



## Free Spirit | Cultural Cool | Beautiful Blue Ridge

Exhilarating outdoor explorations in a Blue Ridge paradise amidst seemingly never-ending vistas, profound cultural roots from literary giants to American royalty and inspired locals whose passion projects jump from pop-up kitchens to performance art. Asheville, N.C., has been a point of pilgrimage since the 1800s as a destination for inspiration, wellness, rejuvenation and self-expression. It doesn't take long to see why George W. Vanderbilt chose this Blue Ridge city for his greatest legacy, Biltmore.

## New Downtown Hotel Celebrates Asheville's History and Architecture Also Bring New Restaurants

**NOW OPEN:** Asheville's famed Art Deco skyline has gained a new icon and a four-star luxury property. **The Kimpton Hotel Arras**, opened October 2019, is a four-star 128-room luxury property with floor-to-ceiling windows offering views of downtown and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Set in the former BB&T Bank building, the tallest building in Western North Carolina, the Art Deco façade is a nod to Asheville's iconic architecture. In addition to one-of-a-kind commissioned pieces from nearly 20 local artisans and purveyors, the hotel also offers standout amenities and restaurants. ► **Hotel Arras** also offers an extensive food focus with two restaurants by local chef Peter Pollay. ► **Bargello** is a Mediterranean-inspired restaurant with handmade pastas, oven-fired pizzas and large-format meats (roasted rack of lamb and heritage pork shoulder) meant to be shared. ► The second space, **District 42**, is a more casual spot for small bites and handcrafted cocktails.



## New Exhibition at an American Castle

**"Downton Abbey: The Exhibition"** arrived at **Biltmore** on Nov. 8 with set recreations and artifacts, more than 50 of the show's costumes and exclusive multimedia elements. The exhibition will run through April 7, 2020, and will highlight the parallels between the show, the movie and Biltmore's Vanderbilt family, friends and staff. The grandeur and size of Biltmore House, designed by prominent New York architect Richard Morris Hunt in the Châteauesque style, also echo England's Highclere Castle, where the show and feature film were shot. ► Also new at Biltmore, the **"Through the Servants' Eyes Tour"** is an in-depth look at rarely seen servants' areas including the Boiler Room, Butler's Pantry and more.

## Fresh Cultural Adventures + River Arts District Improvements

**NOW OPEN:** ► **Asheville Art Museum** just opened with a new \$24 million-plus, state-of-the-art building that features expanded gallery space, education facilities, an art library, a lecture and performance venue, a new ArtPLAYce for families and children and the addition of a rooftop sculpture terrace and café with views of downtown architecture and the surrounding mountains. 2020 programming includes yoga, kid-friendly tours and sunsets on the rooftop sculpture terrace on Thursdays when the museum is open until 9 p.m. ► **The Center for Craft**, the leading organization in the U.S. identifying and convening craft makers, has expanded with **The National Craft Innovation Hub**. The space includes new public galleries featuring local and national makers, lecture space, classrooms and a creative co-working space, cementing Asheville's reputation as a force in the nation's fine art and maker scene. **COMING SOON** ► Opening to the public this winter, **LEAF Global Arts Center** will offer educational experiences for guests rooted in music, art, community and culture via a mini-theater and global immersion room using virtual reality, unique musical instruments and a stage for performances and interactive artist workstations. The center will be a cornerstone in the continued rebirth of the city's historical African American business district, The Block. ► Asheville's **River Arts District**, home to more than 200 artists in working studios, will be more visitor-friendly when a major roadway and greenway construction project wraps up in 2020. Visitors can expect a continuous multi-use riverside path, more parking, wide sidewalks, bike lanes, better traffic flow and highly creative public art installations from the district's artists.



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## Beer City News - 51 Breweries and Counting

**NOW OPEN:** ► New downtown brewery **DSSOLVR**, with a design point of view that melds the absurd and surreal, opened December 2019 with beer offerings fit for picky beer enthusiasts and casual light beer drinkers alike, as well as their own mead, wine, cider and cold-brew coffee. ► **Highland Brewing Company** is partnering with DSSOLVR for Breakfast Stout, with the high ABV version brewed at Highland and the low ABV take on the same recipe to be made in DSSOLVR's brewhouse. Both beers will be fermented in Bourbon barrels and released in early 2020. ► **Green Man Brewery** has opened **The Dweller** in a partially subterranean space downtown. The name pays homage to Green Man's beloved Imperial Stout, as well as the creepy history of the century-old building. (Green Man owner Dennis Thies claims it used to be a morgue.)

## Beverage Culture News

**NOW OPEN** ► Set in historic buildings that once housed young forestry workers of the Civilian Conservation Corps, **Burial Beer's Forestry Camp** includes a production brewery, taproom and restaurant. **COMING SOON** ► **Thirsty Monk** will relaunch its core lineup of Belgian-Rooted Modern Ales in 2020 with a new look and feel that brings tarot cards to life. Celebrating the creative energy and mystical spirit of Asheville, all Thirsty Monk small batch, seasonal and specialty beers will be categorized into their own style-based suits, varying in colors and patterns. These "readings" will provide collectable keepsake cards. ► **H&H Distillery**, known for their rum, gins and Asheville Coffee Liqueur, will debut both vodka and whisky in the coming year. The Steel Horse Whisky, made in two batches, is motorcycle-themed, incorporating a rotating barrel-aging process in barrels that are the wheels of a motorcycle skeleton. One batch will be aged for 600 "miles" and the other batch will be 3,000 "miles."

## Winter Wellness Adventures

► Winter is the perfect time to take a hike, offering quiet trails with the best views of the year thanks to leafless trees and crisp air. Check out guided hiking companies like **Namaste in Nature** (full moon yoga and meditation hikes), **Blue Ridge Hiking Co.** (now offering guided hikes of the Smoky Mountains) and **Asheville Hiking Tours**. ► The **NEW Deluxe Triple Waterfall Yoga Hike** from **Namaste in Nature** offers the perfect fall wellness adventure with a half-day yoga hike to three area waterfalls. The hike includes yoga and meditation, as well as photo opportunities of your downward dog by a cascading stream. ► **Asheville Wellness Tours** will offer **sunset yoga hikes** on select evenings throughout October, as well as **Tea and Tarot**, an educational tea tasting at the new High Climate Tea that includes a group tarot reading.

### ► **Food Scene. FAST:**

**250+** independent restaurants; **12** James Beard-nominated Asheville food folk; **50+** breweries; **14** farmers markets; **1** spice factory; **1** vegan butcher; **1,000+** family farms; **1** wild-foods market, the first in the nation; **1** butcher bar; **3** craft hard cideries using local apples; the **fifth** micro saké brewery in the nation; **1** rum distillery (the only one in Western N.C.); **1** kombucha bar, all local; **1** honey bar/boutique; **1** underground supper club with wild themes and secret locations; **4** insanely creative donut shops; **3** locations to get bean-to-bar local chocolate; **1** mushroom-man tour guide; and the **first** woman to legally distill moonshine.

**NEW BITES/SIPS:** ► James Beard Award-Winning Atlanta Chef Linton Hopkins brings his **H&F Burger** to downtown Asheville with burgers and milkshakes. ► Set in the buildings that once housed young forestry workers of the New Deal-era Civilian Conservation Corps, Burial Beer Co.'s **Forestry Camp Restaurant and Bar** offers beer, wine and coffee and highlighting local makers, from bakers to artists to musicians. James Beard semifinalist Brian Canipelli, chef and owner of Cucina 24, leads the food program. ► Brian Canipelli has also opened **Contrada**, two doors down from his original restaurant Cucina 24. The downtown restaurant offers a rotating menu with an emphasis on antipasto dishes, as well as wine, cocktail and beer options served via a tap system. ► **Asheville Bee Charmer's** second downtown location offers more honey in a larger space. Known for niche bars (the original Bee Charmer location offers a honey tasting bar), the new location will soon offer a bar for tasting mead, beginning with in-state mead makers and evolving over time.

► **COMING SPRING 2020:** James Beard Chef Meherwan Irani and Highland Brewing Co. join forces for a **new food and beer hall** in the iconic S&W Building. ► **COMING SUMMER 2020: Citizen Vinyl** will offer an immersive music experience with a record plant, independent record store and music cafe and bar with food, coffee and craft cocktails.

More at [ExploreAsheville.com/Foodtopia](https://ExploreAsheville.com/Foodtopia).

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