

HOLIDAY DOUBLE ISSUE

Southern Living®

DECEMBER 2023

A Christmas To Remember

195 Recipes and Ideas for a Joyful Season

The Southern Living Redbird Cake
PLUS
A Story by Fannie Flagg

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Decking the Halls With Magnolia

Stunning Vanilla Desserts

The Grand Magic of Biltmore

Local's Guide

SOUTH-
EAST



Hotels Worth the Trip

These boutique stays are much more than just places to rest your head

BY AMY YRAOLA CONRY DAVIS ILLUSTRATION BY KENDYLL HILLEGAS

Florida

MIAMI BEACH

The Betsy

Much like a home, this family-owned and -operated inn is shaped by the people who have passed through its doors. Speaking of loved ones, you'll likely be greeted upon arrival by the property's two "canine executive officers," Betsy and Rosa. An oasis for makers, this place celebrates art with a 24-hour library, jazz performances, and public art installations that are now well-recognized parts of the South Beach neighborhood. The Betsy even publishes an online journal that is inspired by the residencies they've hosted through their Writer's Room project. Get your creative juices flowing as you relax by the rooftop pool, join a sunrise yoga session, or browse one of several rotating photography exhibits. For a fun outing, take your lunch to go with a custom picnic basket.

Georgia

SAVANNAH

The Drayton Hotel

Located in the Historic District, The Drayton preserves memories of Savannah's architectural past. Owner Raghav Sapra wanted to bring the 1890s building into the 21st century while also respecting its roots and keeping the original Victorian structure intact. The result is a neighborhood gem that puts visitors in the thick of the action. It's minutes from The Olde Pink House, Leopold's, and City Market as well as River Street's bars and shops. Plan ahead, and reserve one of the package deals like the "Weekend Getaway" or "Stay, Play, Love." The Coffee Bar opens at 7 a.m., so you can rise and shine with a hot beverage or pastry. Don't forget to stop by St. Neo's Brasserie, a restaurant and raw bar that has some of the Lowcountry's best seafood, farm-fresh veggies, and desserts.

Tennessee

NASHVILLE

The Russell

"Stay here; change lives." That's The Russell's slogan, and it's not just lip service. This property, along with two others under parent company Mission Hotels, donates a portion of their proceeds to the Rooms for Rooms program. In simpler terms, the nights you book for yourself equate to showers, meals, and beds for local people experiencing homelessness. The hotel has only been in operation since 2019, but it's already making an impact and forging strong partnerships within the Music City community. Like its socially minded mission, the decor and design are also things of beauty. Relics from its days as a church, like stained glass windows and pews for headboards, further complement the building's charm. Chalk this one up as a comfortable place to unwind and do some good.