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CHARLESTON

AN INSIDER'S GUIDE

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INTERVIEWS

ICONIC LOCALS PORTRAY THE
HOLY CITY IN THEIR
OWN WORDS

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CROGHAN'S JEWEL BOX

The Ladies of Croghan's



A LOWER-KING-STREET fine jewelry and gift shop with a doorbell and buzzer entrance might give you every expectation of attitude, but once inside, you're treated like family. And it's family that keeps this 100-year-old landmark going strong--sisters Mariana Hay and Rhett Outten, and Mariana's two daughters, Kathleen and Mini Hay. They're dressed to the nines, they know why you're there before the door closes behind you, and they're responsible for half of Charleston's milestone-marking baubles. When locals say that Croghan's is an institution, what they're referring to is the Old Charleston charm preserved by the *ladies* of Croghan's.

TBLX: Why Charleston?

Rhett: Charleston has a mix of old and new, and traditional and modern all wrapped up in one. I appreciate the history, marvel over the beauty and enjoy being a part of this community.

Kathleen: I have always loved Charleston. After leaving for several years then coming back home, I love it even more. The energy here, the people, the scenery - it's like no other place on earth and we are so lucky to call Charleston home.

Mini: No matter where I go, I always like Charleston best; the people, the culture, architecture, the food, the art - it can't be beat.

TBLX: How is Charleston changing?

Kathleen: I love seeing all the new restaurants, hotels, and businesses opening here. There's always some new place to try and I love that. I've noticed when traveling that more and more people know of Charleston and always comment on how lucky we are to live here.

Mini: We are. And with all the attention we're getting, we are able to embrace our culture and city as it is and show our roots and heritage to visitors, instead of needing to become "Anywhere, USA" to keep up with the rest of country. I think because of the surge in tourism, we are able to hold on to our Charleston and share it with everyone, rather than morphing into something else.

TBLX: What is your favorite way to enjoy the city?

Mariana: I like to ride my bike and explore different neighborhoods. I really like the curve in Church Street, Stolls Alley, Philadelphia Alley and just riding around the Battery or through Hampton Park.

Rhett: For me, Charleston is a walking city. The view from

the top of the Cooper River Bridge takes my breath away, as does watching the tide come in or the moonrise on one of our beautiful barrier islands.

Kathleen: Yes - I love experiencing Charleston by water, either on a boat or at the beach. I find peace and so much beauty on the water.

TBLX: What is your favorite thing to do with friends visiting Charleston from out of town?

Rhett: Cocktails with a view on one of our rooftop bars.

Kathleen: Yes, definitely visit a rooftop bar, ride bikes around the city, visit a house museum, go on a boat ride, and go out for a meal...

Mariana: A boat ride in the harbor is a fun way to show our city to guests. We have an old, slow, Down Easter-type boat, so touring friends around Charleston usually takes the better part of the day, but it's perfect for good conversations with wine and cheese.

“With all the attention we’re getting, we are able to embrace our culture and city as it is and show our roots and heritage to visitors, instead of needing to become “Anywhere, USA.”

-Mini Hay

TBLX: What is something that people don't know about Charleston?

Kathleen: Charleston is called the Holy City because of our many churches. Take time to stop by each one you see, there are so many beautiful details in all of them.

Rhett: Charleston was founded on the prospect of religious freedom, and that spirit is still very much alive here. Where else can you find a Huguenot church, a Unitarian church, a Circular Congregation Church, the birthplace of the AME religion, a rich Jewish community...when Grace Episcopal Cathedral was being renovated and could not have Easter services, the synagogue around the corner opened their doors. That's special.

Mariana: Charleston truly is one of the friendliest and most welcoming cities in the world. Charleston has so many things to do, there is no reason to be bored. You finish one weekend and immediately start planning the next.



MADE IN CHARLESTON

ON TOP OF THE RICH HISTORY AND BEAUTIFUL SCENERY,

Charleston is a hotbed of creativity. It's a city filled with innovators and entrepreneurs -- passionate makers, craftsmen, and small business owners doing their own thing.

Some are dedicated to preserving traditions by passing recipes or methods down through generations, and others are focused on pushing the envelope and experimenting. It's so easy to get swept up into buying conventional souvenirs when you visit a new place, and sometimes that's fun, but here, we challenge you to shop small - seek out those extraordinary items that tell a story, and support the artisans that make this small city so vibrant and colorful.

BRACKISH BOWTIES

Beautiful pieces of wearable art, each made by hand using sustainably sourced feathers, including pheasant, guinea and quail varieties.

» Starting at \$195
brackishbowties.com



1. CHARLESTON ARTISAN CHEESEHOUSE

Battery Park Brie is their flagship cheese, which they describe as “a cross between a Brie cheese and a farm cheese,” lightly aged for a mild flavor, creamy with a firm and crumbly center.

» *Battery Park Brie, \$24*
charlestonartisancheesehouse.com

2. CIRSEA

Unexpected ice cream flavors that change seasonally, made by hand in Charleston, SC. It’s hard to pick a favorite, but toasted black sesame, lychee and strawberry goat cheese are standouts.

» *\$10 per pint*
cirsea.myshopify.com

3. CROGHAN’S JEWEL BOX

The Goldbug collection at Croghan’s Jewel Box is inspired by and named after the Edgar Allen Poe short story written when he spent time on Sullivan’s Island.

» *Croghan’s Goldbug Pin, \$70*
croghansjewelbox.com

4. CANNONBOROUGH BEVERAGE CO.

Fresh craft sodas made using seasonal, local, and all natural ingredients. There’s a cocktail recipe included on each bottle, so you can enjoy as-is or use to amp up drink offerings at your next party.

» *Raspberry Mint Cannonborough Craft Soda, \$30/12 pack*
cannonbevco.com

5. CANDY SHOP VINTAGE

The Charleston Rice Bead necklace from Candy Shop Vintage is a fun, vintage-inspired nod to Charleston’s port city heritage. Available in a range of colors, lengths and styles.

» *5’ Signature Charleston Rice Bead Necklace, \$65*
candyshopvintage.com

6. SUITE 33 BY EMILY DAWS

All textiles are inspired by Lowcountry life and each piece is made by hand. Perfect for travel.

» *Printed Travel Purse, \$36 each*
shopsuite33.co