the city. The public spaces are as elegant as Charleston itself, thanks to the hotel's particular brand of sociability — what regional managing director Paul Stracey calls, "white-glove service crossed with a genuine desire to please."

Any hotel can put marble in a bathroom, mahogany in a living room, silk on a wall — but what sets Belmond Charleston Place apart from other luxury hotels is the distinctive management philosophy.

"The culture you create for the employees is



what sets the hotel apart," says Stracey. "We are very lucky that Belmond encourages their managers to create wonderful, empowering workplaces with respect for all at the top of the list."

Stracey recalls a bell captain who — in true embodiment of this philosophy — memorably changed the flat on a guest's rental car instead of calling a towing service.

Stracey himself has been at Belmond Charleston Place for 19 years. His mantra to the staff of this understated, elegant, welcoming place: "You are trusted to use your empowerment wisely to create raving fans of guests."

Belmond Charleston Place

205 Meeting St.
Charleston, SC
843.722.4900
[Belmond.com/
CharlestonPlace](http://Belmond.com/CharlestonPlace)



Francis Marion Magnificence

This storied Charleston hotel charms visitors with its history and elegance. BY NICOLE ESPLIN

Rising 12 stories above Charleston's historic harbor and Marion Square, the Francis Marion Hotel blends opulence and modern amenities for a stay that transports visitors back to the Jazz Age.

Built in 1924 and restored in 1996, the hotel was named after Revolutionary War hero Francis Marion, the "Swamp Fox." When it was constructed during the Charleston Renaissance, between the World Wars, the hotel was the largest and grandest in the Carolinas and attracted the likes of many notable artists, such as Edward Hopper.

These days, travelers frequent the Francis Marion Hotel to enjoy close proximity to the nightlife of revived Upper King Street and

world-class shopping on Lower King Street.

Whether you opt for one of the 235 guest rooms, 10 suites, or seven penthouse suites, you'll be surrounded by luxury at the Francis Marion Hotel. The Swamp Fox Restaurant and Bar overlooks Marion Square Park and offers piano jazz on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. Be sure to try Chef Phil Gaulin's award-winning shrimp and grits and special Farmers Market Dinner, which is served nightly and features farm-to-table ingredients and fresh seafood, showcasing Charleston's Lowcountry cuisine.

The Francis Marion's three elegant ballrooms feature antique chandeliers and 20-foot-high ceilings, making it a grand setting for a wedding or other special event. Guests will find themselves captivated by the Francis Marion Hotel's grandeur and Southern hospitality.

Francis Marion Hotel

387 King St.
Charleston, SC
843.722.0600
francismarionhotel.com

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRANCIS MARION HOTEL

Clockwise from left:
Paddle boarders at
Folly Beach, The
Vendue downtown,
the Rooftop Bar



City and Surf

Get the most out of your stay in the Charleston area.

BY LAURA BURKEHART

Experience the best of both worlds while visiting South Carolina's legendary Lowcountry.

Stay at The Vendue in downtown Charleston, and explore the historic city. Then head out to Folly Beach to relax at the city's only full-service oceanfront hotel, the Tides Folly Beach.

The Vendue is a newly-renovated 84-room boutique hotel, conveniently located in Charleston's French Quarter, and offering three outstanding onsite restaurants — the historic Rooftop Bar (Charleston's first), The Drawing Room, and The Press.

Tucked into the heart of downtown, it is mere steps from world-renowned dining, art

galleries, premium shopping, and the famous Pineapple Fountain at Waterfront Park.

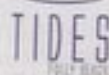
For art lovers, the Vendue is the perfect location. The hotel is dedicated to all forms of art and features a gallery with rotating exhibits, an artist-in-residence, and 300 pieces of art installed throughout the hotel.

Beach lovers will adore Tides Folly Beach, where every guest room is oceanfront. Located just nine miles from downtown Charleston, Folly Beach is a laidback beachside village with great restaurants and entertainment, as well as surfing, paddle boarding, and fishing. Or if you're looking for pure relaxation, sprawl out on one of the most beautiful white-sand beaches in the region. Parking is free, and the hotel is pet-friendly, so guests can truly bring the whole family. With 132 guest rooms and an outdoor heated pool, exercise facility, and BLU — a top-notch restaurant offering lunch, dinner, and brunch — Tides Folly Beach is the total vacation experience.



VENDUE

19 Vendue Range
26 Vendue Range
Charleston, SC
800.845.7900
thevendue.com



One Center St.
Folly Beach, SC
843.588.6464
tidesfollybeach.com



A Grand Tradition

The Mills House Wyndham Grand Hotel is a Charleston institution. BY ELLIE BALDINI

History meets luxury at this elegant downtown establishment. First opened in 1853, the full-service hotel offers classic Southern hospitality in the heart of Charleston.

Clockwise from top: courtyard fountain, rooftop dining area, the rooftop pool illuminated at night, The South Parlor, street view of The Mills House, and First Shot Lounge

The Mills House is ideally located in the charming Historic District, providing easy access to Charleston's best-loved attractions. King Street's famous boutiques and the arts, crafts, and fine dining at the Charleston City Market are all within walking distance, not to mention nearby cultural attractions like the Old Slave Mart Museum, Gibbes Museum of Art, and the Charleston Museum. Feel like venturing further? The friendly and knowledgeable concierge can set you off on a self-guided walking tour beginning at The Mills House, or arrange a day trip to Fort Sumter,

Magnolia Plantation & Gardens, and Middleton Place. Don't forget to ask about some of Charleston's can't-miss themed tours, like the Ghost and Graveyards Tour, African American tours, and Eco Water tours — all readily accessible from The Mills House.

When you're done exploring, get cozy up in one of the hotel's completely renovated rooms, each thoughtfully designed with a coastal palette. Lounge in an oversized suite with relaxing views of the sparkling outdoor pool, or a stylish guestroom overlooking the Historic District. And though the accommodations might be classic, the amenities are ultra-modern: Think free Wi-Fi, work spaces with ergonomic chairs, and 36-inch LCD TVs.

The hotel's public spaces are just as elegant. A spacious lobby welcomes visitors with warm Southern decor, complete with museum-quality antiques and art. And hungry guests won't need to go far — The Barbados Room, the hotel's full-service on-site restaurant, serves up fresh South Carolina classics for breakfast,

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MILLS HOUSE



lunch, and dinner. (Save room for the famous Pecan Pie!) And for a festive drink in a pretty setting, there's the First Shot Lounge. The extensive cocktail menu and breezy courtyard area prove an unbeatable combination on a balmy Charleston evening.

The Mills House is also the perfect venue for meetings, special events, and celebrations of every sort, with 5,000-square-feet of ballrooms and meeting space, top-notch audio-visual equipment, full catering services, registration gallery, and business center. The professional staff provides experience-based event planning to ensure any gathering runs smoothly, from seminars, workshops, small conferences, and socials to reunions and corporate parties.

The hotel is also one of Charleston's best-regarded wedding venues, thanks to its picturesque setting, all-in-one-place amenities, and signature sophistication. And as the preferred caterer for the nearby Hibernian Hall, the Mills House offers coveted event hosting at this Charleston treasure. The 6,000-square-feet

ballroom space, outfitted with intricate architectural details, an iconic rotunda, and hand-carved Irish Harp, has hosted banquets, balls, and high-society weddings since 1840 — it's even on the National Historic Landmarks list.

Whether you're in town to soak up the city's rich history, reconnect with friends and family in a beautiful setting, or simply relax and renew, the Mills House Wyndham Grand Hotel is a Charleston institution with something for everyone.



**The Mills House
Wyndham
Grand Hotel**

115 Meeting St.
Charleston, SC
843.577.2400
mills.house.com



Southern Comfort

Charleston Bedswing wants to make your porch a cozy retreat. BY IVY LAMB

There's a reason that Southern homes boast big porches: It's the perfect place to relax in the shade and catch a cool breeze with a glass of sweet tea in hand.

From top: Original Bedswings double the comfort, and the Mini Bedswing



To learn more and to order your own Charleston Bedswing, call 843.323.7004 or visit originalcharlestonbedswing.com.

And in Charleston, residents know that a comfortable porch isn't complete without a plush bedswing. Preston and Barbara Stone started crafting porch beds by hand more than 20 years ago. At first they made them just for friends and family, but the unique piece of outdoor furniture proved so popular that they established the Original Charleston Bedswing Company in 1992 and have been selling them ever since.

Part of the bedswing's enduring appeal is its quality. Each one is made from pure cypress or mahogany by veteran craftsmen, resulting in a piece of furniture your family can enjoy for years to come. Choose from two different sizes



and a wide variety of finishes. (For a small fee, you can even have the bedswing painted in a custom color.) The cushion fabric, which also comes in a wide variety of colors and patterns, is weather- and stain-resistant and as soft as any sofa.

No matter where you live, you can have a little piece of Charleston in your life and on your porch.

PHOTOS (FROM TOP) BY MICHAEL ORLANDO ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN BY MARCELA B. ASSOCIATES AND COURTESY OF ORIGINAL CHARLESTON BEDSWING

Waterfront Retreat

Experience the best in coastal living at the Cottages on Charleston Harbor. BY IVY LAMB



The Cottages on Charleston Harbor combine the comforts of home with the outstanding hospitality and services of a luxury hotel.

Stay at these picturesque harborside cottages and experience the beauty of the waterfront while living like a local. Each two-bedroom, three-bath cottage has its own fully equipped kitchen, a relaxing living room with a gas fireplace, and a cozy screened-in porch perfect for whiling away lazy afternoons or watching the sun set over the harbor.

The cottages are perched only yards from the water's edge and include amenities like a private beach dotted with Adirondack chairs, an outdoor pool and heated spa, and a deluxe continental breakfast every morning, serving

fresh biscuits and delicious quiche. And if you're looking for something to make your stay extra special — a bottle of champagne on your arrival, or a meal prepared by a personal chef — just talk to the concierge.

You might not want to leave your waterfront retreat once you settle in, but downtown Charleston

and its attractions are only a short car or boat ride away. Spend the day exploring on your own, or try one of the property's special packages. The Family Seascape, for example, includes a coastal excursion with a picnic lunch and tickets to the South Carolina Aquarium. Other packages include a round of golf, an in-cottage massage, and dinner vouchers for some of the city's best restaurants.

After a day of activity you'll be glad to "come home" in the evening. There's simply no other place nearby that can match the tranquility of the Cottages on Charleston Harbor.



The Cottages on Charleston Harbor

16 Patriots Point Road
Mount Pleasant, SC
843.849.2300
thecottagesoncharlestonharbor.com



Lowcountry Luxe

Market Pavilion Hotel's grand setting welcomes discerning guests. BY LAURA BURKEHART

Charleston is renowned for legendary Southern hospitality, and nowhere is this reputation more deserved than at the city's most sumptuous accommodations, Market Pavilion Hotel.

Voted the number-one hotel in North America by *Travel and Leisure* magazine in 2013, Market Pavilion Hotel is a boutique hotel ideally located in the picturesque historic district downtown, just steps from Charleston landmarks, shopping, and the waterfront.

The Market Pavilion Hotel is the crown jewel of the Palassis family business, Palas Hospitality, Inc. The family has hotelier roots going back to the 1930s in Charleston, when CEO Jim Palassis' grandfather opened 15 cabins behind his grocery store on Highway 52 in Charleston. "It was a lifelong dream to have a luxury property in Charleston, a place our family has called home for nearly 100 years," Palassis says. "And Charleston was ready for a hotel of this caliber."

Though it was established just twelve years ago, the hotel's careful design and detailed architecture blends seamlessly with the surrounding historic properties. And you won't find more exquisite amenities anywhere.

From the six miles of intricately carved

Clockwise from top: the Pavilion Bar, USDA Prime beef at Grill 225, the famous Nitrotini, and the rooftop pool



PHOTO: KETTER/2014 AD: ANDREW/2014 AD: LORRAINE



Charleston Rice Beads

Inspired by the old-world elegance and agricultural heritage of Charleston, jewelry designer and vintage connoisseur Deirdre Zahl created Charleston Rice Beads, a timeless line of bracelets and necklaces made with delicately crafted, grain-shaped beads. Her collection is an homage to the city's history, but is also imbued with the creative spirit of the modern Charleston woman. The beads can be collected, layered, and given as gifts. charlestonricebeads.com

Made in Charleston

Locally made and locally loved



Charleston Cooks! Experience two culinary concepts in one: bustling kitchen retail shops with the artistry, equipment, and gadgets to help you make culinary magic, and teaching kitchens featuring fun-filled cooking classes led by our talented instructors. Learn the skills in demonstration or participation classes to create an array of deliciousness. Then, take home your new skills and passion and share them! charlestoncooks.com



From left: a Charleston Cooks! teaching kitchen, and the Rösle Twirl Whisk

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHARLESTON RICE BEADS, REYNOLD CAMPBELL, DOUG & MOORE FINE ART BEADS ON CANNON, AND CHARLESTON COOKS

molding lining the ceilings to four-poster beds and opulent decor, Market Pavilion Hotel exudes the elegance of colonial Charleston. Find Italian marble baths and showers, plush robes, and Hermès toiletries in the bathrooms — King Suites even include multi-jet showers and whirlpool tubs. For the ultimate in lavish comfort, book the Presidential Suite and enjoy harbor views, plus a full-size living area with a grand piano, chandelier, full bar, and a butler on request.

The impressive amenities are matched by superb customer service and attention to detail under the direction of the Managing Director Mr. Nicholas Palassis and General Manager Peter Wright, who have combined to make the Market Pavilion Hotel the most elegant hotel in Charleston.

A hotel of this caliber deserves an equally sophisticated restaurant. Grill 225, Charleston's premier steakhouse and proud member of the Great Steakhouses of North America, is downstairs. All of the beef on the menu is hand-selected, 100% USDA Prime, and wet-aged 42–50 days. The restaurant also serves fresh seafood. For a taste of drama, try the trademarked Nitroini, a liquid nitrogen-infused cocktail served at -320 degrees and masterly mixed with your preference of one of 20 different recipes.

Market Pavilion Hotel also offers stellar nightlife at the Pavilion Bar. This elegant

hotspot features a rooftop bar — considered the city's best — and features an infinity pool and memorable views of historic Charleston. Reserve a private table and choose a menu of mindfully crafted and presented local and seasonal fare, gourmet USDA prime burgers and sandwiches, fresh salad creations, and pool-inspired appetizers. The Pavilion Bar has cocktail, wine, and champagne menus worthy of a taste (or two). Order a signature cocktail and watch the sun set over the harbor, or stop by to take in the late-night vibe.

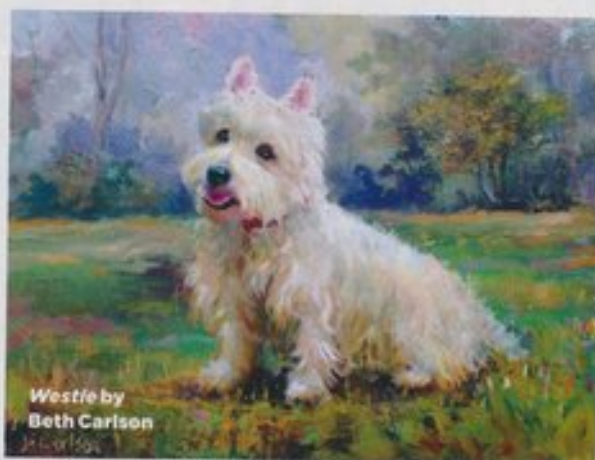
Market Pavilion Hotel can accommodate your next event, too — special occasions, corporate functions, and private-event dining are all available. Dignitaries and A-list celebs praise the thoughtful amenities and professionalism of the staff as well, and so will you at this gorgeous, grand hotel.

**Market Pavilion
Hotel**

25 East Bay St.
Charleston, SC
843.723.0500
marketpavilion.com



Rewined Candles The name says it all — locally-made and sold Rewined Candles are created from repurposed wine bottles with scents that mimic the tasting notes of wine. What began as a single-person operation has grown into an entire team of candle makers and retailers. The inventive crew is devoted to “upcycling” otherwise discarded wine bottles and using the best all-natural premium soy wax to create inspired custom-blended fragrances like the seasonal favorite, Spiked Cider, and bestsellers Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. rewinedcandles.com



Dog & Horse Fine Art

Dog & Horse Fine Art offers art by U.S. and European artists. These artists also will create a portrait of your beloved pet. Owner Jaynie Spector, a former art consultant, sources the best animal art in the U.S. and Europe and has built major art collections. dogandhorsefineart.com

Beads on Cannon If it's in Hong Kong or Jaipur, it's here! You may think you have found Ali Baba's cave when you enter this store of delights, housed in a circa 1850 watchmaker's shop.

Two fabulous floors of beads await you, with vintage glass from Czechoslovakia, lapis lazuli from Afghanistan, Ethiopian opals, Colombian amber, Russian malachite, moldavite from a meteorite that struck the earth eons ago, coral, jade, and just about anything used to make beaded jewelry. Clientele come from all over the world to look through the thousands of strands of stones and glass. Emeralds, sapphires, and freshwater pearls hang next to quartz, jaspers, and agates. Findings in all metals and a myriad of designs make for a dizzying selection in an excellent niche collection. Located at 87 Cannon Street.

843.723.5648, beadsoncannon.com





Always in Style

From King Street to catalogs, this haberdashery epitomizes classic style. BY LAUREN EBERLE

When Bob and Sue Prenner took over Sue's father's company in 1978, they got more than a small emblematic jewelry business — they inherited his style and integrity.

Building on Ben Silver's strong reputation for nearly four decades, the Prenners have created a premier haberdashery featuring classically styled jackets, trousers, suits, shirts, neckwear, sweaters, outerwear, shoes, eyewear, accessories, and women's apparel.

Ben Silver's flagship is a 19th-century store on Charleston's historic King Street. Inside, customers discover an Old World-style shopping experience, where discerning tastes are met with supreme service. And for those who wish to browse from home, three million catalogs are mailed worldwide each year.

Of course, quality is where the company shines. From tailored jackets and suits cut from



From top: Ben Silver's King Street store, an array of fine apparel and accessories



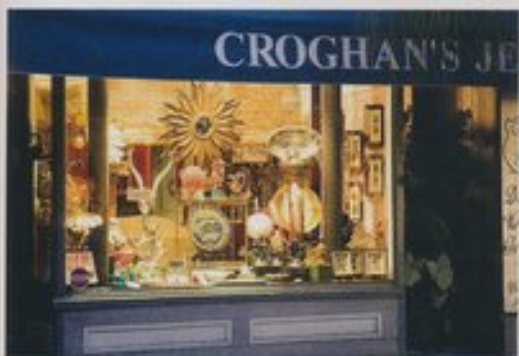
Ben Silver

149 King St.
Charleston, SC
843.577.4556
bensilver.com

British, Irish, and Italian fabrics to silk neckwear sewn entirely by hand, each product in the collection is made from the finest materials. The couple develops relationships with their mills and makers, keeping a meticulous eye on the wares that bear their name.

Ben Silver influences style, too: In 1980, for example, Bob Prenner began wearing Lafont eyeglasses from Paris. Customers took interest, and soon the shop began selling traditional eyeglass frames, spawning a separate eyewear catalog to meet demand. Later, on a buying trip to England, the Prenners noticed the variety in traditional, striped neckties. Now Ben Silver's collection of regimental striped neckwear is unmatched.

But in today's often too-casual world, what's perhaps most important to this three-generation business is staying true to their start — ensuring the classic, authentic American look never goes out of fashion.



A Charleston Gem

Croghan's Jewel Box is part of a century-old tradition.

The history of Charleston is embedded in the doorways and storefronts of King Street, the city's downtown shopping avenue.

Nowhere is this truer than at Croghan's Jewel Box. A Charleston landmark for more than 100 years, the jewelry store is tucked into an 18th-century Charleston house on King Street, a few blocks from Marion Square.

Croghan's third-generation co-owners — Rhett Outten and Mariana Hay — are committed to making sure everyone who walks through their doors feels like they're part of Charleston's history and that they leave with an understanding of what Southern hospitality truly means. Tourists delight in the local flavor of the place, and locals can be overheard catching up with old friends after slipping in the back door. Call ahead to have your packages ready or waiting,

or drop in to chat with the Croghan's staff. It's a genteel atmosphere that puts shoppers immediately at ease — whether they're purchasing diamonds or picking up charms to remember their first visit to Charleston.

Croghan's Jewel Box has endeared itself to the Lowcountry with its friendly atmosphere and emphasis on quality, earning a reputation that has spread as Charleston has become an international destination. The store offers antique and estate finds that you would expect from a century-old jeweler, along with a curated selection of up-scale pieces. Croghan's also hosts events in the upstairs drawing room — gatherings that have the feel of parties in a gracious home. Join this Charleston mainstay in September for the Elizabeth Locke Trunk Show and a Temple St. Clair event, and in October for a Single Stone Trunk Show. While locals and visitors alike are continually amazed by Croghan's selection and quality, it's the atmosphere and service that keeps them coming back.

Clockwise from top left: bracelets by Seaman Schepps, new and estate diamond rings, and Croghan's King Street store

Croghan's Jewel Box

308 King St.
Charleston, SC
843.723.3594
croghansjewelbox.com



Designer labels and a personal touch at Rapport.



Closet Connection

Rapport offers high-end designers and Southern service. BY LAURA MAZURAK

On a recent Saturday, Rapport's Anne Summer got a panicked phone call from a wedding planner: A mother of the groom's dress had fallen apart at the seams.

And the ceremony was in two hours. Would Rapport be able to find her a dress? With the help of an expert staff and a finely curated collection of beautiful clothing, the mother of the groom left Rapport in her new dress in just under an hour — right in time for wedding photos.

While her story is unique, it speaks to the level of personal attention Rapport prides itself on. "Our goal is for the women we work with to have a trusted relationship with both us and their clothes," Summer says.

Rapport's attentive staff includes an Italian tailor, a former Parisian model, and sales professionals with experience at Ralph Lauren and Saks Fifth Avenue. Their extensive, high-end retail background combines with customary Charlestonian warmth to offer a personable shopping experience. Clients can depend on honest and helpful feedback that will leave them confident in their selections.

Summer's mantra is that Rapport "can dress you from the backyard to the ballroom." With labels such as Akris Punto, Armani Collezione, Salvatore Ferragamo, Caroline Regehr, and Saint James, Rapport offers both casual and elegant apparel. "We carry a large number of designers for a boutique," Summer says. "And we have a wide range of price points." Rapport's coveted collections and its reputation for personalized service and attention keep women coming back season after season.

Rapport

235 King St.
Charleston, SC
843.727.0088
rapportcharleston.com

On Trend

Gwynn's of Mount Pleasant is a Charleston-area fashion institution

BY LAURA BURKEHART



Searching for high fashion in Charleston? Head across the harbor, where you'll find top designers and runway style at Gwynn's of Mount Pleasant.

Loro Piana, Gwynn's carries only the finest in apparel, cosmetics, accessories, and gifts, and is known for its incredible shoe department.

Sales consultants offer personal shopping and one-on-one styling, gift delivery, and tailoring, not to mention impeccable customer service and attention to detail. The

store also has a popular bridal registry.

Monthly trunk shows feature both international and local boutique designers. Gwynn's is a leading participant in the renowned Charleston Fashion Week each year. In 2013, the store brought a fashion-forward, luxury experience to the event with the first VIP lounge.

Offering an unsurpassable international selection with charming Southern customer service and exclusive apparel and accessories for women, men, and the home, any shopping expedition in the Charleston area must include a trip to Gwynn's.

The 20,000-square-foot space with six well-appointed departments holds the only independently owned and operated luxury department store in the Charleston area.

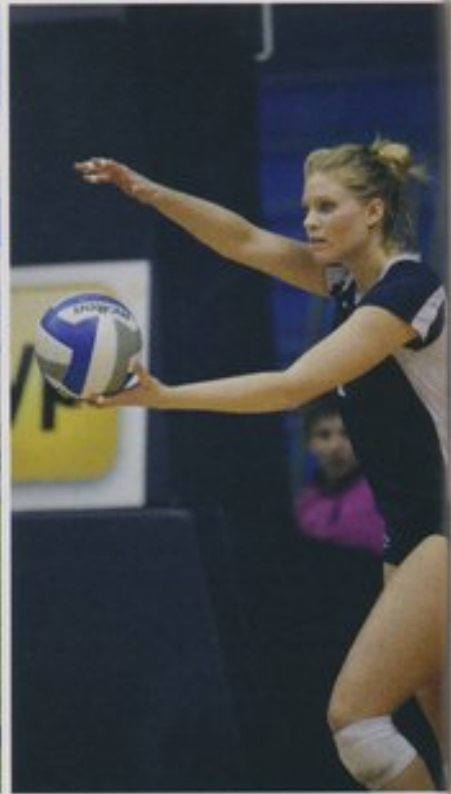
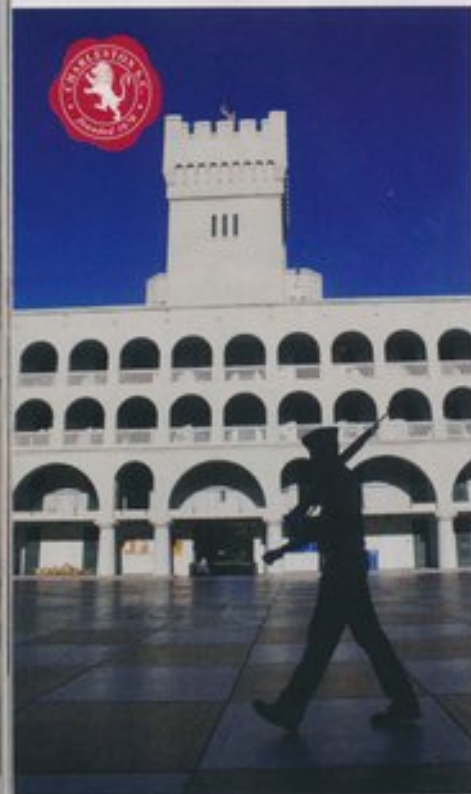
Since 1967, highly trained staff has carefully curated the merchandise to ensure its quality and style fits the store's clientele. "We handpick everything that comes into our store because nobody knows our market like we do," explains proprietor Marshall Simon.

Specializing in high-end labels including Jimmy Choo, Brunello Cucinelli, Escada, Tory Burch, Trish McAvoy, Lafayette 148, and



Gwynn's of Mount Pleasant

916 Houston Northcutt Blvd
Mt. Pleasant, SC
843.884.9518
gwynns.com



Parading Patriotism

The Citadel is a living demonstration of history, leadership, and a remarkable style of education.

Most Fridays during the school year, cadets at The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, march smartly out of the barracks at 3:45 p.m.

From left: the barracks, The Citadel Color Guard, and a cadet volleyball player

The Citadel

171 Moultrie St.
Charleston, SC
843.225.3294
citadel.edu

They assemble by battalion on the parade ground, the centerpiece of the 171-year-old college. With a signal from the Regimental Band and Pipes, the military dress parade begins.

The parades hark back to The Citadel's beginnings in 1843, when the first cadets stood guard at the arsenal on Marion Square in Charleston. In 1922, the college moved to the banks of the Ashley River and continued the unique military-style education that has produced leaders in all fields for six generations.

While only a third of the graduates pursue

military careers, all 2,300 members of the South Carolina Corps of Cadets follow a military regimen. For many, the day starts at 5:30 a.m. with physical training. All march to breakfast at 7 a.m. — and many have finished three classes by the time students at other colleges are just getting started. Their rigorous schedule also includes leadership training focused on the college's core values of honor, duty, and respect.

Memorials honoring war heroes dot the campus. Visitors pass such monuments as the Thomas Dry Howie Memorial Carillon and Tower, which honors the legendary WWII "Major of Saint Lo," or linger by the brass bulldog made from belt buckles and breastplates cadets donated to memorialize a beloved officer killed in Vietnam.

No trip to The Holy City is complete without a stop at The Citadel, an exceptional place with a history as rich as Charleston itself.

PHOTOS FROM LEFT: COURTESY OF THE CITADEL; AND THE CITADEL

Breaking the Mold

A new Charleston company does real estate differently. BY SUSAN SELLERS



When British ex-pat Chris Leigh-Jones and his American wife Sebrina first visited Charleston in 2010, they fell in love with the city.

Drawn to the many historic properties and the city's blended American-European culture, they decided to put down roots and create a business like no other.

Serial entrepreneurs, the Leigh-Joneses started Luxury Simplified Group, a one-of-a-kind company that brings together real estate, renovation, restoration, building, design, and investment, all under one roof. "No doubt about it," says Chris Leigh-Jones, "we are breaking the mold. Anyone wanting a beautiful Charleston property can come to us and we will not only help them find and buy their dream home, but renovate it, rent it out if they so wish, and help them make the most of an amazing Charleston life."

Over the past year and a half, Luxury Simplified Group has acquired and restored more than 40 properties on the peninsula of

Charleston. "We love the idea of restoring historic properties while helping improve neighborhoods that already have wonderful character and people," he says.

Client Kari Cerato hired Sebrina Leigh-Jones and her brokerage. "I knew from the first day that her excitement level exceeded 100 percent, her professionalism exceeded 100 percent, and her ideas, strategies, and team were all on the same page and were professional, courteous, and kind," says Cerato.

The unique business is headquartered at the Major Peter Bocquet House, a beautiful Georgian at 95 Broad St., which was the company's first restoration project. There is much more to come for Luxury Simplified in 2014-15. The company is in negotiations for several large development projects, as well as a new event venue in Charleston's historic district.

From left: deep water property on the Bohicket River; Leigh-Jones family; and deep water estate on Wadmalaw Island. For more information, visit 95broad.com.



843.853.6055
luxurysimplifiedgroup.com