



QC
EXCLUSIVE

THE 100 THINGS YOU'VE GOT TO DO IN CHARLOTTE.



THE 100 THINGS YOU'VE GOT TO DO IN CHARLOTTE.

A Letter from The Publisher

In honor of our love for the Queen City, we put together this picture-heavy online book dedicated to the 100 things you've got to do in Charlotte. It's chock full of some of our favorite things in the city that we think you'll want to explore for yourself. You'll find everything from the best events like the Queen's Cup Steeplechase to our favorite lake activities. You'll be able to read our must-do cultural activities, sample some of our favorite dishes, relax at Charlotte's most peaceful spas, get healthy at our staff's favorite wellness studios, see the most beautiful restaurants, and even check out our favorite watering holes. If you're new to the city, this is sure to be a great guide and starting point. If you've been here your entire life, we still think you'll find a gem or two in here you haven't gotten the opportunity to try yet. Get out there and explore this wonderful city and region. We think it's the best place in the world!

Sincerely, Brett Barter

*Photography by Jamey Price unless otherwise noted
List compiled by Sunny Hubler*





THE 100 THINGS YOU'VE GOT TO DO IN CHARLOTTE.

Contact

WEBSITE:
qcexclusive.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS
qcexclusive.com/subscribe

INSTAGRAM
@qcexclusive

FACEBOOK
facebook.com/qcexclusive

PINTEREST
pinterest.com/qcexclusive

TWITTER
twitter.com/qcexclusive

EMAIL
info@qcexclusive.com





EXPLORE YOUR CITY

HAVE SOME FUN

The Queen City has a plethora of fun activities to take advantage of. From its culture to its sports, its outdoor recreation to its sights and activities, Charlotte has options. You may find a new friend with a shared hobby or interest, connect with your community, get some sunshine or, dare we say it, forget about your phone. So go ahead and break up your routine in order to explore your backyard: There is utterly no reason to ever be bored in this city.





THE NASCAR HALL OF FAME

The first Nascar Sprint Cup Series was held in Charlotte in June of 1949. North Carolina quickly grew to be the center of Nascar with its close proximity to most of the sports racing venues. The Nascar Hall of Fame, located in Second Ward of Uptown, celebrates that history and honors each of the major contributors to the sport. Learn something new here and make a day out of it by walking and exploring Uptown.

QUEEN'S CUP STEEPLECHASE

Dress in style for the annual event that takes place each April, showcasing the most athletic thoroughbreds as they compete. The Queen's Cup offers breathtaking views of the Piedmont countryside and racecourse from Lawn Boxes, Hospitality Tents, or premium tailgating spots. Since 1996, the Charlotte Steeplechase Foundation has donated over \$950,000 to local charities and beyond.

CHECKERS HOCKEY

Meet your friends and grab a hot dog at the Bojangles Coliseum to watch the area's minor league professional ice hockey team. The multipurpose coliseum has 8,600 seats and is the perfect setting for some sports, drinks and fun. Checkers tickets can be purchased for individual games or the entire season.

TROLLEY PUB CHARLOTTE

Looking for a fresh way to tour the city? Look no further. Trolley Pub is an eco-friendly pedal bar for up to 14 people at a time. You'll be laughing and singing along to music whether it's for a special occasion or a town, pub, or dinner tour.

HELIVENTURES

Venture out to tour Charlotte from a stunning aerial view. The Heliventures flight school is located only 30 minutes from Charlotte in Concord. See downtown, Lake Norman, and the Charlotte Motor Speedway from the air. For something extra special, book your tour for a sunset view.

KNIGHTS BASEBALL

Get out your sunscreen to see Charlotte's professional minor league baseball team, the Knights, play at the BB&T Ballpark. The ballpark is located right in Uptown and was the third sports building to be built in the area. Seeing the Knights play is a great opportunity to indulge in sportly competition and sunshine, with panoramic skyline views.

THE FILLMORE

Inspired by San Francisco's legendary music venue, Fillmore Charlotte offers a unique ambience in a historic textile mill. Admire the red oak flooring, vintage posters, grand chandeliers, and cutting edge lighting and sound. The venue is located just outside of Uptown at the AvidXchange Music Factory.

SEA LIFE AQUARIUM

Discover something new at Sea Life Aquarium, which is located just 30 minutes outside of Charlotte in Concord. This interactive aquarium contains thousands of creatures and a 360-degree tunnel. Additionally, visitors can experience events, tours, talks, feeding times, and exhibits.

PANTHERS GAMES

Root on our professional football team at the Bank of America Stadium on a sunny, summer day. Cheer, relish in concessions, sport your Panthers colors, and enjoy the home of the infamous chant "Keep On Pounding."

CAROLINA BALLOONFEST

Appreciate years of aviation history with the Carolina BalloonFest, an event that has taken place since 1974. Over the years, the National Balloon Rally Charities, Inc. has awarded over \$500,000 of Carolina BalloonFest proceeds to dozens of nonprofit organizations. Enjoy a full weekend of mass ascensions, competitions, flights, live entertainment, local wine and crafts, kids zone, exhibits, activities, and artisan festival food.





COCA COLA 600

Rev up your summer weekend at the Charlotte Motor Speedway for the Coca Cola 600; the most challenging test of talent and machine. Originally the World 600, the Coca Cola 600 is an annual 600-mile NASCAR Cup Series points race. Tickets also include a salute to the military and pre-race concert.

PINHOUSE

Relax in the trendy, laid back neighborhood of Plaza Midwood at Pinhouse, the sister taproom to Hop-pin'. The two-story concept opened its doors just last summer and has 72 self-pour taps and four duckpin bowling lanes in the basement. The team has partnered with Chef Rob Masone, of Kre8 Twisted Eats, for a full-time food truck parked outside Tuesday-Sunday serving innovative eats, like their Bosshog mac and cheese egg rolls.

HORNETS GAMES

Bust out the foam finger for Charlotte's professional basketball team at Uptown's Spectrum Center. The team name is derived from Charlotte's resistance in the Revolutionary War; coining the city as "a veritable nest of hornets." So get out of the house and be sure to wear your teal and gray.

CAROWINDS

Laugh and delight in the fun of a 407-acre amusement park located only 20 minutes outside of Uptown with portions in both North and South Carolina. This geographic location has made Carowinds a beloved source of happiness right at the heart of the Carolinas for over 45 years. Take pleasure in roller coasters, water entertainment, special events or shows, and food and beverages.

GOPRO MOTORPLEX

Feel the rush of go-karting at up to 55mph in speed at Mooresville's world-class, outdoor, 11-turn turn-track. Whether you'd like to rent a kart or go for an event, GoPro Motorplex is the perfect place to buckle up for a dose of friendly competition or an adrenaline rush. Feel the rush of go-karting at up to 55mph in speed at Mooresville's world-class, outdoor, 11-turn turn-track. Whether you'd like to rent a kart or go for an event, GoPro Motorplex is the perfect place to buckle up for a dose of friendly competition or an adrenaline rush.



GET ON THE WATER

Research shows that being around water (near, in, on, or under) can provide many advantages for our mind and body. Increasing overall sense of wellbeing and lowering stress, anxiety, heart and breathing rates are all examples of the effects of water. There's a reason why aquatic therapists exist: Being near water promotes quality of conversation and makes people feel more creative. North Carolina's landscape extends across three major topographical regions of the United States: the Coastal Plain, Piedmont, and Appalachian Mountains. Additionally, the state hosts many sounds, rivers and lakes and also borders the Atlantic ocean. All of this geographical variation makes our state a unique hub for all kinds of outdoor activities; especially those that are water-based. Lake Norman is the largest man-made body of freshwater in North Carolina and a source of various activities for locals and visitors alike. Fun fact: Images involving water also spark a more positive response than those without. So, bring your camera to one of these spots this summer because there is absolutely no downside to taking pleasure in this integral love for water - entirely and often.





USNWC

—

The only downside to the U.S. National Whitewater Center is that there are so many amazing options that you can't fit it all into a single day. Cool off from the summer heat with whitewater rafting, canoeing, kayaking, repelling, rock climbing and more. The Center is located on approximately 1,300 acres of land adjacent to the Catawba River.

ALOHA PADDLE SPORTS

—

Located around 40 minutes from Uptown, Lake Norman boasts Aloha Paddle Sports offering private lessons, rental, yoga on the water, kayaking, sunset, and even full moon paddle tours. Sign up conveniently with their online reservation option to make a splash and challenge yourself athletically.

LAKE NORMAN SAILING

—

Voyage on an adventure with this recreational and competitive sailing club for youth and adults alike. Learn to sail, paddleboard, kayak, or race other sailors in Blythe Landing Park located on the south end of Lake Norman. Choose from a fleet of over 50 boats with a range from 420s, Optis, keelboats, Flying Scots, and Sunfish.

CAROLINA GRACE

—

Climb aboard the largest yacht on Lake Norman, one whose roots go as far as Lake Cumberland in Kentucky. Enjoy two bars, administrative offices, four bathrooms, and space for 150 guests. Carolina Grace is ready to book for corporate functions, private soirees and charity events but you may want to bring a swimsuit.

WHAT'S UP WATERSPORTS

—

Whether you're looking for an exhilarating work out, a cruise on the lake or a laid back paddle, What's Up Watersports on Lake Norman is the place to get it all. Escape your everyday life on a kayak, paddleboard, jetski, or boat. Check real time availability on their website for your convenience.

CHARLOTTE CYCLEBOATS

Hop aboard Lake Norman's first pedal-powered, eco-friendly party boat to have a water experience unlike any other. Reserve private or party cruises, the entire boat for up to 15 people, a two-hour chartered cruise, or individual tickets to an open party cruise. Book the 6:30 pm tour for view of the sunset as you drink and pedal the evening away.

QUEEN'S LANDING

Turn your clock to lake time at this top-tier entertainment venue tucked away on the idyllic shore of Lake Norman. Whether you'd like to stay on land or get on the water, Queen's Landing offers sightseeing, banquet rooms, boat rentals, wedding venues, weekend concerts, live music, a lakeside patio and more.

SWIMMING AT RAMSEY CREEK PARK

Grab your sunglasses, favorite swimsuit and sunscreen for a day on this 46-acre waterfront park at Lake Norman. Visitors are welcome to swim, boat, fish, picnic, hike, spend time with their dogs, play volleyball or horseshoes, let their kids enjoy the playground, and more. Kiss boredom goodbye with this soothing getaway.

HELLO, SAILOR

Katy and Joe Kindred, the couple behind Davidson's award-winning Kindred restaurant, bring you this lakeside spot with a Southern, fish-camp menu. Delight in fresh and fried favorites in a chic atmosphere on the picturesque Lake Norman. Their hush puppies are all the rage, and we recommend the Hamachi Poke appetizer, Bone-In Kansas City New York Strip, and the Lobster Roll.

PENINNSULA YACHT CLUB'S NOPKEHEE

Reserve this classic yacht at the Peninsula Yacht Club for all kinds of occasions, from a work meeting with your team to a cocktail or sunseet cruise with friends and family. This is the ultimate luxury way to get out the lake with your favorite people.





REST UP

Getting sufficient rest prevents weight gain, increased length of illness and heart disease. Additionally, self care boosts your self esteem and turns your focus onto yourself in a healthy way. With so many duties and distractions in the world and our daily lives that pull us in different directions, this is vital. We've rounded up some fantastic ways for you to get in touch with your mind and body whether it's through a spa, staycation, or trip to the yoga studio. Close your eyes, breathe in, and forget about your surroundings and responsibilities for a while.





BARRY'S BOOTCAMP

SALT ROOM AT RITZ-CARLTON

Getting sufficient rest prevents weight gain, increased length of illness and heart disease. Additionally, self care boosts your self esteem and turns your focus onto yourself in a healthy way. With so many duties and distractions in the world and our daily lives that pull us in different directions, this is vital. We've rounded up some fantastic ways for you to get in touch with your mind and body whether it's through a spa, staycation, or trip to the yoga studio. Close your eyes, breathe in, and forget about your surroundings and responsibilities for a while.

BARRY'S

Visit the colorful, historic neighborhood of South End to feel the burn and work up a sweat. Explore the Fuel Bar for shakes and snacks, an area for any grooming products you may need or a shop for clothing and merchandise. Each of the instructors will push you to be your very best - one is even training for the Olympics.

NC YOGA BAR

Looking to start yoga but feel intimidated? NC Yoga Bar is different in the way that they challenge the traditional yoga studio environment by meeting up weekly in popular Charlotte hangouts: McGill Rose Garden, The Mint Museum Uptown, The Space by Yoga Bar, Sycamore Brewing Co., Birdsong Brewing, and Sugar Creek Brewing.

HILLIARD STUDIO METHOD

Venture into Myers Park which is known for high-end boutiques, sophisticated restaurants, gourmet groceries, and museums. Hilliard Studio Method started in 2007 between a mother daughter duo. Their method is Pilates that focuses on the core and they offer different levels of intensity for the beginner and expert alike.

Y2 YOGA

Get out to visit the neighborhood of Cotswold and enjoy a nontraditional approach to yoga at Y2 Yoga with heated or non-heated classes that drop the seriousness and play modern music. The enterprise is 12,000 square feet and boasts three practice studios, a spa, retail space, and other amenities.

ROOFTOP POOLS

Can you think of a better combination? Get closer to the sun while in water at any of the following options in Uptown: Museum Tower, The Ritz-Carlton, Hyatt Place, Omni, Holiday Inn, Hyatt House, or Courtyard by Marriott. So, put a tropical drink on ice, lay back and enjoy; you deserve it.

STAYCATION AT THE IVEY'S

For those seeking a luxurious staycation, Ivey Hotel is your destination. There are over 40 custom-designed rooms featuring reclaimed 400-year-old French oak floors, plush beds with Frette Italian linens, and a curated art collection throughout the hotel. All rooms contain thoughtful little luxuries and conveniences ranging from soft embroidered robes and slippers to lavish bath products and room service by 5Church Restaurant. After check-in, make your way to The Library Lounge for a wine and cheese welcome.

BURN BOOTCAMP

The Burn Boot Camp workout is designed to maximize your results in just 45 minutes with an average burn of 700 calories per camp. They skip the pre-registration and waiting lists so that you can get started as soon as you walk in the door. No matter the time of day, all Burn Boot Camp locations host camp times that are most convenient for you. Whether you need advice regarding nutrition, performance, lifestyle or weight loss, the Burn Boot Camp trainers are equipped with the knowledge necessary to help you reach your goals quickly and efficiently.

OM YOGA LAKE WYLIE

Om Yoga's goal is to provide a nurturing environment for you to move, breathe, connect, and learn more about yoga. Om is an incredible place to practice yoga, as it is filled with teachers and students with a passion for sharing the tranquility, sense of community, and joy that yoga brings. They have a wide variety of class times to fit your needs, offering a variety of yoga specialties such as hot yoga, power yoga, deep stretch, prenatal yoga, kids yoga, and more. The relaxing ambiance provides a sanctuary from the daily pressures of a busy life. Check out their class schedule! There is no place like Om.

THE BALLANTYNE HOTEL

The Ballantyne Hotel welcomes guests with endless leisure and recreational activities in a beautifully lavish setting. It features a collection of exquisitely designed rooms and amenities, elegant ballrooms, social spaces and outdoor venues. When you stay here, you can escape to the pools, spa or play golf or tennis. Guests can also enjoy the complimentary Ballantyne-area shuttle that is available for nearby dining and conveniences. Come and savor artfully presented, regionally inspired new American cuisine, and sample one of the Carolinas' largest whiskey collections.





TAKE A WALK

Charlotte is one of the South's fastest growing cities. Despite being a booming, constantly evolving metropolis, there's an abundance of nature trails, botanical gardens, and green spaces. Whether you're looking for an oasis or want to reconnect with nature, Charlotte has plenty of outdoor opportunities available. So take a break from the hustle and bustle of urban life and indulge in a relaxing stroll through one of the many nature reserves, public gardens, and trails.





WING HAVEN GARDENS

DANIEL STOWE BOTANICAL GARDENS

The Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens is a large, 110 acre conservatory that contains a variety of lush gardens and tranquil walking trails. View a diverse array of orchids, perennials, and tropical plants. The garden is a whimsical space where guests are encouraged to relax and reconnect with nature.

WING HAVEN

Wing Haven is a historic garden and bird refuge that has been providing visitors a natural oasis since 1927. Tucked away from the fast paced city, Wing Haven is abundant with Southern horticulture and a perfect habitat for local birds. Relax in one of their three tranquil gardens or attend one of the learning programs they offer weekly.

UNCC BOTANICAL GARDENS

The UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens is on a mission: Their goal is to inspire Charlotteans, young and old, to garner an appreciation for nature and local flora. Take a relaxing stroll through one of their three gardens, each of which are equipped with unique botanical displays. The Botanical Gardens also offer informational classes for those interested in refining their gardening skills.

LAKE NORMAN STATE PARK

Located on the largest manmade lake in North Carolina, Lake Norman State Park is a popular destination for those interested in outdoor sporting activities. The park offers over 30.5 miles of mountain biking trails, and the park has an abundance of walking trails, a boat ramp, and ample spots to fish. Looking for a weekend getaway in the woods? During the warmer months, the park opens campgrounds to visitors so you can spend the night.

JETTON PARK

Jetton Park is a 110 acre park located on the shores of Lake Norman. Get lost in the park's onsite garden, walk through one of their 1.5 mile nature trails, or picnic along the pristine banks of the lake. Jetton Park also has tennis courts, biking trails, and a sunning beach.

MCGILL ROSE GARDEN

—
Nestled on the outskirts of NoDa, the McGill Rose Garden is one of Charlotte's best kept secrets. Original owners Henry and Helen McGill opened the garden with the intention of beautifying the growing urban area. Over the years, Helen planted an impressive 500 rose bushes. The garden was sold to the city of Charlotte in 1975 and has been reserved as a public space ever since.

ANNE SPRINGS CLOSE GREENWAY

—
The Anne Springs Close Greenway is a massive, 2,100 acre public park and nature preserve. Walk, bike, or horseback through the greenway's 40-mile network of nature trails. Paddle or kayak your way through the park on one of the greenway's many lakes. The park is also home to a range of native plants, animals, and historic buildings.

THE RAIL TRAIL

—
The Rail Trail is a 3.5 mile public trail that intersects through Charlotte's most energetic and cultural neighborhoods. As you stroll, you'll discover aspects of the city you never knew existed. Stop by a brewery or cafe along the way, view outdoor works of art, or bring your canine friend on a much needed walk through the city.

LATTA PLANTATION

—
Historically, the Latta Plantation operated as a cotton plantation. Today, the 1,343 acre estate is a living history farm and nature preserve. Take a step back in time and see how North Carolinians lived in the antebellum South. Experience the rich history through reenactments, guided tours, and workshops.

THE DUKE MANSION

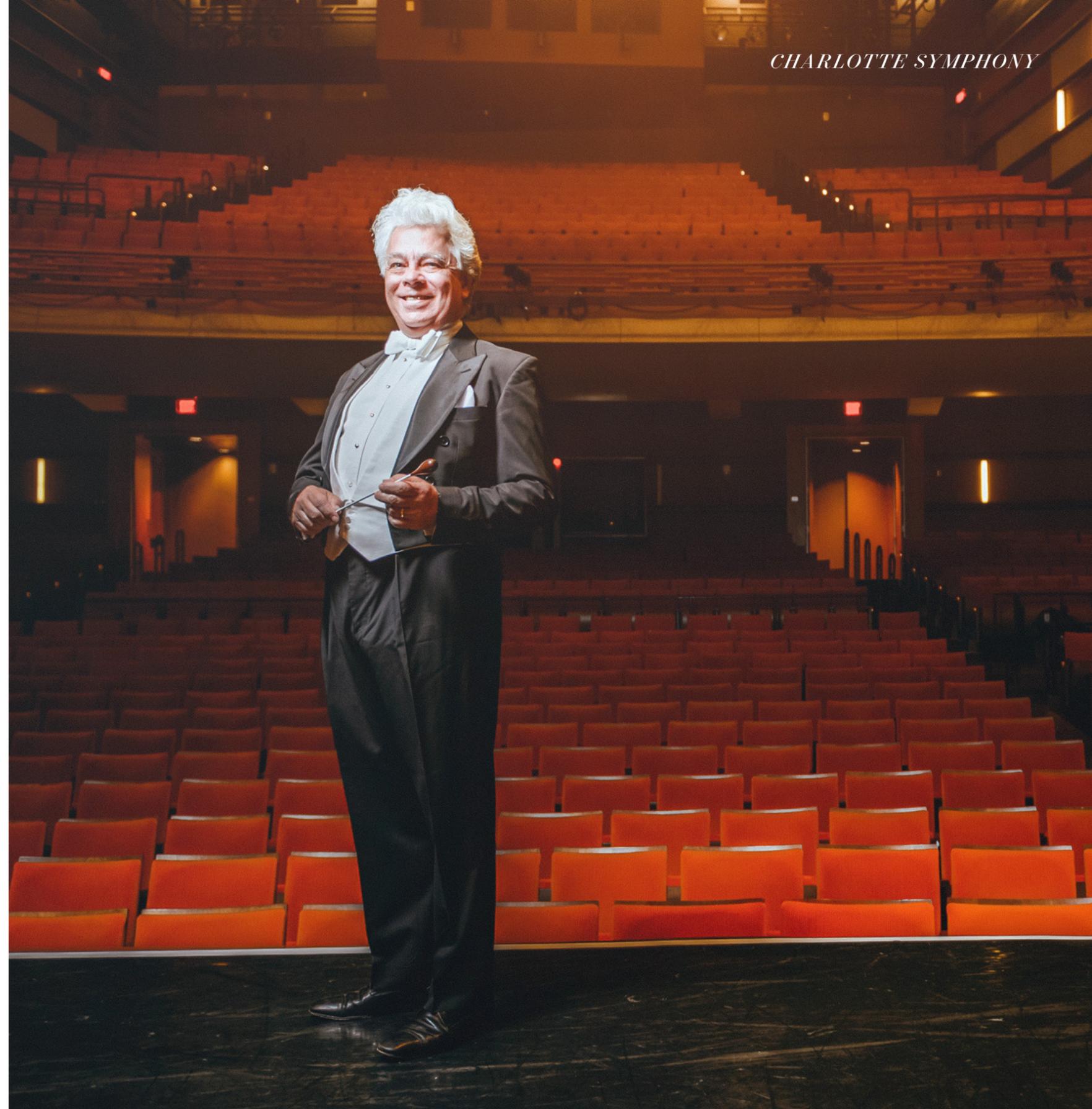
—
Built in 1915, the Duke Mansion is a historic hotel that was once home to James Buchanan Duke. On the grounds of this famous landmark are over four acres of serene gardens and lush greenery. Reconnect with nature and learn about Charlotte's rich history at the Duke Mansion; it's the perfect spot for a weekend staycation.





GET CULTURED

Arts and culture have the unique power of taking large historical events and social concepts and breaking them down into raw emotions that reach audiences on a personal level. Charlotte values this illumination and how it can enrich our intrinsic emotional landscapes that ultimately affect how we interact with the world. Get out there and turn that light on in your mind and heart. Experience the past and look into the future with music, dance, art, or even science. You may just leave a little more inspired than you came in, or, hopefully, a lot more.



CHARLOTTE BALLET



CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY

—

Founded in 1932, and led by renowned music director Christopher Warren-Green, the Charlotte Symphony employs 58 professional full-time orchestra musicians, serves two diverse youth orchestras, and also serves alongside many of the Charlotte community's ballet and opera productions. Core programming runs from September through May each season and includes Classical, Pops, Movie and Family series works. Charlotte Symphony is deeply committed to the notion that music should be accessible to all and experienced in many forms.

CHARLOTTE BALLET

—

Charlotte Ballet is known for its strong, artistic dancers and versatile repertoire of performances ranging from classical compositions such as *The Nutcracker* to bold and contemporary work. The company of 28 professional dancers annually presents six performance series in Charlotte typically spanning from October to May. Charlotte Ballet has received critical recognition nationally for excellence in programming, education and outreach and training. Charlotte Ballet's mission is to provide new, professional, and artistic programming to diverse audiences of Charlotte and across the nation.

BECHTLER MUSEUM

—

Located in the heart of Charlotte's Center City, the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art showcases a previously private collection of the Bechtler family from Zurich, Switzerland. Accumulated over 70 years, the collection features mid-20th-century modernism that was mostly unseen by an American audience including works by Miró, Giacometti, Calder and Warhol. The museum provides an experience that is inspiring, full of intellectual depth and historical significance.

LEVINE MUSEUM OF THE NEW SOUTH

—

The Levine Museum presents educational exhibitions, both interactive and immersive, covering the history and cultures of the New South from the end of the Civil War to today. Covering an array of history from cotton fields to skyscrapers, Levine takes museumgoers on a journey of stories of the transformation of our southern economy. Temporary exhibitions focus on a variety of stories about Charlotte today and in the past. Their exhibits and programs foster empathy, ignite dialogue, and inspire action.

SHAIN GALLERY

—

Located in the Myers Park neighborhood of Charlotte, Shain Gallery is known as one of the finest contemporary art providers in the Southeast. Established in 1998 and owned by Sybil Godwin, the gallery represents over forty different nationally and regionally acclaimed artists. The gallery offers consultation and acquisition assistance, an annual schedule of exhibitions, and submissions. Whether you're looking for inspiration or an experienced collector, Shain Gallery welcomes all.

LACA PROJECTS

Established in 2013, Latin American Contemporary Art (LaCa) Projects was created to provide a gateway for connecting contemporary Latin American artists. LaCa Project chose Charlotte as the perfect place to offer cross-cultural dialogue, provide a platform for artists and collectors, and foster an appreciation for the visually striking narrative of contemporary Latin American art. LaCa Projects mission is to serve as an influential local supporter of global culture, as well as a strong contributor to the arts at a national and international level.

CHARLOTTE MURALS

Charlotte's art scene is increasingly growing and the creative culture is expanding. Charlotte murals help bring local and national artists together. These large-scale paintings increase artist exposure and catch the eyes of businesses and developers. Due to the value of investing in public art, you'll see various places within the South End and Noda districts covered in murals as well as a number of apartment complexes. Murals are on the rise and there's more to come. Ranging from bright and colorful portraits to serious political commentary, Charlotte's murals represent the interconnectivity of the community and serves as a reminder of the different roles public art can serve.

MINT MUSEUM UPTOWN & RANDOLPH

Opened in 1936, the Mint Museum Randolph in Charlotte's Eastover neighborhood was North Carolina's first art museum. Within a beautiful park setting, these intimate galleries invite visitors to engage with the art of the ancient Americas, ceramics and decorative arts, and European and African art, among other collections. Filled with resources including a reference library of over 18,000 volumes, a theater for lectures and performances, the Mint Randolph is an oasis for your aesthetic and educational needs.

OPERA CAROLINA

Opera Carolina has served the Charlotte region for over 70 years. Opera Carolina's home base for Grand Opera performances is in the heart of Uptown Charlotte at the Belk and Knight Theaters. You can also spot Opera Carolina at local breweries, events, schools, churches and other out-of-the-box venues around the city. Committed to delivering Grand Opera performances throughout the community, Opera Carolinas is determined to enrich the lives of citizens from all walks of life and is deeply rooted in the history of the company. Performances occur throughout the year; Check the website for what's new and coming soon.

DISCOVERY PLACE

Discovery Place is a private non-profit education organization dedicated to inspiring exploration of science and the natural world through extraordinary exhibits and educational programs that inform, challenge and engage audiences of all ages. Through a network of four hands-on museums in three different cities including Discovery Place Science, Nature, Kids-Huntersville and Kids- Rockingham; Discovery Place aspires to be at the forefront of educational outreach programs and professional development for teachers. Discovery Place is a leader in STEM education in the Carolinas. Come explore at the Discovery Place!





TASTE SOME DELICIOUSNESS

One thing is clear: the people of Charlotte like to eat. With new and unique restaurants popping up nearly every day, the Queen City has earned its reputation as a foodie-friendly place to live. Whether you're looking for a casual spot to grab a quick bite, or a more elegant experience, Charlotte's got something for you. From classic Southern cuisine to new American fare, international delicacies, and so much more, the city is blazing the trail for diversity and flavor. Satisfy your palate at one of the many eateries listed below.





THE PICKLED PEACH

BOSSY BEULAH'S

—
Inspired by owner Jim Noble's beloved great aunt Beulah, Bossy Beulah's is serving up no-nonsense, southern-style chicken. According to Jim, Aunt Beulah was an expert at frying chicken and crafting sandwiches. Her original recipes are the inspiration behind Bossy's minimal but oh-so-satisfying menu.

THE PICKLED PEACH

—
With a menu based on seasonal produce, The Pickled Peach strives to provide its guests with only the freshest ingredients available. Try one of their many delicious gluten-free or vegetarian dishes. The eatery is perhaps best known for its nutritious, yet tasty, soups, salads, and sandwiches. Don't forget to grab a homemade cookie on your way out!

BATCHMAKER

—
From decadent s'mores brownies to homemade pop tarts and cakes, The Batchmaker is all about satisfying your sweet tooth. Stop by their cozy cafe, dubbed "The Batch House," for a delicious draft latte and dessert. Don't forget to bring your laptop! The cafe has a small work space equipped with comfy couches, armchairs, and tables.

PAPI QUESO

—
When it comes to grilled cheese, Papi Queso's got you covered. The food truck has been serving up delicious artisan grilled cheeses since 2012. The owners pride themselves on providing nostalgia with every, cheesy bite. Try their top-selling Pig Mac, a grilled cheese stuffed with mouthwatering pulled pork and mac and cheese. Papi Queso now has a stand alone eatery located in Optimist Hall.

JENI'S SPLENDID ICE CREAM

—
Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams is a popular ice creamery best known for unique and creative ice cream flavors. Using only high quality ingredients, Jeni's ice cream is all about creamy textures and out of this world flavor. Grab a scoop of their Goopy Butter Cake or their Sweet Cream Biscuits and Peach Jam. Jeni's also offers non-dairy options.

NOBLE SMOKE

—

The masterminds behind Noble Smoke know a thing or two about Southern-style barbeque. Each day they put over 1,200 pounds of pork, beef, and poultry over their hickory coals. Slowly the meat is smoked, creating a savory, melt-off-the-bone final product. Try their Prime Beef Brisket or their mouthwatering Cheshire Pork Ribs.

DUMPLING LADY

—

Zhang Qian, otherwise known as “The Dumpling Lady,” was born and raised in Chengdu, Sichuan, China. In 2015 she moved to Charlotte and opened up the now famous and much loved, The Dumpling Lady food truck. The eatery specializes in authentic, Szechuan-style dumplings, noodles, and Chinese street food. You can find The Dumpling Lady all over Charlotte in the truck, or at their stall in Optimist Hall.

STABLEHAND

—

Stablehand is a trendy cafe that recently opened up in Charlotte’s South End neighborhood. The shop offers craft coffee, courtesy of HEX Coffee, beer from local brewers, and natural wine. Stop by, hang out, and grab a savory brunch or some homemade baked goods.

BROOKS SANDWICH SHOP

—

Brooks Sandwich Shop is a family-run hot dog and hamburger joint that’s been serving the people of Charlotte for over 46 years. Twin brothers David and Scott Brooks opened the restaurant back in 1973. Over the years, many of the recipes on the menu have remained the same—they’re just that good. When you go, make sure to grab a cup of their savory, homemade chili to compliment your burger or hotdog.

ROOSTER’S WOOD FIRED KITCHEN

—

With two locations in Uptown and SouthPark, Roosters is a popular Charlotte eatery that specializes in locally sourced food. Grab an artisan pizza from their wood-fired oven, or a fresh salad with produce courtesy of local purveyors.





ACE NO. 3

ACE NO. 3

—
At Ace No. 3, simplicity is a priority. The counter-service burger joint, located in the Belmont neighborhood, is serving up classic American burgers, milkshakes, and craft beer. Try their signature Ace Burger, made with two thin beef patties, American cheese, onions, pickles, and their aptly named, “Comeback sauce.”

BAR-B-Q-KING

—
This drive-in BBQ joint is a West Charlotte classic. Opened in 1959, Bar-B-Q King feels straight out of a different era. Drive up to one of the many stalls, place your order, and have it delivered right to your car. We recommend their Pork Tray with a side of onion rings.

THE WATERMAN FISH BAR

—
The Waterman Fish Bar is a casual seafood joint located in the South End neighborhood. Grab a cocktail or craft beer at their rooftop bar, which features panoramic views of the city. Their menu features classic seafood dishes with a Southern spin. Best of all, the seafood is fresh, local, and sustainably sourced.

EIGHT AND SAND

—
Stop by Eight and Sand, a bakery with homemade artisan breads, tasty sandwiches, fresh salads, and specialty coffee drinks. Located directly on Charlotte’s Rail Trail, this cafe is the perfect spot for lunch. Try their signature Panko Chicken sandwich, made with fried NC chicken, red cabbage slaw, pickled onions, Duke’s mayo, and honey, all on a toasted brioche roll.

5 CHURCH

—
The uptown staple with Chef Jamie Lynch at the helm has been ahead of its time since the opening. The beautiful uptown space serves some of the tastiest food in the city and is always a popular place to grab a drink.

THE STANLEY

The Stanley is dining at its finest. Owned and operated by father-son duo Paul and Alex Verica, the restaurant is best known for its embrace of the farm to table movement. The pair focuses on fresh flavors and locally sourced ingredients. The menu is seasonal and subject to change at any given moment.

BEEF N' BOTTLE STEAKHOUSE

Beef N' Bottle is a traditional American steakhouse that has been serving the people of Charlotte for over 62 years. The restaurant boasts an extensive wine list, prime steak and seafood, and an intimate atmosphere perfect for a date night. You can find this local favorite on the outskirts of the South End neighborhood.

HARRIETT'S HAMBURGERS

From the masterminds behind Papi Queso and The Plaid Penguin, comes Harriett's Hamburgers, a retro-style sandwich shop specializing in simple, yet tasty burgers. The menu is meant to evoke nostalgia and is reminiscent of a 50s diner. Harriet's Hamburgers is set to open in Optimist Hall in the summer.

BABE & BUTCHER

Babe and Butcher specializes in high end charcuterie boards, crudité, fruit, and dessert platters. Run by husband and wife duo, Lindsay Anvik and Rob Henricks, the company is all about elevating the finger food game. They offer artistic, thoughtfully arranged platters filled with cured meats, soft and hard cheeses, crostini, fresh fruits, and flowers. You can buy an individual board or opt for their "Grazing Tables" option, which feeds up to 15.

CHARLOTTE'S SUSHI

There are too many good ones to mention here. If you're looking for Japanese food in the South End area, check out Yume, a restaurant that's all about traditional Japanese sushi and ramen. If you live in the SouthPark area, check out Yama, which features delicious yakitori, ramen dishes, and of course, more sushi. Then you have the classics like New Zealand Cafe and RuSans.





EMBRACE THE ATMOSPHERE

Many Charlotte restaurants have really stepped up their design and ambiance. Some have adopted an eclectic, trendy style while others are contemporary yet willfully embrace our city's history and culture. These restaurants pride themselves on creating a unique atmosphere for their guests, making their dining experiences one of a kind. For an elevated experience, dine in one of these beautiful spots.





UNDERCURRENT COFFEE

OPTIMIST HALL

HAYMAKER

Located on Romare Bearden Park, the Haymaker is serving farm fresh fare and fine cocktails. Led by Chef William Dissen and Chef de Cuisine Evan McHalfey, the kitchen reinterprets the bounty of the Piedmont area and Appalachia, both historic and present across our region. They work with ingredients indigenous to the area, crafting menus that are seasonal, healthy, and locally inspired.

OPTIMIST HALL

Located in Charlotte's NoDa District, the former textile mill from 1892 now serves as a 147,000-square-foot of gathering space populated with local restaurants, bars and retail shops. The mill maintains its character and historic presence through the hardwood floors, bricks and original light fixtures. Filled with communal style tables and seating offer an ample communistic space and the beautiful courtyard offers views of Uptown Charlotte. The mixed use space has something for everyone.

BARDO

Located in the South End district, Bardo is American small plate concept located in Charlotte's dynamic South End neighborhood. Bardo, (in Tibetan Buddhism) meaning a state of existence between death and rebirth has a very personal association to the chefs. Doing what they love, creating eloquent and curated cuisines encompasses the purpose behind Bardo. The menu consists of expert mixologist cocktails, various small plates and desserts, catering to both vegetarians and meat lovers alike. However, everything is subject to change based on seasonal items and change in culinary direction.

KINDRED

Kindred is a family-owned restaurant located in Davidson, NC. They've taken their experience from traveling the world and working at various fine dining restaurants to create their own unique perspective on contemporary cuisine. Kindred goes beyond great lengths to source products with integrity. The menu of small dishes creates a diverse, story-telling experience showcasing the collision of southern culture, world influences and fine dining with the best ingredients available. The seasons inspire their menu and the menu changes daily and is always evolving.

O-KU

Located in South End's Atherton Mill, O-Ku Sushi celebrates authentic Japanese cuisine with a menu that focuses on unique ingredients and sophisticated dining experiences. Reminiscent of traditional Japanese culture, O-Ku's menu features contemporary Japanese entrees, seasonal traditional sushi and a sophisticated range of specialty cocktails along with premium sake, wine and local beer options. Chef Michael Chanthavong showcases the freshest fish from both local sustainable sources and some of the finest markets around the world. From small plates to sushi masterpieces, O-Ku Sushi brings a unique dining experience to one of Charlotte's most thriving neighborhoods.

INDACO

Indaco, Italian for “indigo”, serves Italian cuisine located at Atherton Mill in Charlotte’s South End neighborhood. Executive chef Matthew Hoang brings hand-crafted wood-fired pizzas, pastas, house-made salami and cured sausages to the restaurant’s menu which can be enjoyed either family-style or a la carte. The wine list features affordable Italian selections, Gin & Tonic cocktails and fresh, house-made sodas. The open kitchen creates an inviting and pleasant atmosphere that allows guests to keep an eye on the action while enjoying the sights and smells of Italian cooking.

During warmer months, Indaco provides a 44-seat patio that invites guests to dine al fresco if they like.

LINK AND PIN

“Link & Pin” is an old railroad term linked to South End Charlotte’s railroad history of the mid 1800s. Due to the restaurant’s historic location and ironically close proximity to the Lynx Lightrail, restaurateur Rob Duckworth felt the name was a good fit. The restaurant is culinary-driven, bringing a modern twist to southern cuisine with food that’s chef-inspired but still approachable. The cozy bar provides an ideal setting for guests to gather and enjoy a glass of wine or a delicious cocktail mixed fresh by one of their expert mixologists.

LA BELLE HELENE

Located in the center of Uptown Charlotte, La Belle Helene brings a timeless take on French cuisine. Designed by renowned Parisian designer Richard Lafond, La Belle Helene pays homage to 19th century French architecture and the romantic Parisian skylight. The authentic brasserie-style menu created by Chef James Stouffer highlights delicious local ingredients and a wide selection of specialty beers, signature cocktails, and French wines. Both warm and inviting, La Belle Helene is the perfect destination in Charlotte for a French-inspired leisure lunch, special occasion, or spontaneous gathering with friends.

PEPPERVINE

Nestled in SouthPark Charlotte, Peppervine stands out as one of the few independent eateries in the area redefining American cuisine. The menu focuses on small, shareable plates. Award winning, executive chef Bill Green and his team offer a menu of heavily global influenced, progressive items and locally sourced ingredients, as well as extended tasting menus. The restaurant also features a worldly inspired wine list, crafted cocktails and non-alcoholic pairings. The atmosphere, dishes and service provides an incomparable, one-of-a-kind dining experience. The menu changes and items are in constant rotation to highlight seasonal and fresh ingredients.

STAGIONI

Located in Myers-Park, situated inside the 1926 Reynolds-Gourmajenko House, this “Toscana” style mansion delivers old-world charm to modern Italian cuisine. The Stagioni philosophy is about taking what’s on hand and elevating it. The menu stays true to that philosophy by using seasonal ingredients served alongside modern variations, showcasing wood-fired pizzas, fresh pasta, roasted meats and delicious desserts. People had gathered in the historic home for good food, fine wine, and great company and Stagioni is here to carry on that tradition.



FLOWER CHILD



FLOWER CHILD

Located in South End Charlotte, The Flower Child offers healthy and delicious food options to satisfy your tastebuds. Whether you're on the hunt for a nutritious bowl, some greens, a wrap or looking for a refreshing lemonade, kombucha or organic wine; they're here to take you to a happy place. At Flower Child, everything is made from scratch, using only locally sourced, fresh ingredients. Flower Child promises that whether you're vegetarian, vegan, or paleo, there's something here for everyone. They also happily cater to sugar-free, dairy-free and gluten-free diets without compromising flavor. They're on a simple, soul-satisfying mission to radiate positivity and provide delicious food that nourishes your mind, body and soul..

BARCELONA

Located in the South End district, Barcelona Wine Bar & Restaurant is a Spanish influenced tapas bar. The menu focuses on bringing simple and elegant flavors, seasonal ingredients, and specialties from Spain and the Mediterranean to your palate. Barcelona also offers an award-winning selection of wines from Spain and South America. The rustic small plate presentations, quality and sophistication Barcelona delivers is due to the fresh ingredients, attention to detail and the amazing talent of the chefs.

GOODYEAR HOUSE

Brought to life by an 1900s NoDa mill home, The Goodyear House reflects historic aesthetic through both atmosphere and offering delicious twists to traditional Southern flavors. The menu, from Chef Chris Coleman, is both inviting and sophisticated. The chefs use simple and complex flavors with elevated touches. The Goodyear House's top priority is sourcing fresh ingredients from local farmers, of which some are even listed on the menu. The Goodyear House is a place for everyone to enjoy good food in a comfortable atmosphere.

VANA

Vana, created by the talented team behind Bardo, will be a new and more casual restaurant taking root in South End. Similar to Bardo, the kitchen will be the major focal feature in the restaurant, creating an inviting ambience for you to embrace the smells and witness the action. Vana will have more rustic food and approachable items featuring small plates, shareable meals, and enticing desserts. Vana's new approach is to be laid back and family-friendly. As for drinks, no need to worry because their expert Bardo mixologist, Amanda Britton, will oversee the cocktail menu at Vana as well.

FAHRENHEIT

Fahrenheit is situated in the heart of Uptown Charlotte, above the Skye Condos at 222 South Caldwell Street on the 21st Floor. Owner and chef, Rocco Whalen's restaurant delivers worldly inspired, new twists on American cuisine featuring unique and delicious options such as Charlotte fries, Fried Chicken Steam Buns, and Pimento Tots. The wine list is extensive, beers are local and cocktails are creatively designed. Fahrenheit's upscale dining is unparalleled, providing views of Charlotte's beautiful skyline from every table. Due to its popularity, reservations are recommended.



DON'T MISS LAST CALL

The people of Charlotte know a thing or two about craft beer. And with local breweries opening up on every corner, it's no wonder. But besides beloved hoppy beverages, the Queen City is also known for unique bars, speakeasies, and wine lounges. Whether you're looking for a one-of-a-kind craft cocktail, a classic glass of merlot, or a locally brewed pint, we've got you covered.



PROTAGONIST BEER



HABERDISH

Haberdish is best known for their crispy fried chicken, tasty seasonal veggies, and of course, their carefully curated cocktails and alcoholic punch. Try their Ginger and Spice Premium Old Fashioned, made with Maker's Mark private select bourbon, spiced ginger syrup, and topped with a caramelized orange.

PROTAGONIST BEER

Protagonist Beer is a nano brewery located in NoDa. It was created by childhood best friends, and beer enthusiasts, Ryan McKillen, Mike Salzarulo and Ryan Owens. Their mission is utilize the power of beer to create a social network of beer lovers, novice brewers, and curious drinkers alike. And with over 20 beers on tap, as well as beer cocktails, and wine, they're off to more than a good start.

IDLEWILD

Idlewild is a snug little cocktail lounge located in the heart of NoDa. The atmosphere is relaxed, casual, and welcoming—exactly what a bar should be. As for their drinks, Idlewild has no official menu. Tell the bartender about your taste preferences and what you're feeling on that particular day and they'll whip you up a custom cocktail. Of course, the bar is also equipped to make almost any classic drink you can imagine.

STOKE

Stoke is an upscale eatery with delicious Southern fare. But besides their artisanal offerings (they slice country ham in-house for their charcuterie boards), Stoke also is equipped with an impressive array of locally brewed beers, ciders, and craft cocktails. Their list of libations is long. Try their Flower in the Bramble, a refreshing drink made with North Carolina vodka, blackberry, lavender, and lemon.

CHARLOTTE BEER GARDEN

The Charlotte Beer Garden is any beer lover's dream. The bar is enormous, boasting three stories and an impressive 436 different types of beers on tap. According to the owners, the Beer Garden offers the "world's largest selection of draft beers." Their menu is always changing and evolving, allowing customers to try unique drafts from all over the world.

CORDIAL

—
Located on the eighth floor of the AC Hotel Charlotte in the SouthPark neighborhood, Cordial is a new rooftop bar serving up, you guessed it, cordials and cocktails. Though an opening date has not been set, the space will be able to serve up to 100 guests. As for the menu, Cordial will offer a mixture of signature drinks and classic cocktails.

KIKI & TATTOO

—
Kiki, with its in-house speakeasy Tattoo, is an art deco inspired bistro located in the trendy Plaza Midwood neighborhood. The restaurant was formerly a tattoo studio, hence Tattoo's name. Kiki & Tattoo are both stylish spots serving up Greek wines, champagne, classic and craft cocktails. The menus differ from one another so you can feel like you're bar hopping by simply walking down the hall.

DAVIDSON WINE COMPANY

—
The Davidson Wine Company is owned and operated by former lawyer Lindsey Williams. After realizing her deep appreciation for wine, Lindsey set off to create a place that could offer locally made, affordable vino. The Davidson Wine Company sources their grapes globally, allowing them to make over 50 different types of unique wines. They offer popular wines such as Merlots and Chardonnays, as well as harder to find wines like Pinotages and Barolos.

THE CRUNKLETON

—
With a carefully curated selection of liquor, The Crunkleton aims to take signature cocktails to a whole new level. Their staff has been expertly trained in the art of mixology. Whether you're looking for a classic Old Fashioned or a bottle of your favorite brew, The Crunkleton will serve it in style.

BILLY SUNDAY

—
Located in Optimist Hall, Billy Sunday is a stylish bar putting a twist on your average cocktail. What makes this bar so unique, is that every ingredient that goes into their drinks is homemade; from their hand-carved ice to syrups, tonics, and bitters they make in house. This trendy spot is sure to inspire.





THE 100 THINGS YOU'VE GOT TO DO IN CHARLOTTE.

Index

5CHURCH	57	FAHRENHEIT	69	PANTHERS GAMES	12
ACE NO. 3	57	FLOWERCHILD	69	PAPI QUESO	53
ALOHA PADDLE SPORTS	21	GOODYEAR HOUSE	69	PENINSULA YACHT CLUB	22
ANNE SPRINGS CLOSE GREENWAY	38	GOPRO MOTORPLEX	15	PEPPERVINE	66
BABE & BUTCHER	58	HABERDISH	75	PINHOUSE	15
BAR-B-Q-KING	57	HARRIETT'S HAMBURGERS	58	PROTAGONIST BEER	75
BARCELONA	69	HAYMAKER	65	QUEEN'SLANDING	22
BARDO	65	HELIVENTURES	11	QUEEN'S CUP STEEPLECHASE	11
BARRY'S BOOTCAMP	29	HILLIARD STUDIO METHOD	29	ROOFTOP POOLS	30
BATCHMAKER	53	HORNET'S GAMES	15	ROOSTER'S WOOD FIRED KITCHEN	54
BECHTLER MUSEUM	45	IDLEWILD	75	SALT ROOM AT TRIT-CARLTON	29
BEEF N' BOTTLE STEAKHOUSE	58	INDACO	66	SEALIFE AQUARIUM	12
BILLY SUNDAY	76	JEN'S SPLENDID ICE CREAM	53	SHAINGALLERY	45
BOSSY BEULAH'S	53	JETTON PARK	37	STABLEHAND	54
BROOKS SANDWICH SHOP	54	KIK & TATTOO	76	STAGIONI	66
BURN BOOTCAMP	30	KINDRED	65	STOKE	75
CAROLINA BALLOONFEST	12	KNIGHTS BASEBALL	12	SWIMMING AT RAMSEY CREEK	22
CAROLINA GRACE	21	LA BELLE HELENE	66	THE BALLANTYNE HOTEL	30
CAROWINDS	15	LACA PROJECT	46	THE CRUNKLETON	76
CHARLOTTE BALLET	45	LAKE NORMAN SAILING	21	THE DUKEMANSION	38
CHARLOTTE BEER GARDEN	75	LAKE NORMAN STATE PARK	37	THE FILLMORE	12
CHARLOTTE CYCLEBOATS	22	LATTA PLANTATION	38	THE IVEY'S	30
CHARLOTTE MURALS	46	LEVINE MUSEUM OF THE NEW SOUTH	45	THE PICKLED PEACH	53
CHARLOTTE SUSHI	58	LINK AND PIN	66	THE RAIL TRAIL	38
CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY	45	MCGILL ROSE GARDEN	38	THE STANLEY	58
CHECKERS HOCKEY	11	MINT MUSEUM UPTOWN & RANDOLPH	46	THE WATERMAN FISHBAR	57
COCACOLA 600	15	NASCAR HALL OF FAME	11	TROLLEY PUB CHARLOTTE	11
CORDIAL	76	NC YOGA BAR	29	UNCC BOTANICAL GARDENS	37
DANIEL STOWE BOTANICAL GARDENS	37	NOBLE SMOKE	54	USNWC	21
DAVIDSON WINE COMPANY	76	O-KU	65	VANA	69
DISCOVERY PLACE	46	OM YOGA LAKE WYLIE	30	WHAT'S UP WATERSPORTS	21
DUMPLING LADY	54	OPERA CAROLINA	46	WINGHAVEN	37
EIGHT AND SAND	57	OPTIMIST HALL	65	Y2 YOGA	29



QCEXCLUSIVE.COM | @QCEXCLUSIVE

