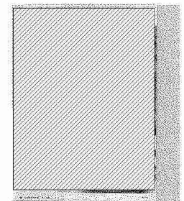
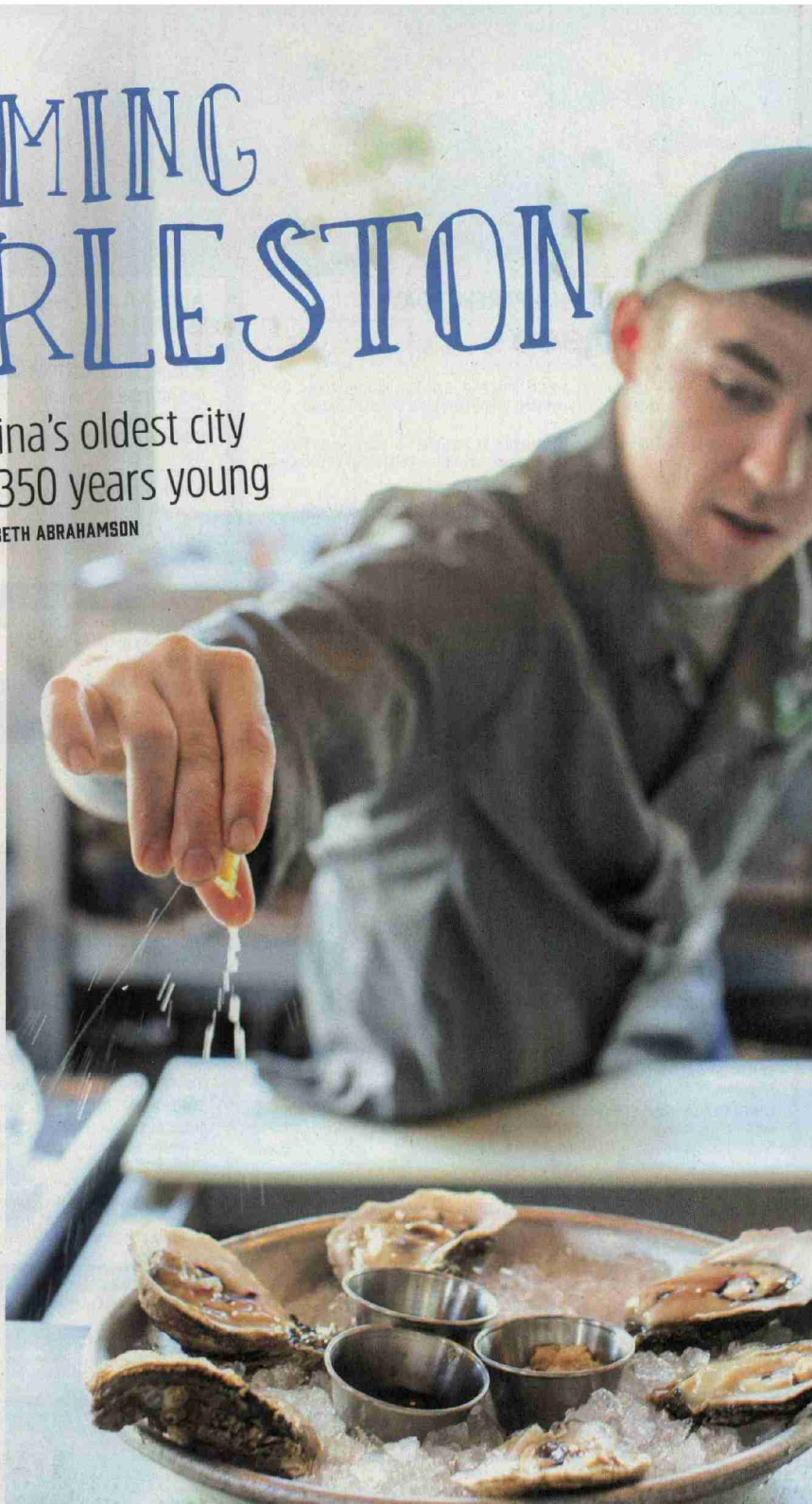


# CHARMING CHARLESTON

South Carolina's oldest city  
will soon be 350 years young

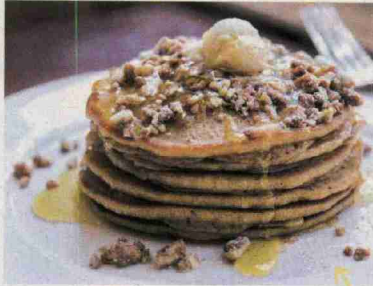
BY ELISABETH ABRAHAMSON

**T**he weather is cool, the crowds have died down, and dressed-up antebellum mansions line the streets. It's fall in Charleston, South Carolina, and a great time to visit the city, which celebrates its 350th anniversary in 2020. Whether you bring your sweetie or family of five, this three-day itinerary is ideal for all.





## FRIDAY

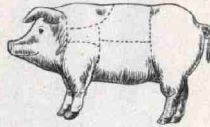


### 9:30 A.M.

Share a plate of sweet potato pancakes topped with cinnamon butter and powdered sugar before digging into fried crab cakes served with two poached eggs, rémoulade, and arugula at **ELI'S TABLE**. (843) 405-5115; [elistable.com](http://elistable.com).

### 11 A.M.

The **OLD SLAVE MART MUSEUM** tells the story of Charleston's role in the slave trade. Listen to a moving recording of a former slave recounting his experiences, from bondage to emancipation. (843) 958-6467; [oldslavemartmuseum.com](http://oldslavemartmuseum.com).



### 12:30 P.M.

Nosh on pulled pork barbecue or gooey mac-and-cheese sprinkled with smoked bacon lardons at **POOGAN'S SMOKEHOUSE**. (843) 577-5665; [pooganssmokehouse.com](http://pooganssmokehouse.com).



### 4:30 P.M.

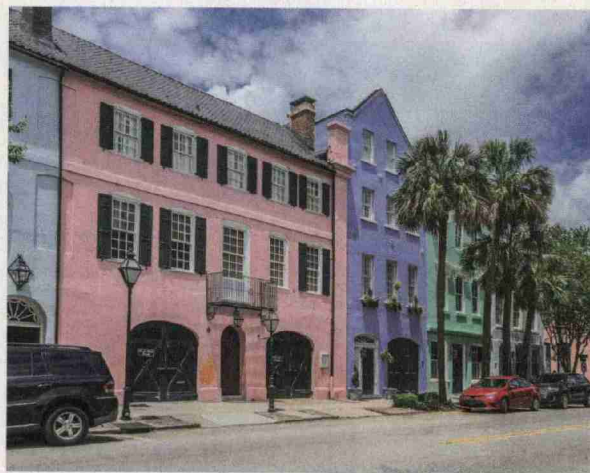
Head to **RAINBOW ROW** to snap a selfie or two in front of 13 restored pastel-colored homes that were built around 1740. In 1931, Dorothy Legge and her husband, Lionel, purchased several of the houses and painted them pink. During the '30s and 1940s, other area homeowners followed suit, painting their houses in light pastel shades that purportedly help keep the homes cool.

### 2 P.M.

Wander old alleyways, see the Pineapple Fountain, and tiptoe through eerie graveyards with a knowledgeable guide from **CHARLESTON STROLL**, who takes groups of up to 10 on two-hour city tours. Wear walking shoes, and be vocal if you want to stop for photos—the tour moves quickly! (843) 766-2080; [charlestonstrolls.com](http://charlestonstrolls.com).

### 7 P.M.

Slide into a plush booth at **DARLING OYSTER BAR**. Start with toast topped with goat cheese and jumbo lump blue crab. Oysters are on the menu year-round as long as the water is cold enough. Not craving seafood? The fried chicken is incredibly juicy and comes with a side of potato puree. (843) 641-0821; [thedarling.com](http://thedarling.com).



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: MARGARET WRIGHT; J MICHAEL WALKER/CHARLESTON HOSPITALITY GROUP; ELISABETH ABRAHAMSON; GORDON BELL/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO



# SATURDAY

## 9:30 A.M.

Peruse stalls and grab a light breakfast at the **HISTORIC CHARLESTON CITY MARKET**.

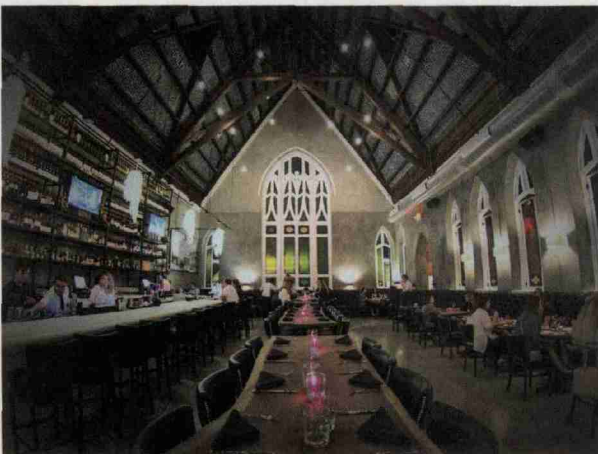
Built in 1804, this complex originally sold meat, fish, and produce—similar to today's farmers markets. Now, artisans proffer everything from handmade jewelry to silky soft linens to sweetgrass baskets. [thecharlestoncitymarket.com](http://thecharlestoncitymarket.com).

## 11:30 A.M.

Eat a tasty sandwich at **5CHURCH**, housed in a former church with stained-glass windows. Try the fried chicken BLT and Maryland crab cake roll. While you're dining, look up to see Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*—the book's entire text is hand-painted on the ceiling.

(843) 937-8666;

[5churchcharleston.com](http://5churchcharleston.com).



## 2 P.M.

Climb into a horse-drawn carriage at **OLD SOUTH CARRIAGE COMPANY** and snuggle under a warm blanket as the one-hour tour takes you more than 30 blocks, past churches, gardens, graveyards, and historic homes.

(843) 723-9712;

[oldsouthcarriage.com](http://oldsouthcarriage.com).





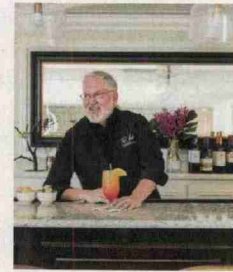
CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: COURTESY EXPLORE CHARLESTON/EXPLORECHARLESTON.COM (2); MAC KILDUFF; COURTESY BELMOND CHARLESTON PLACE; COURTESY KING CHARLES INN, MARGARET WRIGHT

## 5:30 P.M.

Start with warm focaccia served with pesto and prosciutto vinaigrette dipping sauces and fried artichokes with a walnut-anchovy vinaigrette and Parmesan at **INDACO**. Next, savor the creamy black pepper tagliatelle smothered with Parmesan and topped with an egg yolk. Share the decadent Bianca pizza—sprinkled with truffles when they're in season (November through March). (843) 872-6828; [indacocharleston.com](http://indacocharleston.com).



## CHECKING IN



**BELMOND CHARLESTON PLACE** is located near all of the downtown action. Sip a cocktail at the Thoroughbred Club or peruse upscale shops such as Gucci and Louis Vuitton, found near the lobby. Splurge a little and stay on the club level, where breakfast, afternoon tea and snacks, and desserts are complimentary. Rates start at \$319. Club level rates start at \$445. (843) 722-4900; [belmond.com](http://belmond.com).



Located on bustling Meeting Street, **KING CHARLES INN** has 91 rooms and offers complimentary evening cheese, cookies, and tea. Edgar Allan Poe was rumored to have stayed here during his time as a soldier. Rates start at \$159. (843) 723-7451; [kingcharlesinn.com](http://kingcharlesinn.com).





# SUNDAY

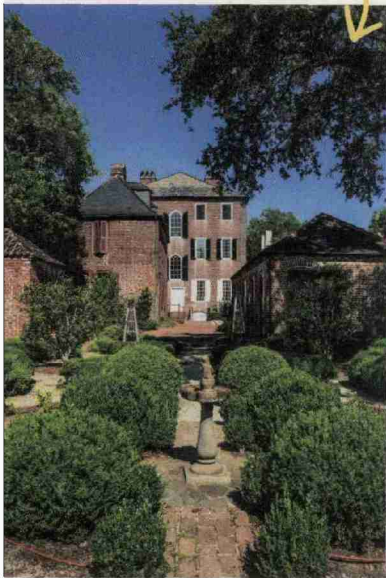
9 A.M.

Fill up on a lavender latte and a buttery, flaky croissant at **SECOND STATE COFFEE** before heading out for the day. (843) 793-4402; [secondstatecoffee.com](http://secondstatecoffee.com).



11 A.M.

Tour the **HEYWARD-WASHINGTON HOUSE**. George Washington slept here during his time in Charleston in 1791. The home boasts the only remaining 17th-century detached kitchen in the city. Enjoy a stroll through the formal garden out back. (843) 722-2996; [charlestonmuseum.org](http://charlestonmuseum.org).



2:30 P.M.

Fans of *The Notebook* might recognize the mansion at **BOONE HALL PLANTATION AND GARDENS**. The 330-year-old plantation, located about 11 miles northeast of downtown Charleston, has been featured in eight films, but it's not just a movie backdrop. Folks can tour the grounds, including the 1936 main house and nine original slave cabins, now converted into an exhibit about black history in America. (843) 884-4371; [boonehallplantation.com](http://boonehallplantation.com).

5 P.M.

Enjoy a craft cocktail and soak in 360-degree city views at **THE WATCH ROOFTOP KITCHEN AND SPIRITS**. (843) 518-5100; [therestorationhotel.com](http://therestorationhotel.com).



7:30 P.M.

Discuss the highlights of your trip at **OAK STEAKHOUSE**. Start with oysters Rockefeller and a classic Caesar salad, and share a 16-ounce boneless rib eye with whipped potatoes, lobster mac-and-cheese, and creamed spinach. The espresso crème brûlée is a satisfying finish to your Charleston stay. (843) 722-4220; [oaksteakhousecharleston.com](http://oaksteakhousecharleston.com).

Elisabeth Abrahamson is editor in chief of *Alabama Journey*.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY BOONE HALL PLANTATION AND GARDENS; CHRIS CARTER; RICHARD ELLIS/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO