



style & design

THE COLUMN

AN
ARCHITECTURE
& CULTURE
travel guide

for
Charleston
CONNOISSEURS



A city of raw resplendent beauty with a rich repository of historically significant architecture and decorative arts, **CHARLESTON** has become the quintessential American getaway for curious travelers. A little jewel that looks like it has been painted in watercolor, the Historic District appears to have been plucked from the pages of a fairytale. *🌿*

SHE GUARDS HER CUSTOMS, BUILDINGS AND LAWS.
- MOTTO OF CHARLESTON SINCE 1783



Ornate wrought iron gates, doors encircled by plaster molding in the shape of a braided rope, tabby quoins, earthquake bolts—Charleston is a beguiling, many-layered beauty. The city sits on an innately walkable peninsula with long, unencumbered streets that run south to north across the Historic District, and exploring on foot is the best way to absorb the Old World splendor.

SEE & DO

The rare opportunity to slip behind garden gates and step inside some of the nation's most distinguished private residences makes the **Preservation Society of Charleston's annual Tours of Homes** (October 5 – 29) a must for preservationists, horticulturalists, designers, and visitors who merely want to wander through the grandeur of old Charleston.

This annual event canvases the gamut of Charleston's aesthete architecture, including resplendent harborside mansions, French Quarter pied-à-terres, South of Broad single homes, and reclaimed cotton warehouses; but the individual tours center on a specific downtown neighborhood, allowing guests to



meander from one adjacent home to the next at a comfortable pace. Docents share short biographies of each home's lineage, including a provenance of key furnishings, before guiding guests through stately drawing rooms, detached kitchen houses-turned-guest quarters, hidden cupolas, and more.



ARCHITECTURAL SPLENDOR IS ONE OF CHARLESTON'S GREATEST ASSETS. AN UNPARALLELED ARRAY OF GEORGIAN, FEDERAL, GREEK REVIVAL, ITALIANATE, AND VICTORIAN MANSIONS LINE THE PENINSULA. NOT TO BE MISSED: **THE NATHANIEL RUSSELL HOUSE**, ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST IMPORTANT NEOCLASSICAL DWELLINGS, A FASCINATING MANSION-TURNED-MUSEUM BUILT IN 1808.

SEE & DO

Discover unrivaled 18th-century Charlestonian grandeur at the **Nathaniel Russell House Museum** where the free-standing spiral staircase and exuberant wall colors are startling, particularly when you remember the home is more than two hundred years old. Love the dining room's bright turquoise? The exact hue can go home with you. It's part of the Colors of Historic Charleston Paint Palette.

▶ *51 Meeting Street*



COLONIAL

1600S – MID 1700S

The Old Exchange Building

▶ *122 East Bay*

GEORGIAN

1700 – 1780

The Heyward-Washington House

▶ *87 Church Street*

GREEK REVIVAL

1825 – 1860

Hibernian Hall

▶ *105 Meeting Street*

ITALIANATE

1840 – 1885

The Patrick O'Donnell House

▶ *21 King Street*





INSIDER SHOPPING TIPS

A selection of the city's most luxurious historic residences is chronicled in the pages of *Charleston Style Then and Now*, Susan Sully's hardcover ode to eccentric architecture, decorative arts, and garden designs. Available at **Historic Charleston Foundation's Flagship Store** inside the Charleston City Market. ▶ *Corner of Market & Meeting streets*



On the hunt for a taxidermied peacock? Make a beeline to see **John Pope**, the hilarious and high-energy purveyor of eclectic treasures. Pope holds court at his eponymous antiques shop although a sign on the door warns "by chance... or appointment."

▶ *180 King Street*

At **Fritz Porter**, the 6,500-square-foot bastion of design tucked inside a renovated 19th-century cigar factory, one-of-a-kind vintage finds are juxtaposed with contemporary selections. More than 30 antiques dealers and artisans are represented at this modern showroom.

▶ *701 East Bay Street*

Dapper gents will have a "regimental ball" with the selection of custom designed bowties, tortoiseshell spectacles, and jewelry-quality blazer buttons the family-owned **Ben Silver**.

▶ *149 King Street*

The success of Charleston's 19th-century merchants lives on in the spectacular homes they erected across the peninsula, an architectural legacy vividly displayed on Legare Street. Ready to relocate? One of Charleston's most historic mansions—a grand Legare Street estate—is on the market. The 17,142-square-foot Federal Style **Sword Gate House** was built in 1803 and was recently listed for sale. Asking price? **\$19.5 million.**



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WHERE TO STAY

In a city that emanates stately Georgian Era elegance, **Planters Inn** is no exception.

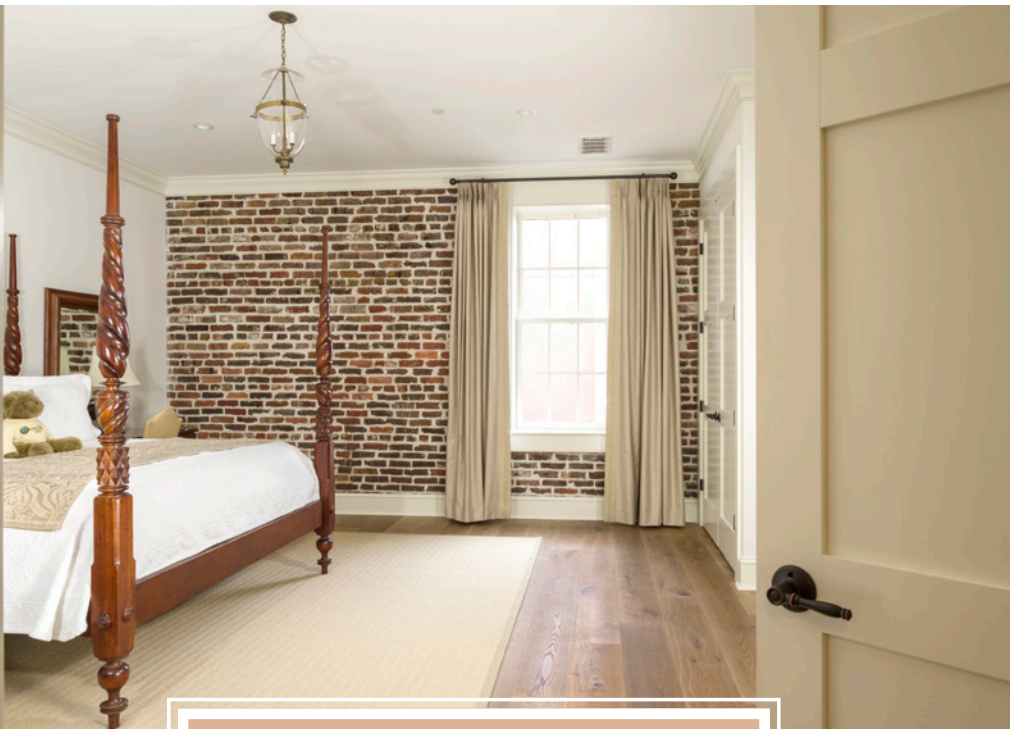
Tucked inside a historic architectural treasure that dates back to the mid-1800s, **Planters Inn** is steeped in Southern luxury. Guests checking into the boutique hotel are greeted by the inviting sight of an intimate parlor, a jewel-box-like setting similar to the splendid sitting rooms found in Charleston's exquisite Antebellum mansions. This sophisticated sense of arrival was the vision of the incomparable Amelia Handegan, the nationally-acclaimed designer whose coveted interiors are frequently featured in *Architectural Digest*, *Veranda*, and *House Beautiful*, among other esteemed publications.

Thanks to the recent transformation of its Piazza Wing, guests may experience a modern take on refined Charleston style with custom hardwood floors, original art, and gleaming quartz bathrooms in the new pied-à-terre style **Garden Courtyard Suites**. ▶ *112 N Market Street*



“ Whether your penchant is for 18th-century Georgian or 20th-century Colonial Revival styles, the city's Preservation Society offers upwards of 15 tours during their 41st annual fall event. For the full experience, the celebrated **Planters Inn** from Relais & Chateaux, located in one of the largest and most gorgeous historic districts in the nation, offers as elegant a launching pad as any property you'll visit.”

- DEPARTURES



[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)



SIP & SAVOR

The buttery aroma of freshly baked croissants will lead the way to **Café Framboise**, a small family-owned place serving crepes, pastries, quiche, and paninis.

▶ *159 Market Street*

Shrimp and grits is the official unofficial dish of the city. And the version served for breakfast at **Hominy Grill** is widely considered one of the best.

▶ *207 Rutledge Avenue*

Experience a taste of the city's unique architecture along with a delicious lunch at **Cru**, a small-but-lively café tucked inside a 18th-century Charleston house.

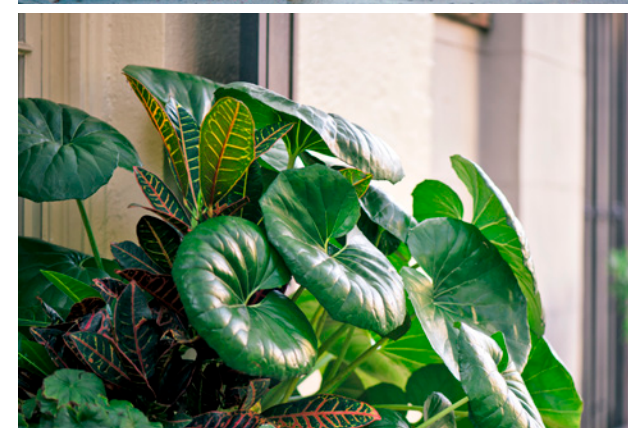
▶ *18 Pinckney Street*

With its proximity to South of Broad mansions, **Gaulart & Malicet** is a good place to stop for lunch while exploring the Historic District.

▶ *98 Broad Street Street*

A perennial favorite of locals and visitors alike, **Hank's Seafood Restaurant** dishes up classic Charleston recipes like Seafood a la Wando and oyster stew.

▶ *10 Hayne Street*



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WORTH SAVORING

Acclaimed designer **Amelia Handegan's** chic imprint on **PENINSULA GRILL** is unmistakable, and the décor she conceived for the dining room continues to draw praise for its timelessness. Likened to a swanky 1940s supper club, the dining room walls are enveloped in velvet in oyster tones, the floors are woven seagrass, and the custom chandeliers were inspired by sketches she made while touring Venice. The effect is elegant and inviting, the perfect embodiment of the entire Peninsula Grill experience.

▶ *112 North Market Street*

A photograph of a grand, curved room with peach-colored walls and a decorative frieze. The room features a blue chaise longue, a harp, a piano, and a fireplace. A white box with the text "CLICK HERE TO BOOK" is overlaid on the image.

CLICK HERE TO BOOK

ENJOY

AN
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