

STEAL AWAY

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From idyllic inns to candlelit dining, turn up the heat this winter at these two Carolina coastal getaways. Whether you're looking for the chance to wind down or to cozy up with your favorite traveling companion, Beaufort and Charleston each offer Southern charm—and plenty of seaside spots to toast your romance.

BEAUFORT

It's not winter in Beaufort, S.C. It's oyster season. When the temperatures began to dip in this historic Lowcountry town and the marsh grasses turn rusty red, the briny oysters keep locals outside, harvesting the delicacy from the tidal marshes and gathering in backyards or at community festivals for a classic Beaufort oyster roast.

Beaufort loves tradition and you'd be hard-pressed to find one more delicious than gathering around the fire pit while oysters steam under a cover of burlap, waiting for that first taste of ocean and winter—with drawn butter or cocktail sauce. But don't worry: If you don't time your visit to the town that Coastal Living recently named the country's happiest seaside spot for one of the public oyster roasts, you can start your own oyster tradition in style and warmth at one of the city's many seafood restaurants.

At Breakwater Restaurant and Bar (843-379-0052; breakwatersc.com) on Cataract Street, the oysters are Southern fried. Tapas restaurant Emily's (843-522-1866; emilysrestaurantandtapas-bar.com) broils the oysters in classic Rockefeller and Casino style and less classic Morgan style with bacon and Swiss. Bay Street's Plums (843-525-1946; plumsrestaurant.com) serves them straight up, on the half shell.

The elegant Beaufort Inn (888-522-0250; beaufortinn.com) is a cozy home base for your romantic oyster season weekend in Beaufort. The beautiful fireplaces in the inn's most coveted suites are only decorative—winter in Beaufort rarely gets cold enough for a roaring fire—but the clawfoot soaking tubs and enormous four-poster beds are a perfect way to warm up after a tour through town.

Explore 300 years of history from the Civil War era to the Hollywood era (more than a dozen movies have been filmed in Beaufort) by horse-drawn buggy. Southurn Rose Buggy Tour (843-524-2900; southurnrose.com) offers an hour-long tour of town, year-round, departing from Waterfront Park. Blankets included. Or experience modern Beaufort on a walking tour of the city's thriving arts scene: More than a dozen galleries dot the Bay Street area.

Lowcountry gourmet markets like SuZara's Kitchen (843-379-2160; suzaraskitchen.com) and Low Country Produce (843-322-1900; lowcountryproduce.com) offer a taste of Beaufort to take home, but nothing can capture the place and the season like your memory of that fresh Beaufort oyster. —April White





CHARLESTON

It's one of the country's most romantic cities. It's easy to see why, really. After all, once you begin strolling hand in hand by oversized pillared porches and onto centuries-old cobblestone walkways between the Palmetto-lined streets, there's a good chance you'll find yourselves alone—no screaming kids, no deadlines. Just you. It's here, in these quiet pockets of this richly historic city that couples steal kisses, sneak glimpses of secret gardens, and cuddle closer to read one of many placards on buildings describing the property's history.

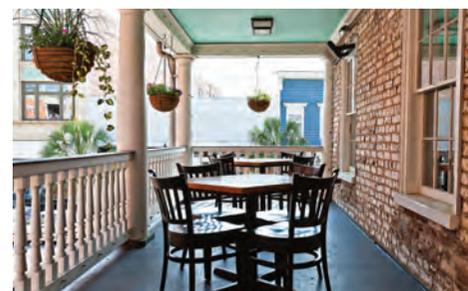
To get a true taste of Charleston's epicurean revolution led by several James Beard award-winning chefs and restaurants, reserve a table at Fish (www.fishrestaurantcharleston.com). Located on Upper King Street, an area of the city that's seeing a rebirth of great shopping and even better food, Fish has been a staple this end of town for more than a decade. Cozy banquettes give way to candlelit tables in this restored circa-1837 building where you'll nosh on French- and Asian-inspired dishes (the modern take on the dim sum—the duck confit with truffled goat cheese can't be missed—is outstanding).

A wholly different romantic evening can be had at Circa 1866 (www.circa1866.com), located in the historic Wentworth Mansion (www.wentworthmansion.com). This carriage home-turned-stunning restaurant boasts a five-course

chef's tasting menu that is quite possibly the best in the South. Since 2001, Chef Marc Collins has crafted a menu that features traditional Lowcountry flavors complemented by modern additions. Tender antelope with sour cream and lime grits and delicately crisp avocado are outstanding.

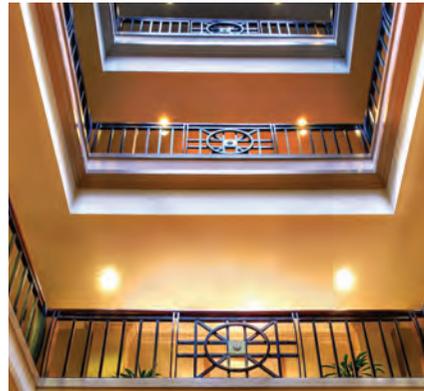
Though your days will be spent visiting the City Market or the popular Charleston Farmers Market in Marion Square, make time to grab a gourmet picnic basket from Caviar & Bananas (www.caviarandbananas.com) and head out to historic Drayton Hall (www.draytonhall.org). After you've spread out on one of the property's picnic tables and filled up on gourmet salads, charcuterie boards, and cheese plates, take a private tour of the one-time working rice plantation home, which was built before the American Revolution (and the only plantation home to have survived the Civil War), and is, to this day, the country's only un-restored historic property.

For a quiet place to lay your head, try the HarbourView Inn (www.harbourviewcharleston.com). Grab a glass of wine during the inn's complimentary evening happy hour and head to the rooftop terrace to unwind on one of the comfy sofas. The vantage point offers one of the best (and most expansive) views of the city and harbor, not to mention the perfect spot to toast a romance-filled weekend. —Blake Miller **SP**





Captions



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Stately Stone manor sits on 1.4 acres, designed by Meyer Greeson & built by Howey custom homes, offers over 6500 heated sq. ft. living space.



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BEST IN CLASS

CHARLOTTE'S BILL GOODWYN HAS PLANS FOR DIGITAL DISCOVERY IN SCHOOLS AROUND THE WORLD.

When Bill Goodwyn graduated from UNC Chapel Hill and took his first job out of college as a sales rep for Xerox, he never imagined he'd one day be one of the biggest power players in television today. It was a chance meeting with an executive recruiter that launched Goodwyn's career in cable TV back in 1983 and, today, the Charlotte resident is CEO of Distribution and Discovery Education at Discovery Channel. An integral force behind hit shows like "The Deadliest Catch" and award-winning series "Planet Earth," Goodwyn has taken on a relatively new endeavor: integrating digital learning into classrooms around the globe via Discovery Education. We talked with Goodwyn, who was recently inducted into the Broadcasting & Cable Hall of Fame, about why digital learning can solve educational woes, what his favorite Discovery Channel programs are, and what the channel has up its sleeve for 2014. —Blake Miller

WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE DISCOVERY CHANNEL THAT YOU THINK AUDIENCES LOVE?

When I got into TV out of college, there was a channel for music with MTV, ESPN, CNN, HBO. When I sat across from John Hendricks [founder of Discovery Channel] I really believed that TV can educate and inspire and bring the world to the home and consumers. [Discovery's] tagline at the time was "explore your world." I still believe that's true today. That's one of those brand definition and mission statements that will always be import to people's lives.

TELL ME ABOUT DISCOVER EDUCATION.

We're seeing this shift in K-12 classrooms from this static print world to a more engaging digital world. When students come into classrooms they want to be engaged. We started providing supplemental content [to school districts around the world]—videos, interactives, lesson plans, virtual labs—to help teachers engage students and accelerate students' achievements. We've taken digital content a step forward with digital textbooks. The cool thing is that it's replacing printed textbooks with a digital solution. Not only does it engage the kids—kids are digital learners—but you can also personalize and adapt the content to different learning styles, for example.

TELL ME ABOUT MOORESVILLE'S USE OF DISCOVERY'S DIGITAL LEARNING TECHNOLOGY. YOU MENTIONED THEY'RE THE POSTER CHILDREN FOR DIGITAL LEARNING.

In Mooresville, there's not a single printed textbook. Every kid has a Mac book. It's creating a new learning environment. They've trained all of their instructors, and they have enrolled the parents and business community so they have a learning environment using technology to inspire, connect, and engage. Mooresville is a showplace of how to put together a digital learning space.

WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME OF DISCOVERY'S MOST IMPORTANT PROGRAMS IN TERMS OF EDUCATING AUDIENCES?

I think people remember "Planet Earth" as a spectacular series because you were able to see nature in a manner that you've never been able to see before. It's timeless. A recent show called "The Presidents' Gatekeepers" featured all of the chiefs of staff of the last eight presidents. It really opened up how important that role is to the President. Another show recently aired on the Challenger disaster and a show back in the late '80s called "Ivory Wars" on the dangers African elephants were facing because the demand for ivory was outstanding.

WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE DISCOVERY PROGRAMS?

"North America" was a fantastic series. "Planet Earth" will always be one of my favorites. "The Deadliest Catch," I am an avid viewer of that. "HD Atlas" looked at wonderful countries all over the world. We were the first company to launch a full high-definition cable network. You got to see the beauty of the world up close in HD. HD really made content come alive.

WHAT'S COMING UP IN 2014 FOR DISCOVERY CHANNEL?

We're debuting a series called "The West," produced by Robert Redford's Sundance Productions. It chronicles the 40-year period in America just after Civil War to just after the turn of the century.