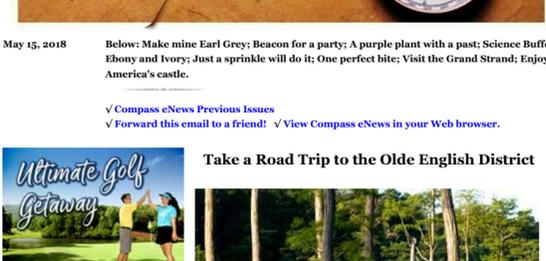


**Read about:** Visit the Grand Strand; Eggs Benedict Quail-style; Biltmore; Make mine Earl Grey; Beacon for a party; A purple plant with a past; Science Buffet; Ebony and Ivory; Just a sprinkle will do it. One perfect bite; Visit the Grand Strand; Enjoy America's castle.

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**May 15, 2018** Below: Make mine Earl Grey; Beacon for a party; A purple plant with a past; Science Buffet; Ebony and Ivory; Just a sprinkle will do it; One perfect bite; Visit the Grand Strand; Enjoy America's castle.

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### Take a Road Trip to the Olde English District



Imagine traveling south from Charlotte, NC to Columbia, SC. Interstate 77 is the most direct route from one big city to the other and you can make the trip by car in less than 90 minutes, but why rush?

Positioned on either side of the Interstate, The Olde English District encompasses seven centers in the geographical center of SC.

You can fly into Columbia or Charlotte, or if you're driving, build in a two-three day vacation stop on your way to the Grand Strand, the Blue Ridge Mountains, or points north and south.

The Olde English District is named for its abundance of English settlers and towns with English names (York, Lancaster, Chester, Chesterfield, etc.), and the number of battles fought here during the Revolutionary War.

History and military enthusiasts will love the area, but antiques lovers will be equally enthralled. And for outdoor recreation, it can't be beat. For all those reasons and many more which can be found in their 116-page visitors' brochure, the team at CarolinaLiving.com is sharing our insider tips about why this road trip is so much fun.

[Learn more.](#)  
[More Treasured Trips with Family and Friends.](#)

Photos: top, Cherru State Park; bottom, Bloomsbury Inn - Camden, SC

Take a Road Trip to the Olde English District links:  
<https://carolinainliving.com/road-trips/olde-english-district-sc>  
<https://carolinainliving.com/road-trips>

### Where in the Carolina World are You?



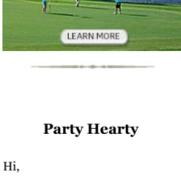
#### Still a Beacon of Light

It's been moved to the waterfront of this charming North Carolina town, where it welcomes visitors who are curious about its history, and delighted by its ambiance. Imagine the perfect wedding or renewal of vows, or perhaps a very grown-up birthday party. Later, the one-bustling port town invites a wander and great seafood near the docks.

[Where are you?](#)

Photo courtesy VisitNC.com

Where in the Carolina World are You? link:  
<https://carolinainliving.com/traveling/where-are-you/lighthouse-on-waterfront>



### Party Hearty

Hi,

Do you have a world famous Blue Crab Festival near you? If not, consider a quick trip to Little River, May 19-20, at the northern end of the Grand Strand. We attended several years ago, where I tasted my first soft-shelled crab. Delish! We're planning to make it again this year because, with or without a festival, Little River is about as fun and quirky as it gets!

So many festivals in the Carolinas. Clear evidence that we love any excuse to party and showcase our food, talent and passions.

And this is the time the parties come out to play. For the next six months you'll have hundreds of reasons to visit and enjoy these perfect-temperature days.

For many, being around so many friendly faces make a more permanent move front and center on the radar. We agree. The fact that your money goes further in the Carolinas is one mighty fine sweetener. Check out our [Financial Features](#) for tips.

See you at the waterfront!

'til next time.



Katherine Pettit  
Executive Editor  
CarolinaLiving.com  
Showcasing  
Carolina Life & Adventures

Party Hearty  
<https://carolinainliving.com/financial-matters>



### Tickle those Ivories



#### Top international artists and outstanding young pianists perform in South Carolina

World-renowned artists will highlight a week of piano performances during the Southeastern Piano Festival, June 17- 23 in Columbia, SC. Concerts take place at the University of South Carolina Koger Center for the Arts, Johnson Performance Hall, School of Music and Trinity Cathedral.

Each summer the Southeastern Piano Festival transforms the University of South Carolina School of Music and Columbia into a major cultural destination that draws in audiences and young piano talent from across the United States. The Southeastern Piano Festival embraces a multi-faceted personality: it is a high-level training platform for the young pianists, a presenter of new and world-renowned concert pianists and master teachers, an advocate for new piano music, and a vehicle for exploring different roles the piano plays on stage and beyond.

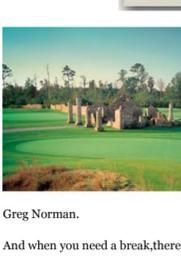
The Southeastern Piano Festival presents a perfect symbiosis of the new generation of pianists in search of inspiration and challenge and the world-class guest artists who provide that inspiration.

The attraction of the Festival lies in its versatility: be one a budding piano virtuoso, an educator, or a music aficionado, the Festival offers something for everyone who loves piano.

[Discover more](#) about the upcoming Annual Southeastern Piano Festival, including performances by young pianists.

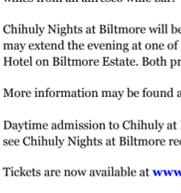
Tickle those Ivories link:  
<http://sepf.music.sc.edu/>

### Get the Guide.



Register and get the latest edition of [CarolinaLiving.com](#) Guide and the fun-filled [Compass eNews](#) twice a month. Learn all about the Carolinas thrills and fills.

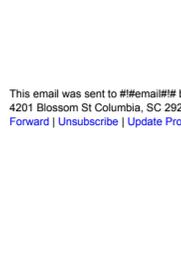
Get the Guide links:  
<https://carolinainliving.com/survey/>  
<https://carolinainliving.com/email-newsletter/>



### Where is the Carolinas calling you in 2018?

The western North Carolina Mountains coast? Sugar sandcastles? Spoleto Festival? Historic towns and plantations? Quirky attractions? What's your pick for downtime this summer? [Do share on Facebook.](#)

Facebook link:  
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<https://carolinainliving.com/culture/famous-carolina-faces>  
<https://carolinainliving.com/road-trips>

### Amethyst Falls

Written by Robert F. Polomski, Ph.D

Whenever I encounter an introverted gardener, I engage them in conversation with this question: *What wisteria do you recommend for my backyard?*

Expect to hear either one of these perspectives. On the one hand, the shy gardener will regale you with spoken images of the multitude of spectacular, sweetly scented chains of flowers borne by Japanese and Chinese wisterias. On the other hand, you may be scolded for considering Asian wisterias, since these deciduous vines escaped cultivation in the Southeast where they've become botanical pythons, strangling trees and occasionally felling them with their sheer weight.

Between these two opposing views lies the American wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*). This less famous (or infamous) vine is native from the lowland forests and streambanks of Virginia to Florida. Surprisingly, it was the first wisteria introduced to European gardens, even before the Asian wisterias made their debut.

American wisteria blooms about 3 weeks after the Asian types. Its pendulous, rounded clusters of pale lavender pea-like flowers emerge at the branch tips. 'Amethyst Falls,' a popular cultivar discovered as a stem mutation by plantsmen Bill and Bob Head in Seneca, SC, produces 4-6 in. long clusters of lavender-blue flowers in April and May on a relatively compact frame. It tends to re-bloom with greater vigor than the species in mid- and late summer. Other noteworthy cultivars of American wisteria include 'Longwood Purple,' which has deeper bluish-purple hues, and 'Nivea' with white flowers.

[Discover more glorious plants, trees and flowers here.](#)

### Carolina Home Grown



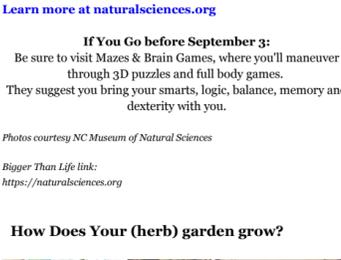
Learn more about Carolina gardening from Dr. Polomski's new book, *Carolinas Month by Month Gardening*.

Available wherever books are sold.

Photo by Robert F. Polomski, Ph.D

Carolina Home Grown link:  
<https://carolinainliving.com/lifestyle/garden-carolina-grown>

### Bigger Than Life



### The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences | Raleigh, NC

It's North Carolina's most visited museum and if you're in Raleigh you can't (and shouldn't) miss it! The SECU Daily Planet can be seen as you approach and that's one compelling sight. As a top museum in the Southeast, this gem has drawn plenty of comments on review sites.



Over and over, parents report that their children loved the experience, but they're coming back without the kids next time to enjoy the adult activities. Just as often, reviewers who visit without the little ones vow to return soon with their children. Sounds like a superb way to spend an afternoon, with or without the younger set. (I'm thinking it's a two-trip experience.)

So much is hands-on, for all ages and always, learning by doing is fun! Recommendations include the dinosaur exhibit and the butterfly room. Plenty of visitors love watching scientists at work. And the shows: the Science Buffet is a winner, with its lively presentation including animals, weird science facts, and small explosions (always a hit).

[Learn more at naturalsciences.org](#)

#### If You Go before September 3:

Be sure to visit Mazes & Brain Games, where you'll maneuver through 3D puzzles and full body games. They suggest you bring your smarts, logic, balance, memory and dexterity with you.

Photos courtesy NC Museum of Natural Sciences

Bigger Than Life link:  
<https://naturalsciences.org>

### How Does Your (herb) garden grow?



Did you ever see the Barefoot Contessa Show where Ina Garten tried two versions of recipes and asked her friends to pick their favorites? When herbs were added, those were the versions invariably chosen.

Herb plants are everywhere, in farmers markets and even grocery stores. Garden shops and gardening sites are happy to share tips, but think about how you like to cook before you head to the store.

#### Our favorites?

- ANNUALS:**  
**Basil** (A few fried basil leaves will add sophistication and spice to any dish)  
**Parsley** (They say it's an annual, but mine just wintered outdoors beautifully.)  
**Dill** (Plant early and harvest before the heat arrives.)  
**Cilantro** (Beware garden slugs. They love this plant!)

- PERENNIALS:**  
**Sage** (It's not just for Thanksgiving.)  
**Thyme** (Oh so perfect on a variety of dishes.)  
**Rosemary** (Mine is one huge plant, with stems strong enough to make aromatic skewers.)  
**Mint** (tiny strips in fresh fruit add quite a zing.)  
**Catnip** (My cat, Sarah, enjoys a nip every evening, then settles down in the pot for a 15-minute snooze.)  
**Chives** (Even onion haters enjoy a bit of snipped chives on salads and vegetables.)

There are others, of course, including sorrel in the mountains, and lemongrass (bring this one in when it gets cold). You'll be surprised what grows beautifully here, year round or for months at a time.

Image courtesy [www.WoodleyGardenCenter.com](http://www.WoodleyGardenCenter.com)

How Does Your (herb) garden grow? link:  
<https://www.WoodleyGardenCenter.com>

### Carolina Cuisine



Imagine a circle of Naan bread, topped with a spinach leaf, crisp crumble of panko, Hollandaise and a perfectly fried quail egg. It's most of pure heaven and most of it can be pre-assembled, which makes it easy to present at a party.

Real Hollandaise sauce is so rich it's not for everyday consumption, but as a splurge it can't be beat. And since a small dollop is all that's needed per bite, you'll have leftovers for topping veggies, or perhaps dipping a small spoon into the bowl after your guests depart. We'll never tell. **Quail Eggs Benedict.**

Enjoy Our Tasty Collection of Carolina [Recipes](#):

[Breads](#) | [Beverages](#) | [Breakfast](#) | [Appetizers](#) | [Sides & Salads](#) | [Soup](#) | [Seafood](#) | [Meat and Poultry](#) | [Desserts](#)

Carolina Cuisine links:  
<https://carolinainliving.com/recipes/breakfast/quail-eggs-benedict>  
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<https://carolinainliving.com/recipes/meat-and-poultry>  
<https://carolinainliving.com/recipes/desserts>

### NewsWorthy



### Myrtle Beach Golf is astonishing! Browse the best courses and make plans now for the tee times of your life.

Enjoy some of the world's most challenging golf courses in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Tee off on a variety of golf courses, each designed to protect the natural habitat and area wildlife. Technically challenging and aesthetically beautiful, you'll enjoy greens created by world-famous architects – including Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Robert Trent Jones, and Greg Norman.

And when you need a break, there's all that sun, sand and seafood!

[Visit Myrtle Beach](#)

<https://www.visitmyrtlebeach.com/things-to-do/golf/>



### Want to feast your eyes on remarkable Chihuly sculptures showcased in the garden? Here's how.

#### Chihuly Nights at Biltmore

During reservation-only Chihuly Nights at Biltmore, the artworks will be dramatically illuminated to showcase their colors and shapes. Guests will take in sunset views over the Blue Ridge Mountains; enjoy live music in the gardens; and choose from a selection of wines from an alfresco wine bar.

Chihuly Nights at Biltmore will be offered on select evenings throughout the exhibition's run. Guests may extend the evening to one of Biltmore's lodging properties – The Inn on Biltmore Estate or Village Hotel on Biltmore Estate. Both properties will offer special Chihuly-inspired stay packages.

More information may be found at [www.biltmore.com/stay](http://www.biltmore.com/stay)

Daytime admission to Chihuly at Biltmore is included in the general admission ticket price. Admission to see Chihuly Nights at Biltmore requires a separate ticket.

Tickets are now available at [www.biltmore.com/chihuly](http://www.biltmore.com/chihuly).

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