

# Smartmeetings

May/June 2023 • \$5.00

Greater Lansing CVB

Hotel Spa  
Executive Retreat  
ON-SITE TECH/AV  
Incentive Hotel  
City Hotel  
Overall  
Best Hotel Chain  
CVB/DMO

Historic Hotel  
Hotel Spa  
Eco Green Hotel  
Golf Resort  
DMC  
Cruise Line  
Executive Retreat  
Conference Center  
Beach Hotel  
Desert Hotels  
CVB/DMO  
Convention Center  
Airlines  
Food and Beverage  
Best

## 2023 SMART STARS WINNER'S ISSUE

Best  
Island Hotel  
Gaming/Casino Hotel  
Special-Event Venue  
Desert Hotels  
Hotel Pool  
BOUTIQUE/LIFESTYLE HOTEL BRAND  
Attraction/Theme Park

Executive Retreat  
Gaming/Casino Hotel  
Mountain/Ski Hotel  
Family-Friendly Hotel/Resort  
Ballroom  
Best  
Coastal Hotel  
Executive Retreat  
FAMILY-FRIENDLY PROPERTY  
GOLF RESORT  
Outdoor Event Space  
ON-SITE SUPPORT STAFF  
Hotel Spa

Best  
Airport Hotel  
INTERNATIONAL HOTEL CVB/DMO  
Overall  
Hotel Chain  
Best  
ECO/GREEN  
Gaming/Casino Hotel  
HOTEL SPA  
Gaming/Casino Hotel  
Hotel Pool  
Executive Retreat



# GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Notes from  
the Road

## MEETINGS ON MAIN

By Gretchen Kelly



**G**reenville, South Carolina, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains is in the south, yes. But meeting planners who convene in this growing upstate destination, equidistant between Atlanta and Charlotte, North Carolina will find something less moonlight and magnolias and more everyone's Main Street, USA. Main Street, Greenville, which was completely revitalized in the 1990s, is a central hub of activity with

dozens of charming, walkable, locally-owned restaurants, boutiques, hotels and meeting venues, many in revitalized landmark buildings. Falls Park on the Reedy, an urban park in the heart of Main Street, offers fine-weather options for walks and mini-hikes, too. And although you're upstate not in Charleston or Savannah, you'll be *ma'am'd* and *sir'd* and in keeping with Southern hospitality, you won't starve either.

*Gretchen Kelly*

### STAY HERE

**AC Hotel by Marriott Greenville** at the top of Main Street is lodged in the former digs of the *Greenville News*, the local newspaper which moved next door. The feel is modern, sleek and comfortable with a fun lobby bar, Paloma, five event rooms and 8,890 sq. ft. of meeting space and a super-generous morning breakfast spread that evokes European flair more than American canned convenience. A short walk away is the heritage hotel of town, **The Westin Poinsett, Greenville**. With soaring ceilings, exquisite ballrooms and rich marble moldings carefully preserved, The 200-room Poinsett retains 1920s historic detail and ambiance and features 9,669 sq. ft. of meeting space, including a ballroom with natural light and an outdoor landing. Fun fact, General Poinsett, whom it's named after is the namesake of the famed holiday season plant. Also in walking distance to Main Street, **Grand Bohemian Lodge Greenville** is perched on the waterfalls of Falls Park on the Reedy River. With rich woods and organic stone accents, Grand Bohemian has 187 guest rooms and 4,270 sq. ft. of meeting space along with original Native American-inspired art, geodes and cases of stunning vintage Native American jewelry. Designer rocking chairs on the porch over the river complete the ambiance. A short drive from town, the brand new

73-room **Hotel Hartness** offers 13,000 sq. ft. and 73 guest rooms with fine dining, spa and local nature walks added for incentive-bookers. Imagine the Hamptons transplanted to the South and you'll get the idea.

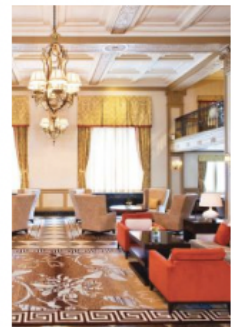
### MEET HERE

Along with hotel space, Greenville's Main Street area offers purpose-centric meeting space steps away from shops and dining including **Greenville One Center** with 36,000 sq. ft. of space, including a 274-seat auditorium. **The Huguenot Loft** at the Peace Center concert venue in an 1882 mill building boasts views of the Reedy River and can host up to 400. **Avenue**, one block from Main overlooks the cityscape and can host 200 for seated events and 400 for receptions.

### EAT THIS

Greenville's Main caters to both casual and fine dining. For quick lunches off property try **Sully's Steamers** where the owner steams bagels into soft sandwich delights. Don't miss the Reuben for a pastrami-filled hunger-delayer. **Soby's New South Cuisine** opened 25 years ago and helped usher in a new era of great dining on Main Street. Traditional Southern ingredients are fused with contemporary cuisine. Another don't miss: the Diplomat Mousse Pinecone Cake with edible moss.

**Fun to Know:** Shoeless Joe Jackson, the famed character from *Field of Dreams* was from Greenville and is the subject of the local **Shoeless Joe Jackson Museum**.



From top to bottom; The Westin Poinsette, Greenville; Soby's New South Cuisine



Greenville, South Carolina skyline