

destination

cutting-edge cuisine +
enchanting southern charm

charleston, south carolina

domino hits the road for the historic Holy City to explore its splendid architecture, scenic landscapes, and unrivaled food scene.



photographs by BRITTANY AMBRIDGE
text by BRITTANY S. CHEVALIER

WHERE TO EAT

the ordinary

544 KING STREET, 843-414-7060;
eattheordinary.com

Located in a former bank, The Ordinary was recently named one of the best oyster bars in the country. Chef Mike Lata serves up East and West Coast selections at this energetic seafood eatery, which has established itself as one of the city's leading places to see and be seen. In the evening, low lights and soaring ceilings make The Ordinary an especially pleasing destination.

husk

76 QUEEN STREET, 843-577-2500;
huskrestaurant.com

Crowned the Best New Restaurant in America by *Bon Appétit* in 2011, Sean Brock's Husk continues to serve up the finest ingredients grown in the South, preparing traditional local dishes with utter originality. Husk really is worth the hype; it's a good example of a much-discussed eatery living up to its reputation.

leon's fine poultry & oysters

698 KING STREET, 843-531-6500;
leonsoystershop.com

If you're craving fried chicken, oysters, and other regional specialties, be sure to pay a visit to this local hotspot. Its jumping atmosphere, tasty (and affordable) fare, well-stocked bar, and speedy service make it a wonderful place to sit back, relax, and let your hair down.

the park cafe

730 RUTLEDGE AVENUE, 843-410-1070;
theparkcafechs.com

This Charleston breakfast spot's classic menu, strong lattes, and great vibes add up to a terrific place for meeting friends and reading the morning paper. And take our word for it: the avocado toast can't be beat!

charleston grill

224 KING STREET, 843-577-4522;
charlestongrill.com

A cherished sanctuary for Charlestonians and tourists alike, the Grill offers delectable dishes, an impressive wine list, and a luxe, sultry atmosphere. It's the perfect place to celebrate a special occasion or simply to indulge in a gourmet meal—and its chef, Michelle Weaver, is quickly developing "legend" status. Catch her now, before she's whisked away to Paris or LA.

mccrady's

2 UNITY ALLEY, 843-577-0025;
mccradyrestaurant.com

Local historians will inform you that George Washington once dined at this 1778 Georgian manse turned restaurant. Today, an (almost) equally distinguished gentleman can be found in the storied structure, the award-winning chef Sean Brock (of Husk fame). His five-star kitchen specializes in fresh, innovative takes on traditional Southern cuisine. No trip to Charleston is complete without a night at McCrady's.



brasserie gigi

102 N MARKET STREET, 843-722-6393;
brasseriegigi.com

The newest project of renowned Charleston chef Frank McMahon, Brasserie Gigi delivers fine French food with a continental flourish. The moment you enter this laid-back bistro, you'll feel as though you've been transported to the City of Light.

caviar & bananas

51 GEORGE STREET, 843-577-7757;
caviarandbananas.com

Stop in for an afternoon espresso or a spirited lunch at this downtown market and cafe. And don't let the casual surroundings fool you. Caviar & Bananas offers seriously delicious fare, including two of the greatest sandwiches we've ever eaten: the duck confit panini and the pimento cheese BLT.

sugar bakeshop

59 CANNON STREET, 843-579-2891;
sugarbake.com

Owned by a pair of New York City architects turned Charleston pastry makers, Sugar Bakeshop turns out delectable cakes, cookies, and tarts with undeniable flair. We suggest the Lady Baltimore cupcake: filled with figs and raisins and topped with meringue icing, it's pure heaven!



1 LEON'S FINE POULTRY & OYSTERS 2 SUGAR BAKESHOP 3 SWEET-TEETH 4 THE ORDINARY



destination

WORTH THE TRIP

drayton hall

3380 ASHLEY RIVER ROAD, 843-769-2600; draytonhall.org

Drayton Hall, a plantation house preserved in amber, is among the world's purest examples of Georgian Palladian architecture. Whether or not historic homes are your passion, it would be a crime to skip Drayton. Trying to explain its appeal is like trying to describe the smell of a gardenia, so you'll have to take our word for it when we say that the place is a masterpiece. And go ahead and spring for the private connoisseur tour—it's worth every nickel.

middleton place

4300 ASHLEY RIVER ROAD, 843-556-6020; middletonplace.org

Located on 65 sprawling acres, Middleton Place boasts extraordinary gardens filled with centuries-old flora. It's an ideal (and photogenic) spot for strolling among oaks dripping with Spanish moss—and fulfilling all your stifled *Gone with the Wind* fantasies.



WHERE TO SHOP

george c. birlant & co.

191 KING STREET, 843-722-3842; birlant.com

Among the gems of King Street's famed high-end antiques stores, George C. Birlant & Co. is one of the oldest and most respected shops in the Southeast. Undeniably pricey, this extraordinary emporium exhibits 18th- and 19th-century prizes from around the world.

the-commons

54 BROAD STREET; the-commons.us

This tiny boutique specializes in elegant, functional, American-made goods with decidedly modern flair. One of the only retailers in the nation to stock Sawkill's stunning neo-Shaker furnishings, it's an unexpected trove of cutting-edge style.

mac & murphy

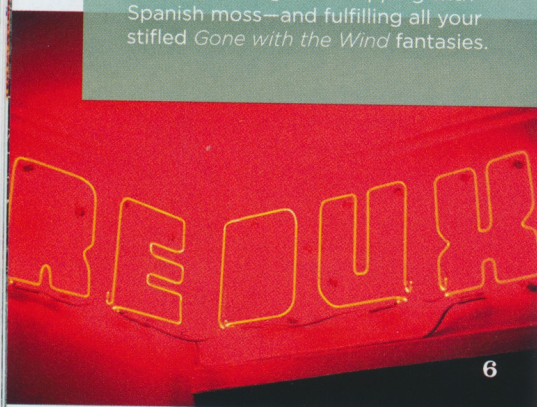
74½ CANNON STREET, 843-576-4394; macandmurphy.com

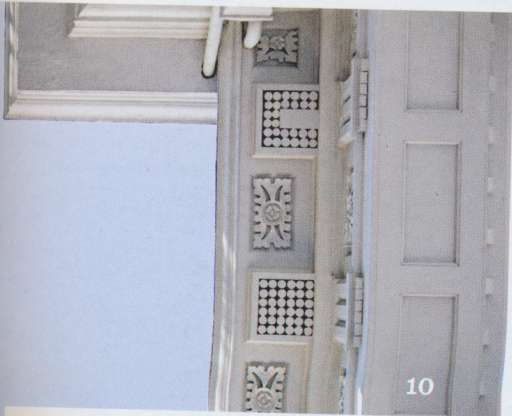
If you're a letterpress or stationery junkie (or just in the market for an adorable thank-you note), this unique retailer is a must-stop shop. Displaying many irresistible items crafted by local makers, Mac & Murphy also carries a sweet array of souvenirs and hostess gifts.

blue bicycle books

420 KING STREET, 843-722-2666; bluebicyclebooks.com

This cozy shop—a delightful place to score a great read in Charleston—provides a carefully curated selection of new and vintage volumes, with a particular nod to the works of esteemed local authors (including the legendary Pat Conroy).





5 DRAYTON HALL 6 REDUX CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER 7 ASHLEY RIVER
8 SWEETGRASS BASKETS 9 WHITE POINT GARDEN 10 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE
11 ZERO GEORGE 12 THE BATTERY

Charleston, South Carolina



Aiken-Rhett House



Saint Philip's Church



Pineapple Fountain



Rainbow Row



The Battery

WHERE TO STAY

zero george

0 GEORGE STREET, 843-817-7900; zerogeorge.com

A jewel box with up-to-the-minute comforts and exquisite old-world charm, Zero George is our favorite Charleston retreat. You just can't beat the loveliness of its courtyard gardens, the convenience of its central location, or its exemplary service!

the restoration on king

75 WENTWORTH STREET, 877-221-7202;

restorationonking.com

With its roomy suites and animated evening happy hour, the Restoration another terrific option for the Charleston tourist. You're bound to feel at home in this elegant, apartment-style hotel, situated in the heart of town.

WHAT TO DO

bulldog tours

18 ANSON STREET, 843-722-8687;

bulldogtours.com

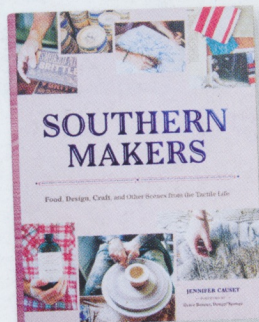
The most thorough (and fun!) way to explore Charleston is with a representative of this, the region's top tour company. Providing outstanding understanding of the Holy City's history and terrain, Bulldog tour guides will conduct you through lively municipal walkabouts and not-to-be-missed culinary experiences.

heyward-washington house

87 CHURCH STREET, 843-722-0354;

charlestonmuseum.org/heyward-washington-house

Charleston's original historic-house museum was initially built for Thomas Heyward, one of four signers of the Declaration of Independence representing South Carolina. Years later, it was rented by George Washington during his weeklong stay in the city. Today, it showcases one of the largest collections of historic Charleston-made furniture in town, while granting a rare glimpse into its lost (but not forgotten) past.



A celebration of the South's thriving creative community

"Southern Makers: Food, Design, Craft, and Other Scenes from the Tactile Life" by Jennifer Causey for Princeton Architectural Press \$24.95
domino.com/spring15

