



Boston Herald Drive with Adriana Cohen, John Sapochetti, Tom Shattuck, Chris Villani

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# Flock to the good life in Charleston, S.C.

Erica Corsano Sunday, January 31, 2016



Courtesy

The Husk Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina

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Back in the day — we're talking Colonial era here — Boston and Charleston, S.C., were considered sister cities. Early Americans with money spent their summers in Boston and winters in Charleston — and they were definitely on to something.

A few hundred years later, Charleston still has much to see and explore, and Travel + Leisure agrees. The magazine named it the No. 1 small city in the U.S. and Canada for its 2015 World's Best Awards.

Escape the cold and check out the rich history, robust dining scene, bustling nightlife and delightful adventures. And while other flowers are still resting, camellias are blooming.

Here is a Northern gal's guide on where to imbibe, nosh and tuck yourself in around this low-country gem.

## EAT HERE

### FIG

232 Meeting St.  
eatatfig.com  
The Ordinary



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544 King St.  
eattheordinary.com

Owned by the same restaurant group, these are two of the best restaurants in town. FIG (Food Is Good) offers seasonal fare (with some elevated Southern dishes) in a quaint bistro atmosphere. It's closed for renovations until early February, but thankfully its sister property isn't. The Ordinary is anything but — located in a former bank, this place offers super-fresh seafood. Essentially everything on the menu looks divine, but we can personally vouch for the white shrimp escabeche (fried, marinated and served cold) with butter beans and the roasted grouper with red grits. Don't forget to check out the many delights at their white-tiled raw bar, including local oysters, shrimp and clams.

Husk  
76 Queen St.  
huskrestaurant.com

James Beard Award-winning Chef Sean Brock serves up southern favorites with a twist at this semi-casual locale. Think deviled eggs with pickled okra and trout roe, South Carolina shrimp and choppee okra stew with Carolina gold rice and flowering basil and Kentuckyaki glazed pig's ear lettuce wraps. Wash all that goodness down with Charleston Light Dragoon's Punch, a recipe from Charleston Preservation Society: California brandy, Jamaican rum, peach brandy, black tea, lemon juice and raw sugar. If you show up early for your reservation, hit up their fully stocked bar next door. Choose from the artful cocktail menu, awesome bourbon selection, artisanal microbrews or wine, grouped by terroir and soil type.

#### DRINK HERE

The Belmont  
511 King St.  
thebelmontcharleston.com

The mixologists at this dimly lit bar are total hipsters — think mustaches and tattoos. But don't let their cool-kid attitude keep you away. Tell them what you're in the mood for and they'll mix their magic, delivering interesting takes on old classics.

The Gin Joint  
182 E. Bay St.  
theginjoint.com

Of all the gin joints, in all the towns, in all the world, you'll be glad you walked into this one. The husband and wife owners and their uber-talented crew take craft cocktails to a new level. Choose from a robust list of quality rums, bourbons and Scotches or try your luck and order the Bartender's Choice — and maybe land yourself a drink inspired by the gilded age.

#### CRASH HERE

The Restoration  
75 Wentworth St.  
therestorationhotel.com

Formerly The Restoration on King, this boutique beauty just went through a major rehab and now offers more rooms, a trendy rooftop restaurant (The Watch), The Amethyst Spa, Beekman 1802 bath and body amenities, library, Toby's Estate coffee shop and Martone bicycles for guests. The pied-a-terre suites will make you feel like Charleston is your new home away from home.

The Spectator

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67 State St.  
thespectatorhotel.com

Step back in time when you walk into this hotel's 1920s-inspired lobby. Upon check in, you're greeted with a beverage and introduced to your personal butler, who can run errands, provide tips on the area or simply be on call when you need him or her. The rooms are luxurious and modern, but you'll want to spend most of your time at the speakeasy-meets-jazz-age bar downstairs. Try the Flapper's Delight, made with Uncle Val's botanical gin, ruby port, St.-Germain, Concord grape and lemon juices and prosecco.

More On: [Charleston](#)

### AUTHORS

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**Joe LaMacchia** · Northeastern University

Would recommend "Magnolia's" restaurant just off the old slave auction market in Charleston.

Charleston is a nice place but it takes some getting use to the incredible heat and humidity in summer.

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