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Learn about the best North Carolina and South Carolina adventures, destinations, attractions and communities. Visit and explore!

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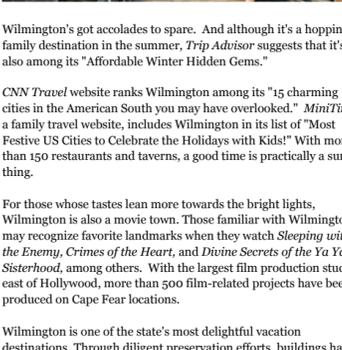


January 24, 2019 Below: On the Boardwalk; A Queen of a Party; Your Daily Round; Business Beacons; Mama, that's Hot! All Love; Joye in Aiken; One Smokin Appetizer; Discover Myrtle Beach; Explore Wild Dunes.

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Take A Road Trip to Wilmington



Wilmington's got accolades to spare. And although it's a hopping family destination in the summer, *Trip Advisor* suggests that it's also among its "Affordable Winter Hidden Gems."

CNN *Travel* website ranks Wilmington among its "15 charming cities in the American South you may have overlooked." *MiniTime*, a family travel website, includes Wilmington in its list of "Most Festive US Cities to Celebrate the Holidays with Kids!" With more than 150 restaurants and taverns, a good time is practically a sure thing.

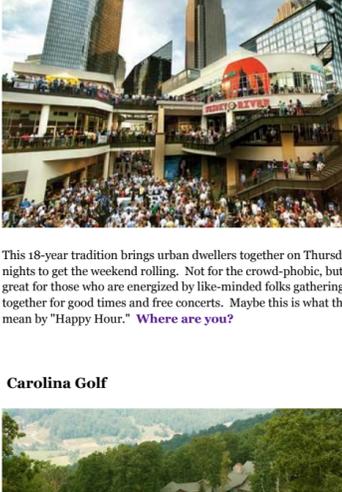
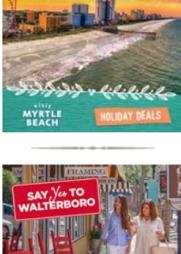
For those whose tastes lean more towards the bright lights, Wilmington is also a movie town. Those familiar with Wilmington may recognize favorite landmarks when they watch *Sleeping with the Enemy*, *Crimes of the Heart*, and *Divine Secrets of the Ya Ya Sisterhood*, among others. With the largest film production studio east of Hollywood, more than 500 film-related projects have been produced on Cape Fear locations.

Wilmington is one of the state's most delightful vacation destinations. Through diligent preservation efforts, buildings have been restored and maintained, creating one of the largest historic districts on the National Register of Historic Places, encompassing 230 blocks. Some of these elegant old structures are now B&Bs, where you can enjoy these gems from the past as their owners did two centuries ago.

Across the river from the waterfront, *Battleship North Carolina*, a decorated WWII battleship considered the high-tech marvel of its time, is permanently moored as a memorial and museum. The new SECU Memorial Walkway is a half-mile long, 10-foot wide timber walkway surrounding the battleship that is above the water line but below the main deck of the ship, enabling visitors to see the ship's entire hull for the first time.

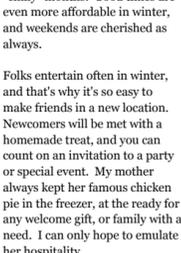
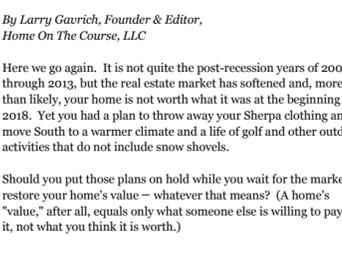
We're just getting started. **Discover more** about what to do and where to stay and dine in Wilmington.

Photo: **Dock and Dine.** Discover Southern coastal cuisine at The George on the Riverwalk in Wilmington. You can't beat the ambience as boats travel up and down the Cape Fear River. Brunch on weekends! Credit: VisitNC.com

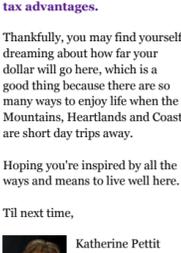


This 18-year tradition brings urban dwellers together on Thursday nights to get the weekend rolling. Not for the crowd-phobic, but great for those who are energized by like-minded folks gathering together for good times and free concerts. Maybe this is what they mean by "Happy Hour." **Where are you?**

Carolina Golf



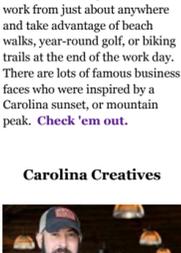
Famous Faces



Titans of Business

From Caleb Brabham, the founder of Pepsi, to Hilton Head Island genius Charles Fraser, to Chris Hughes, a Facebook founder, entrepreneurial spirit runs deep in these parts. Perhaps it's the business-friendly atmosphere, or access to global markets, but today, folks can work from just about anywhere and take advantage of beach walks, year-round golf, or biking trails at the end of the work day. There are lots of famous business faces who were inspired by a Carolina sunset, or mountain peak. **Check 'em out.**

Carolina Creatives



Foodie's Delight

Red Clay Hot Sauce

When you first open a bottle of Red Clay Hot Sauce, beware the pour. This nectar is meant to be used with gusto, so no tiny drops allowed. Our family enjoys it on just about anything – including Carolina wild shrimp and slow-grilled chicken.

Learn more about how this Lowcountry boy tinkered and developed a wonderful food enhancer (and fabulous gift option).

Get the Guide.



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Moving to The Carolinas: Snooze and Lose

By *Larry Gavrich, Founder & Editor, Home On The Course, LLC*

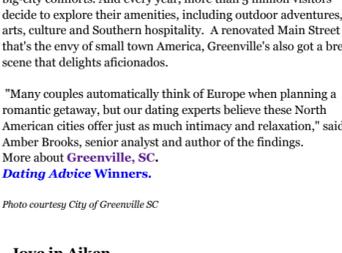
Here we go again. It is not quite the post-recession years of 2009 through 2013, but the real estate market has softened and, more than likely, your home is not worth what it was at the beginning of 2018. Yet you had a plan to throw away your Sherpa clothing and move South to a warmer climate and a life of golf and other outdoor activities that do not include snow shovels.

Should you put those plans on hold while you wait for the market to restore your home's value – whatever that means? (A home's "value" after all, equals only what someone else is willing to pay for it, not what you think it is worth.)

The answer is simple: Wait, and you will put both your dreams and your assets at risk. **Discover why** now may be the time.

Image: *Mountain Air, Burnsville, NC*
Photo Credit: *Mountain Air*

Your next Romantic Getaway.



When we discovered that Greenville, South Carolina, was on *Dating Advice* website's top ten list of romantic destinations in North America, we weren't surprised, but we were intrigued. How did they decide? Turns out, *Dating Advice* looked at news outlets, quality of hotels, bars, wineries parks and historic sites, and gathered stats from a variety of news outlets including *USA Today*, *Trip Advisor*, *Facebook* and more.

What sealed the deal? Greenville rests at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and offers an abundance of natural attractions and big-city comforts. And every year, more than 5 million visitors decide to explore their amenities, including outdoor adventures, arts, culture and Southern hospitality. A renovated Main Street draws the envy of small town America, Greenville's also got a brew scene that delights aficionados.

"Many couples automatically think of Europe when planning a romantic getaway, but our dating experts believe these North American cities offer just as much intimacy and relaxation," said Amber Brooks, senior analyst and author of the findings. **More about Greenville, SC. Dating Advice Winners.**

Photo courtesy City of Greenville SC

Joye in Aiken



Mark your calendars for the 2019 Performing Arts Festival and Outreach Program

March 8-15, 2019 | Aiken, SC

For eleven years, *Joye in Aiken* has brought world-class actors, dancers and musicians into Aiken to bring the excitement of learning and the pleasure of artistic discovery to area students. It's an exciting and rewarding journey, made even better because the public is invited to support the programs, enjoy the events (Jazz, Swing, Julliard artists, dancers and more) and know they are helping young people discover the arts.

Joye in Aiken is named for Joye Cottage, a beautiful Gilded Age mansion that serves as a place of retreat and for the artists who participate in the Festival and Outreach Program.

Ticket sales will open to the public on Friday February 1st. Info at [www.joyeinaiiken.com](#)
Artfully **Amazing Aiken.**

Photo: *The Joye of Jazz at The Willcox. By Brent Cline*

Carolina Cuisine



One Smokin' Trout

Because trout are plentiful in the Carolinas, and smoked trout is available year round, this is one great little appetizer to have on hand when friends drop in (or dinner is taking way too long to complete).

Smoked Trout Cheese Spread is easy, delicious, exotic and local (both!). You'll probably have ingredients on hand (but add a bit of Red Clay Hot Sauce if you like things spicy). Order some trout from Sunburst Trout Farms in Haywood County, NC to keep it local and you're good to go – whenever the doorbell rings.

Smoked Trout Cheese Spread recipe courtesy:
Carolina Catch: Cooking North Carolina Fish and Shellfish from Mountains to Coast by Debbie Moore

Enjoy Our Tasty Collection of Carolina Recipes:

- Breads | Beverages | Breakfast | Appetizers | Sides & Salads | Soup | Seafood | Meat and Poultry | Desserts

FACEBOOK

What movies have you seen over the holidays? *Crazy Rich Asians?* *The Upside?* What about *The Mule*, perhaps destined to be one of Clint Eastwood's last cinematic efforts? (Who remembers Rowdy Yates from *Rawhide*?)

We're hoping to find a sing-along version of *Bohemian Rhapsody*. I can nail "We are the Champions," or "We will Rock You," and probably make a fool of myself with my rendition of "Bohemian Rhapsody." **Share** your favorites with your facebook friends at Carolina Living. We've got popcorn, a diet coke, and a darkened theatre on our minds. Let's go to the movies.



Timely Events & Promotions
Planning a trip? Looking for fun & deals?

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BEACH!



Digital Detox Retreat

Located 30 minutes from downtown, Charleston's barrier island resort, **Wild Dunes Resort, a Destination Hotel**, encourages guests to treat themselves to the gift of self-care. With the newly-launched Digital Detox Retreat, visitors and locals alike are encouraged to put down their screens and enjoy the nature, beauty and tranquil atmosphere of the Charleston Lowcountry. This four-day, three-night retreat provides guests with a deeply immersive experience to nourish the body and soul. A collection of outdoor activities paired with relaxing spa treatments together create the perfect itinerary to relax and recharge.

Included are opportunities for: Bike rentals, fitness class, kayak excursions, golf or tennis clinics, massage, great food, beautiful surroundings. You won't miss the digital at all!

For more information or to book Wild Dunes Resort's Digital Detox Retreat package, please visit [www.wilddunes.com](#) or call 855-716-7479.

Photo courtesy Wild Dunes



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4201 Blossom Street Columbia, SC 29205-2850

Compiled by Katherine O. Pettit • Designed by Ann Dolin
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