

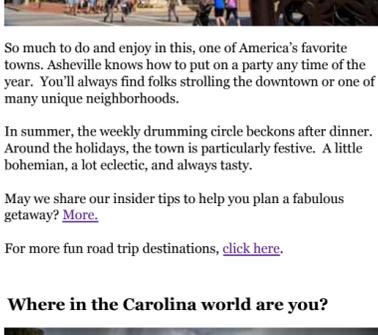


January 12, 2017 Below: Go home again; Ravages of war; Go Wild; Digital impressionism; Grab a walking stick; Ravages of war; Start your Engines; School daze; Pass the popcorn; Hog wild; Award-winning care; Winter wine.

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Take a Road Trip to Asheville



So much to do and enjoy in this, one of America's favorite towns. Asheville knows how to put on a party any time of the year. You'll always find folks strolling the downtown or one of many unique neighborhoods.

In summer, the weekly drumming circle beckons after dinner. Around the holidays, the town is particularly festive. A little bohemian, a lot eclectic, and always tasty.

May we share our insider tips to help you plan a fabulous getaway? [More.](#)

For more fun road trip destinations, [click here.](#)



Where in the Carolina world are you?



Believed to be one of the first temple churches built in the United States, this is hallowed ground. First constructed in 1753 and destroyed more than once, it's been left in this state since 1865. You can wander around the property and find persons of note buried in the small cemetery. [Where are you?](#)

Carolina Home Grown



Harry Lauder's walking stick (*Corylus avellana 'Contorta'*). This bizarre-looking small tree or large thicket-forming shrub looks its best after it sheds its leaves.

Behold the Walking Stick

by Dr. Robert Polomski

Some shrubs and trees that have shed their leaves look forlorn and miserable in winter. However, there is an exception: Harry Lauder's walking stick (*Corylus avellana 'Contorta'*). This bizarre-looking small tree or large thicket-forming shrub looks its best after it sheds its leaves.



Harry Lauder's walking stick produces an assortment of twisted, curly twigs and dangling male flowers called catkins that creates a spectacular come-outside-and-look sight. This living sculpture becomes even more sublime with every passing year.

Harry Lauder's walking stick was discovered by Victorian gardener Canon Ellacombe growing in a hedgerow around 1863 near Frocester, in Gloucester, England. Apparently it was a "sport" or mutation of the European filbert (*C. avellana*), which is cultivated for its delicious nuts.

The twisted, misshapen twigs were not named after a famous contortionist, as you would assume, but in honor of the Scottish entertainer, Harry Lauder (1870-1950). Actually, it was named after Sir Lauder's twisted walking stick, his companion on stage as this Scottish baritone sang ballads and comic songs.

Despite its English roots, Harry Lauder's walking stick performs well in the Carolinas. Expect it to grow to 10 ft. high and wide. Because 'Harry Lauder' is almost always grafted on European filbert understock, it suckers heavily. The suckers should be promptly removed at the base to prevent the slower-growing scion from being crowded out by the more vigorous understock.

Although Harry Lauder does not have any edible nuts, it acts like a magnet to attract inquisitive neighbors and passersby. Harry Lauder's walking stick will get people talking.

OTHER CAROLINA GROWN PLANTS



Visit your favorite garden center or nursery now when the figs are fruiting. Let your palette decide which variety deserves to be in your landscape.

Learn more about Carolina gardening from Dr. Polomski's new book, [Carolinas Month by Month Gardening](#). Available wherever books are sold.

Photos: Dr. Robert Polomski

Tragedies of War



The Battle of Elizabeth City

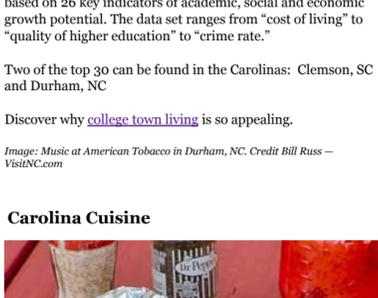
It's a story of battles, burnings, executions, guerrilla forces and occupations. This beautiful eastern North Carolina city has lots of Civil War history and a trail that shows visitors what happened and when.

Part of the national Civil War Trails program, the "Elizabeth City Civil War Trails Tour" weaves together the history of Union occupation in Elizabeth City through real-life accounts. Pick up a copy of the Elizabeth City Civil War Trail Markers Tour brochure at the Visitors Bureau. Then view six markers (within walking distance of the downtown area) that cover events from 1862-1863.

Elizabeth City is just an hour from North Carolina's Outer Banks. It's on the Intracoastal Waterway with access via the Pasquotank River and Historic Dismal Swamp Canal.

[More info.](#)

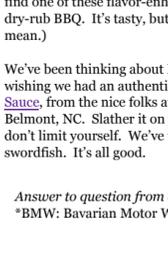
Go Wild!



Southeastern Wildlife Exposition

February 17-19, 2017 | Charleston, SC

You need no special reason to visit Charleston. The city blossoms year round with attractions and some of the best restaurants in the world. In February, there's another reason and that's the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition, which attracts thousands and has for years.



Sure it's about the animals, but often in very creative ways. Fine artists are featured, and exhibitions of birds of prey in flight, fly fishing demos, and much more.

Through the Certified South Carolina/Fresh on the Menu programs, some of Charleston's finest chefs will be conducting cooking demonstrations, and a wide variety of fresh, local products will be available.

One of the most educational and entertaining shows during SEWE, the Center for Birds of Prey will be conducting free flight demonstrations in the arena at Marion Square.

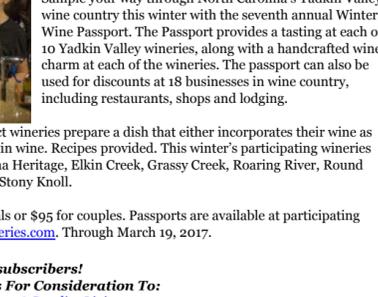
Visitors have options for VIP programs, an investment decoy auction, and more special events. Approximately 40,000 visitors will see more than 500 artists, exhibitors and wildlife experts from around the world.

Begin in 1982, its mission is to contribute to the local economy while promoting wildlife and nature conservation and preservation.

[Southeastern Wildlife Exposition](#)

More about [Charleston.](#)

Back to School



Best College Towns found in the Carolinas.

Personal-finance website [WalletHub](#) conducted an in-depth analysis of 2016's Best & Worst College Towns & Cities in America.

To help college students evaluate their future home for the next several years, WalletHub's analysts compared 415 U.S. cities based on 26 key indicators of academic, social and economic growth potential. The data set ranges from "cost of living" to "quality of higher education" to "crime rate."

Two of the top 30 can be found in the Carolinas: Clemson, SC and Durham, NC

Discover why [college town living](#) is so appealing.

Image: Music at American Tobacco in Durham, NC. Credit Bill Russ - VisitNC.com

Carolina Cuisine



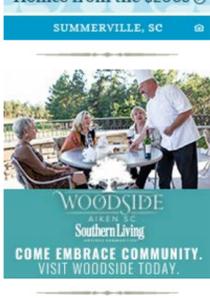
In Praise of Barbecue

Vinegar, ketchup, mustard, or some combination. Depending on your location in the Carolinas, you can walk into a local restaurant that specializes in meat cooked long and slow and find one of these flavor-enhancers. (Don't even talk about dry-rub BBQ. It's tasty, but it's not ours, if you know what I mean.)

We've been thinking about Eastern NC vinegar-based sauce and wishing we had an authentic recipe. Here it is: [Vinegar Q Sauce](#), from the nice folks at Peace N Hominy Q Shack, in Belmont, NC. Slather it on your pork for an intense flavor, but don't limit yourself. We've tried it on chicken and even a grilled swordfish. It's all good.

Answer to question from article in this Compass:

*BMW: Bavarian Motor Works



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South Carolina Just right.

Great Winter Wonders

Hello,

No matter where you live, the Carolina life and adventures await folks like you.

Yes, winter is here, too, but without the deep-freeze temperatures and frostbitten fingers I felt growing up in Minnesota and working in Chicago and Manhattan. Snow forts and ice hockey were thrilling - as a child!

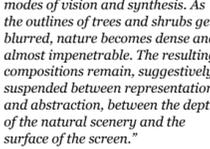
We say, focus on sunnier thoughts. Golf, beach, tennis and trail conditions here invite us outdoors, with seasonally attractive prices. Expect to pay less and get more as you tour the land of "smiling faces" and "beautiful places."

Watch for an abundance of new discoveries on the new CarolinaLiving.com, including town profiles road trips, and current tax advantages, all guaranteed to make your life happier (and easier on the pocketbook). Still true. South Carolina tax burden remains ranked 50th lowest in the USA. NC comes in a touch higher. Another reason to keep the Carolinas on your radar.

Our 2017 wish for you: Good health and abundant prosperity. Happy travels around the Carolinas! Finding what feeds your soul.

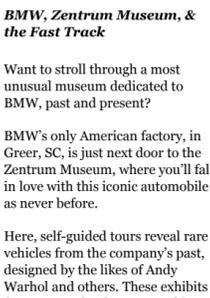
Leyla & Patrick Mason
Co-Founders
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Showcasing Carolina Life & Adventures

P.S. Register here for the new and free CarolinaLiving.com Guide, then take a tour around our new website. Tell us what you think. We'd love your feedback.



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Quayola: Pleasant Places



NC Museum of Art

March 18 - August 13, 2017

Inspired by the work of Vincent van Gogh, U.K.-based artist Quayola traveled to Provence, France, 125 years after Van Gogh famously painted there. As a nod to that painter's expressionist style, Quayola's own Provence landscapes morph from realistic images of windblown trees to abstracted scenes of color and texture, as the natural forms begin to bleed into one another in swirls of disintegrating pixels. Simultaneously, the audio of rustling leaves and wind becomes distorted and abstracted.

The artist writes: "Through the misuse of images - analysis and manipulation algorithms, Pleasant Places challenges the photographic image and proposes alternative modes of vision and synthesis. As the outlines of trees and shrubs get blurred, nature becomes dense and almost impenetrable. The resulting compositions remain, suggestively, suspended between representation and abstraction, between the depth of the natural scenery and the surface of the screen."

[ncartmuseum.org](#)
More about [Raleigh.](#)

Image: Quayola, Pleasant Places (still frame), 2015, single-channel video projection, dimensions variable, 28 min., Collection of Allen G. Thomas Jr., image courtesy of the artist, © 2015 Quayola

For the love of the car



BMW, Zentrum Museum, & the Fast Track

Want to stroll through a most unusual museum dedicated to BMW, past and present?

BMW's only American factory, in Greer, SC, is just next door to the Zentrum Museum, where you'll fall in love with this iconic automobile as never before.

Here, self-guided tours reveal rare vehicles from the company's past, designed by the likes of Andy Warhol and others. These exhibits feature cars that have starred in James Bond™ movies, won championship races, and inspired generations of fans.

Want more wow? [Sign up](#) for their performance driving classes. They'll cost you, but for aficionados, it will be the time of your life.

The Zentrum is open Monday-Friday, from 9:30am to 5:30pm.

***Do you know?** What does BMW stand for? Answer at the bottom of the newsletter.

The New Guide is here!



Updated town information, six fun new Carolina Adventures, and one heck of a good-looking feature showcasing gardens. Order yours today.

[Click here](#) for the official hold-in-your-hand Guide to Carolina lifestyle fun and adventure trips, plus real estate tips, tax & cost-of-living advantages, retirement opportunities and town profiles.

Just share your dream goals and we'll help lead you to smart Carolina life and times.

Facebook

What movies have you seen over the holidays?

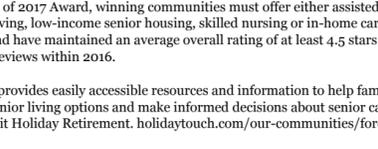
La La Land
Collateral Beauty
Manchester By The Sea
Rogue One: A Star Wars Story

Share your favorites with your facebook friends at CarolinaLiving.com. We've got popcorn, a diet coke, and a darkened theatre on our minds. Let's go to the movies.

Note: Manchester By The Sea is trending up with our colleagues. Please share with us on [Facebook](#).

Heading your way

- Let's Take a [Road Trip!](#)
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Timely Events & Promotions
Planning a trip? Looking for fun & deals?



Holiday Retirement Wins Award

Forest Pines, a Holiday Retirement community in the Forest Acres area of Columbia, SC, was recently recognized by SeniorAdvisor.com as part of the "Best of 2017 Awards."

The senior living community was honored by the largest ratings and reviews site for senior care and services for receiving consistently high ratings from residents and their families throughout 2016.

To qualify for a Best of 2017 Award, winning communities must offer either assisted living, Alzheimer's care, independent living, low-income senior housing, skilled nursing or in-home care in the United States or Canada, and have maintained an average overall rating of at least 4.5 stars and have received three or more new reviews within 2016.

SeniorAdvisor.com provides easily accessible resources and information to help families educate themselves about senior living options and make informed decisions about senior care. Call 803.252-3444 or visit [Holiday Retirement](#). [holidaytouch.com/our-communities/forest-pines](#).



Get Your Passport

Sample your way through North Carolina's Yadkin Valley wine country this winter with the seventh annual Winter Wine Passport. The Passport provides a tasting at each of 10 Yadkin Valley wineries, along with a handcrafted wine charm at each of the wineries. The passport can also be used for discounts at 18 businesses in wine country, including restaurants, shops and lodging.

During food-and-wine weekends, select wineries prepare a dish that either incorporates their wine as an ingredient or pairs well with a certain wine. Recipes provided. This winter's participating wineries are: Adagio, Brushy Mountain, Carolina Heritage, Elkin Creek, Grassy Creek, Roaring River, Round Peak, Skull Camp, Slightly Askew and Stony Knoll.

The passport price is \$55 for individuals or \$95 for couples. Passports are available at participating wineries and online at [www.SurryWineries.com](#). Through March 19, 2017.

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