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little town in the Lowcountry is becoming a city that never sleeps. There is no better reflection of this changing city than the Dewberry Charleston hotel in a 1930s federal office building. I used to drop my kids off for preschool at the Presbyterian church across the street, and I barely noticed the modernist Midcentury Modern structures that formed over Marion Square. For years, rankly residents wanted it replaced with something more traditional. But in the eyes of former Georgia Tech quarterback and real estate magnate John Dewberry, it was a thing of beauty. "Most people wanted me to tear it down," he said. And over coffee one morning in the lobby, which began welcoming guests two years ago, "But while a lot of people couldn't see it, a few of us could." Dewberry softened the building's façade with 35-year-old creeper myrtles, espaliered red maples, a walled garden, and gorgeous outdoor lighting that accentuates its vertical lines. More than any other hotel in town, the Dewberry is unapologetically modern, with Midcentury furniture that Dewberry and his wife, Jaime, have curated from auctions all over Europe. The brass bar in the lobby (which they call "The Living Room") is the heart of the hotel, always staffed by bartenders in white jackets who make a mean Old-Fashioned. If there's a better-looking bar anywhere in the South, I haven't seen it.

About a mile up the peninsula, the five-room 88 Cannon, the Pinckney House captures another side of the new Charleston. Modeled after other intimate properties in town, like Zero George and the Wentworth Mansion, the year-old hotel is set in a house—

**EVANS'S GUIDE TO CHARLESTON**

The editor of Southern Living and former Holy City resident shares his top picks on what to experience now.

**STAY**

**The Dewberry Charleston**
A hotel with Midcentury design america.com/dewberry-charleston.html (from 130). **Bill Cannon, the Pinckney House** Don't miss the nightly wine and cheese at this inn on Cannon Street. billcannon.com (from 156). **Wentworth Mansion** This downtown hotel is close to Charleston, with its Tiffany windows and evening Shelby service. wentworthmanor.com (from 160). **Zero George** A cluster of 1804 homes and carriage houses make up this hotel in Amosptown, amosptown.com (from 148).

**EAT**
**Butcher & Bee** Hottest small plates in town, this creative restaurant in Harlequin, butcherandbeeflow.com (from 149).

**Shop**
**Staple & Fancy** A selection of Southern staples for the home, stapleandfancy.com (from 161).

**THESE ONLY-IN-CHARLESTON SOUVENIRS ARE WORTH THE SPLURGE**

For the ultimate keepsake that celebrates heritage and craftsmanship, look to these skilled artisans.

Charleston has been exporting its culture via the products of metalsmiths and basket weavers for hundreds of years. Two of the artisan teams taking those traditions into the 21st century are Marianne "Miss" Hey and Glory Alston. Hey is the youngest designer at Charleston’s Jewell Box (charlestonjewellbox.com) a King Street institution. Her great-grandfather opened the shop in 1907. Looking to make her own mark, the 27-year-old took an unusual symbol—the palmetto bud, a.k.a., the humble cocklebur—and turned it into her signature item, placing it on charcuterie platters and delicate pendant. Her Gelidip collection has grown to 40 core designs, from 925 necklace to a 950 toe ring in Charleston’s City Market, 8th-generation basket weaver Glory Alston is also injecting a dose of fresh thinking into her family business, Bullish Sweetgrass Baskets (b影像scharlestonbasketco.com). From traditional H-handle baskets and trays to one-of-a-kind saddles, the pieces, which range from 925 to 950, stand out for their meticulous construction—no surprise since Alston began weaving at a teenager. He also launched Build Your Sweetgrass Basket app that lets customers design their own model and have Alston bring it to life.