

*There is*  
SOMETHING  
SPECIAL *about*  
CHARLESTON  
*that*  
STIRS THE  
HEART.

# ROMANTIC RENDEZVOUS



Seen from the air, **CHARLESTON**—surrounded by long, slender islands and miles of undulating coastline, appears rather unassuming. Apart from the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge, with its soaring spires and cables as thick as telephone poles, it is a low-lying city. In the absence of modern skyscrapers, a handful of centuries-old church steeples punctuate the skyline, and a dense canopy of trees conceals many of the city's oldest buildings.

Charleston was never intended to be seen from the air. Suspended in a stratum of enchantment that measures no higher than four-stories above the sidewalk, the city is one of the most compactly magical and seductive places on the planet.

## CHECKING IN

[If you've ever wondered what it's like to stay in one of Charleston's exquisite private residences, check into a Governor's Suite at Planters Inn. With soaring ceilings, classic architectural elements, and a fireplace, this two-room jewel-box is the mirror image of a local mansion.](#)

In fact, once you step inside this 19th-century luxury-goods-emporium-turned-boutique-hotel, you'll feel like you've been transported to another era. Planters Inn was originally built in 1844 and today houses 64 elegantly-appointed guest rooms, each individually-decorated with a tasteful mix of antiques and Baker Historic Charleston Collection furnishings.

Start the day with a leisurely spin past resplendent the mansions surrounding the hotel. Thanks to the Grand Modell of 1680, a sophisticated urban development plan that established easy-to-navigate streets, wander freely without the fear of getting lost.



**THE GOVERNOR'S SUITE**  
Planters Inn recalls an era when a witty conversation was an artform and there wasn't a smart phone in sight. Unplug and reconnect with the one you love.

[CLICK HERE TO CHECK AVAILABILITY](#)



The pastries at **BAKEHOUSE** are tasty, and the sidewalk tables are a prime people watching spot.



► *160 East Bay Street*

**SEE & DO**

Home to some of the country’s oldest gardens, Charleston is a botanical wonderland, and there’s a special secret garden hidden in the Historic District. In 1942, Mrs. Emily Whaley enlisted landscape architect Loutrel W. Briggs to design a garden for her mid 18th century home. Together, they created a tranquil oasis as chronicled in the book *Mrs. Whaley and Her Charleston Garden*.

**INSIDER TIP:** While private, **Mrs. Whaley’s Garden** welcomes guests on weekends in exchange for a small donation charmingly slipped through the mail slot.

► *58 Church Street*



Venture to **Middleton Place**, a National Historic Landmark and home to America’s oldest landscaped gardens. North America’s first camellia plants—gifts from Andre Michaux, Royal Botanist to King Louis XVI—still bloom beautifully here. Spend the morning soaking in the majestic raw natural beauty of this sprawling estate overlooking the Ashley River.

► *4300 Ashley River Road*

Take a harbor cruise aboard the 84-foot wooden **Schooner Pride**. This is the perfect vantage to truly enjoy and appreciate the “Holy City” skyline, where church steeples—not skyscrapers—are the tallest structures in town. ► *360 Concord Street*



#### INSIDER SHOPPING TIPS

Tie one on with a locally handcrafted **Brackish** bowtie made from bobwhite quail, guinea hen, and rooster feathers at **Grady Ervin & Co.** Bill Murray, Charleston's favorite "local" celebrity, donned the peacock feather version for both the Academy Awards as well as George Clooney and Amal Alamuddin's Italian wedding.

▶ *313 King Street*

Pick up a splurge-worthy date night dress at the polished—and posh—**RTW** boutique where brands include Brunello Cucinelli, Chloe, The Row, Peter Cohen, and Dries Van Noten, among others.

▶ *186 King Street*

The unmistakable aroma of Diptyque candles and the melodic notes of Edith Piaf lend an air of wanderlust to **Alexandra Designs** where Louis XV down-filled French bergères are offered alongside dried butterflies and other charming curiosities. ▶ *156 King Street*

Put your best face forward with a little help from **Maya Chia**, the Charleston-based line of high-performance skincare products earning national press. Available at **Pink Dot Beauty Bar**. ▶ *227 Meeting Street*

#### KISS & MAKEUP

Indulge in personal rejuvenation before a fabulous date night.

**FOR HIM:** Play the role of a pampered gentleman at **Old South Barber Spa** where services include hot blade shaves, manicures, and massages. *10 State Street*

**FOR HER:** Schedule an up-do, airbrush makeup session, and lash enhancement at **Pink Dot Beauty Bar**. *227 Meeting Street*



#### SIP & SAVOR

Brunch at **Le Farfalle** is a lolling affair, particularly when seated on the patio.

▶ *15 Beaufain Street*

Cozy up at **167 Raw**, the minuscule oyster bar with seating for roughly a dozen couples. A chalkboard menu describes the daily shellfish offerings, and the lobster roll earns rave reviews.

▶ *289 East Bay Street*

**Bin 152**, an intimate wine bar offering 40 selections by the glass as well as 40 cheese and charcuterie options, is an ideal late-afternoon stop.

▶ *152 King Street*



Off the beaten path, **Trattoria Lucca** is where the locals go for tasty, authentic Italian fare. ▶ *41 Bogard Street*

Simple, elegant, seasonal cuisine at **FIG** earned Chef Lata the 2009 James Beard Best Chef Southeast Award. ▶ *232 Meeting Street*

# MOONLIT EVENINGS

A genuinely romantic evening should pull out all the stops—sumptuous cuisine, beautiful surroundings, and a touch of magic.

## SIP & SAVOR

At **PENINSULA GRILL**, the crown jewel of Charleston's dining scene, a cherished tradition takes place every evening at dusk: A gentleman emerges from the restaurant and lights each carriage lantern by hand until the courtyard is aglow. Palmetto trees are illuminated, and tea lights flicker in this magical twilight tableau.

Inside, the dining room is beautifully appointed with velvet-lined walls and custom chandeliers, an intimate setting for the classic American cuisine with a hint of Southern tradition prepared by co-Executive Chefs Graham Dailey and Ramon Taimanglo. The extensive wine cellar includes more than 400 selections, and the famous 12-layer Ultimate Coconut Cake has appeared continuously on the menu since Valentine's Day 1997.

► *112 North Market Street*



“

Located in the Planters Inn, **Peninsula Grill** has the sophisticated feel of an urban eatery without losing sight of its Southern charm. The menu is inventive, offering boldly flavored dishes spiced up with Lowcountry accents like collard greens, hushpuppies, grits and black-eyed peas. There's also a champagne bar menu of decadent little treats like oysters, lobster, foie gras, caviar and duck pâté.

— **FORBES TRAVEL GUIDE**

▶ *112 North Market Street*

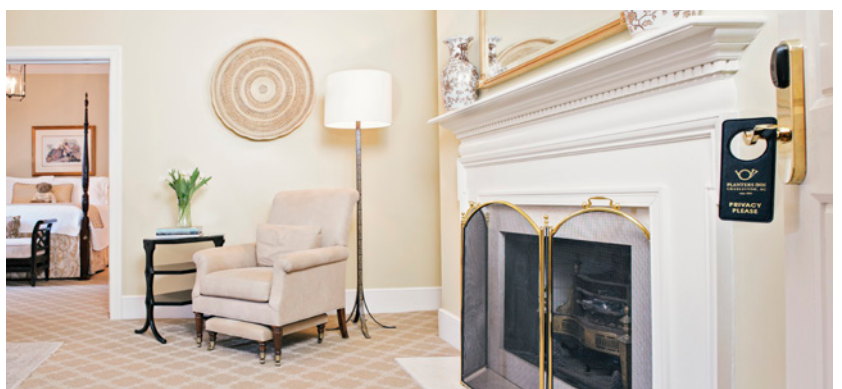
# ROMANTIC RENDEZVOUS



SPARK  
SOMETHING  
SPECIAL  
WITH  
SOMEONE  
SPECIAL.

TAKE THE FIRST STEP  
IN PLANNING YOUR  
ROMANTIC GETAWAY.

CLICK HERE TO BOOK  
YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS.



BOOK ONLINE: [PLANTERSINN.COM](http://PLANTERSINN.COM) | BOOK BY PHONE: (843) 722-2345