

25 Best Restaurants in Charleston

Technically, Charleston is classified as a small city—but it's a mighty force on the nation's food scene. For years now it's known for its dynamic mix of offerings—classic Southern food, like Lowcountry cuisine and barbecue done at peak levels, alongside fresh Eastern seafood, and innovative kitchens with creative chefs who redefine what we think of as farm-to-table cooking. Sean Brock's vision for the new South at Husk Charleston makes stellar use of the region's ingredients, while at Fig, those seasonal ingredients and Southern classics are served in an upscale bistro setting. Don't worry—the city's top places for a burger, oysters, dessert, and fried chicken, too, are on our list. We've looked at all categories, neighborhoods (like the ever-popular downtown Charleston restaurants), as well as a mix of the old and the new, to create our list of the city's best places to eat. If we have one piece of advice, it's to come hungry.



RESTAURANT

Henrietta's →

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Henrietta's branches off the main lobby of The Dewberry, so technically it is a "hotel restaurant," but don't let that deter you. For breakfast, brunch, lunch, or dinner, this is a clean and minimalist take on a classic Parisian brasserie, but think of it as a refined French-Southern mashup, with impeccable French technique, and friendly Southern service. Given the city's French Huguenot-rich early beginnings, that's not such a stretch. You'll see familiar brasserie items on the menu, like escargot, charcuterie, French onion soup, and steak frites, with southern thrown into the mix: oysters, deviled eggs, boudin bites, and shrimp & grits.