SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

20 YEARS

taste of the south

AUTHENTICALLY SOUTHERN, ALWAYS DELICIOUS

64 Easy Recipes for Summer Celebrations

BRENDA GANTT'S *Best Ice Creams* page 26

Peach Cobbler Bars

page 34

5 Ways *with* Po' Boys
page 53

Spicy Fried Okra
page 94

Jalapeño-Bacon Pimiento Cheese
page 52

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DISPLAY UNTIL AUGUST 8, 2023

Cartersville, Georgia

BY DANIEL DUBUISSON

Get away to this charming and lively haven north of bustling Atlanta

WITH A POPULATION OF JUST OVER 20,000, Cartersville may sit in the shadow of the nearby Atlanta-Metro area, but in some ways it shines just as bright as its larger sister city. This charismatic and historic community has seen a recent surge in popularity as a culinary destination thanks to a thriving, vibrant downtown scene featuring a variety of restaurants, shops, and cultural attractions. It's also gained recognition for the region's rich history spanning back to when Native Americans originally inhabited the lands. The area that is now Cartersville was then settled by European Americans in the early 19th century and got its name from one of the first residents, Colonel Farish Carter, a veteran of the War of 1812.

Cartersville quickly became a major hub for the railroad industry. Several rail lines passed through the city, leading to exponential economic and population growth. During the Civil War, Cartersville was a strategic location coveted by both the Confederate and Union armies and saw a handful of battles fought in and around the growing city, including the Battle of Allatoona. After the war, Cartersville experienced another period of growth and prosperity, and in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the city became a manufacturing hub for textiles and other goods.

Today, downtown is still home to many original 19th century buildings, but most of them have transformed into popular dining destinations, like the one **Swheat Market Deli** calls home on Main Street. The deli's menu offers delicious sandwiches, soups, salads, and sides made with high-quality ingredients, while the market side sells specialty jams, sauces, and snacks along with a selection of craft beers and wines.

Across the street sits **Table 20**, serving its take on contemporary American cuisine in a comfortable and spacious dining room. Popular dishes include the mouthwatering Seared Duck Breast served with a smooth Sweet Potato Purée, the tender Pan-roasted Salmon with a Butternut Squash Risotto, and the Grilled Ribeye Steak with Truffle Fries and Bordelaise Sauce. Desserts like the Flourless Chocolate Cake and Apple Tarte Tatin also come highly recommended.

Modern, Southern meals are the name of the game a block away at the cozy, rustic **Appalachian Grill**. Locally sourced ingredients come together to create an extensive lineup of must-try dishes like Shrimp and Grits with Andouille Sausage, Golden-browned Fried Chicken, and Bacon-wrapped Meat Loaf. Casual options, like the beloved **4 Way Lunch**, are also abundant in town. The corner diner has been in operation for nearly a century and serves their fresh-to-order diner fare daily. Pick from iconic favorites like the classic double cheeseburger, the famous chili dog topped with mustard and onions, and the grilled pimiento cheese sandwich, but don't forget to treat yourself to one of their ultra-creamy milkshakes, too.

Ross' Diner is another laid-back Cartersville staple just around the corner. For almost eight decades, the family-owned spot has transported visitors back in time with their vintage décor and classic Southern comfort foods. Early risers can pick from breakfast standouts like fluffy biscuits smothered in savory sausage gravy and French toast while afternoon crowds are treated to hearty mains like the fan-favorite chili cheeseburger.

OPPOSITE PAGE Catch a sunset at Cartersville's nearby Lake Allatoona. **THIS PAGE** (Clockwise) Guests enjoying Ate Track Bar & Grill's eclectic atmosphere; delicious latte at Noble & Main Coffee Co; Ross' Diner at the heart of downtown Cartersville; historic 4 Way Lunch on Main Street; classic cars on display at the Savoy Automobile Museum; mouthwatering biscuits and gravy from Ross' Diner.

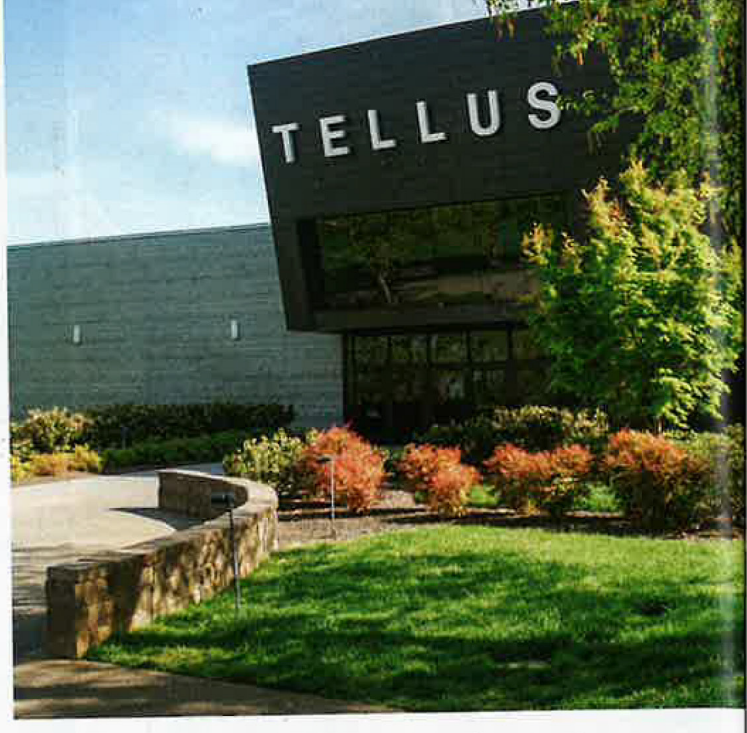
TALK OF THE SOUTH

Sips to Savor During Your Stay

DROWNED VALLEY BREWING COMPANY Drowned Valley offers a great selection of craft beers to sample. Each is brewed on-site, and their friendly staff will make you feel right at home while they answer any question you may have about their process. The taproom and outdoor patio's casual atmosphere gives visitors a relaxed environment to enjoy a pint while taking in the live music. With a constantly rotating menu of beers, there's always something new to try, too.

BIG DOOR VINEYARDS This award-winning winery and vineyard boasts an impressive selection of locally grown varietals and serves as a serene backdrop for a tranquil day of wine tasting. Sip on the bold red wines, crisp whites, or sweet and fruity dessert wines. The staff are knowledgeable, friendly, and pay attention to every detail of your experience. Pair your tasting with a delicious charcuterie board and see why it's become a must-try destination in the area.

QUALUSI VINEYARDS In the foothills of the Appalachians, Qualusi crafts their wines from the highest quality grapes, ensuring each pour is bursting with flavor and complexity. The team is eager to guide guests through their selection of reds, whites, and blends, but the real fun kicks off on select weekends when live music and food trucks arrive on site to further enhance your visit. Check *qualusivineyards.com* for a calendar of upcoming events.



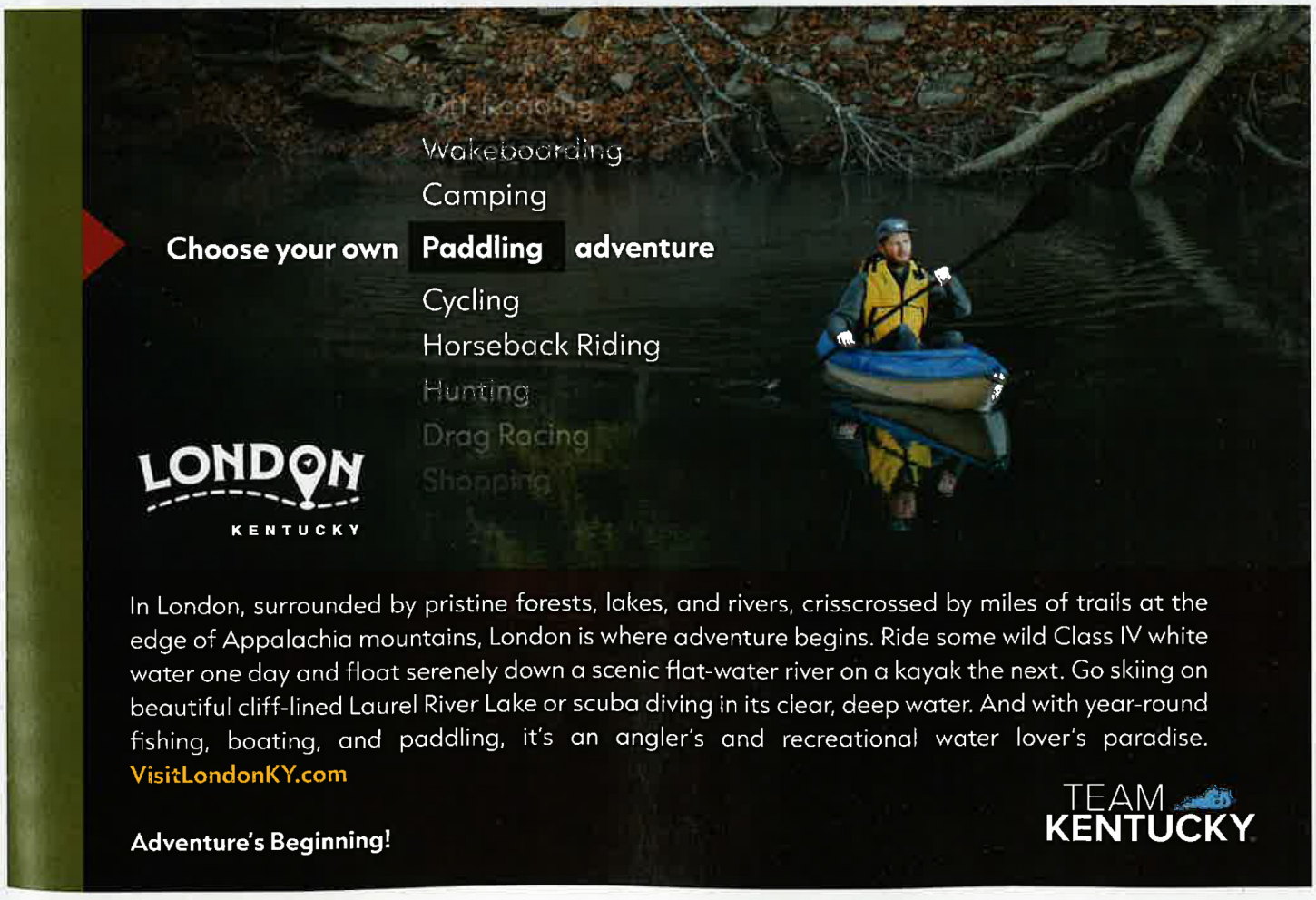
Steps away is **Ate Track Bar & Grill**, a vibrant sports bar with plenty of TVs broadcasting the latest games and events. The eclectic atmosphere makes it a popular pick among locals to unwind while enjoying a satisfying meal and a drink from their impressive drink menu. Across downtown, the aroma of handmade pizzas wafting from wood-fired ovens at **The Mule House Wood Fired Pizza** beckons guests in from its home along the western end of Main Street. A few recognizable pizzas, like the Margherita, the Mule-Rita, the Sausage and Pepper, and the BBQ Chicken, are among the most frequently chosen, but don't be afraid to create your own pie using their selection of unique toppings, such as goat cheese, roasted red peppers, and arugula, all of which pair perfectly with their crispy, chewy crusts.

Next door is **Noble and Main Coffee Co**, where expertly crafted artisan coffees or teas and Southern hospitality come together to create the ideal space to catch up with friends, people watch, or curl up with a good book. Just be sure to grab one of their freshly baked pastries to go with your sip of the day. After you've got your caffeine fix, make plans for dinner at **Scott's Walk-Up Bar-B-Q**. The unassuming walk-up window may not look like much, but their slow-cooked meats will have you drooling before you even place your order. From pulled pork to ribs to chicken, everything is cooked to perfection and served with a variety of delicious homemade sauces and noteworthy sides that complement the 'cue perfectly.

OPPOSITE PAGE Enjoy the artifacts at the Booth Western Art Museum. **THIS PAGE** Wine tastings at Qualusi Vineyards are always a hit with visitors; the Tellus Science Museum boasts countless immersive educational experiences.

When you've had your fill of all the fixin's, there's plenty else to do in and around Cartersville. There are more than a couple renowned museums, monuments, and experiences, and the **Bartow History Museum** is right at the heart of the city. Exhibits inside showcase a rich collection of artifacts and photographs that tell the story of the people and events that have shaped the history of Bartow County, from the first Native American tribes to the Civil War and beyond. A few doors down is the **Booth Western Art Museum**, an affiliate to the Smithsonian Institution. It's a tribute to the American West and celebration of the pioneers and cowboys who helped shape the nation's history, where visitors can experience the thrill of the Wild West through the museum's immersive exhibits, including a replica of a frontier town and a stagecoach ride.

Continue the immersive journey with a stop at **Tellus Science Museum**. Their knowledgeable team invites you to explore the wonders of science and technology guided by exhibits covering a broad range of topics, from astronomy and geology to chemistry and physics. Highlights include an extensive collection of minerals and gems, hands-on exhibits



5 MORE THINGS TO DO IN CATERSVILLE:

1. Terminus Wake Park on Lake Allatoona
2. Take a guided horseback ride at Barnsley Resort
3. Tour historic gardens at the Rose Lawn Museum
4. Explore Allatoona Pass Battlefield Park
5. Roam Cartersville's vibrant farmers' market

showcasing the laws of physics, and a state-of-the-art planetarium.

For the car enthusiast in Cartersville, there's something for you as well. The **Savoy Automobile Museum** is a true treasure trove with its stunning collection of vintage automobiles on display, ranging from pre-war classics to mid-century sports cars. The museum also features a vast collection of automotive memorabilia, including vintage gas pumps, signs, and even an old-fashioned diner.

When a change of pace is needed, get a breath of fresh air out at the **Etowah Indian Mounds**. Nestled in a nearby plain, they offer a fascinating glimpse into the rich history of the local Native American culture and feature six earthen mounds, including a large central one that was used for religious ceremonies and burials. Take a guided tour of the site, explore the ancient artifacts and exhibits, and learn about the daily lives of the people who once called the area home.

As the days in Cartersville come to an end, relax and recover from a full day of exploration at your choice of notable lodging options in the area. **Lake Allatoona Inn** is a charming bed-and-breakfast that offers a unique blend of history, luxury, and Southern hospitality. The inn's cozy rooms are adorned with vintage décor, and the wraparound porch offers picturesque views of the

surrounding landscape. Dig into a hearty Southern breakfast in the morning and relax in the cozy parlor or by the outdoor fire pit in the evening.

Barnsley Resort is a nearby escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. The resort sets itself apart with luxurious accommodations, an award-winning golf course, and world-class dining options while also making guests feel right at home. Take a leisurely stroll through the grounds and discover their stunning gardens or book a session at their contemporary spa. You certainly won't regret it.

Cartersville is a true hidden gem down South. From its commitment to history to its thriving food scene and scenic natural wonders, this burgeoning city has something for everyone.