

# Southern Living®

OCTOBER 2023

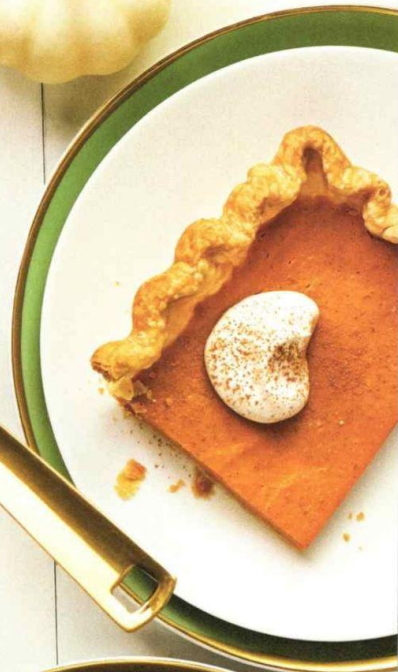
SOUTH'S BEST  
**PLACES**  
20 TO 23  
**TO RETIRE**

## FALL CLASSICS

TREASURED DESSERTS  
(FROM READERS!)  
AND FUN NEW  
CREATIONS



PUMPKIN  
SLAB PIE  
P. 104

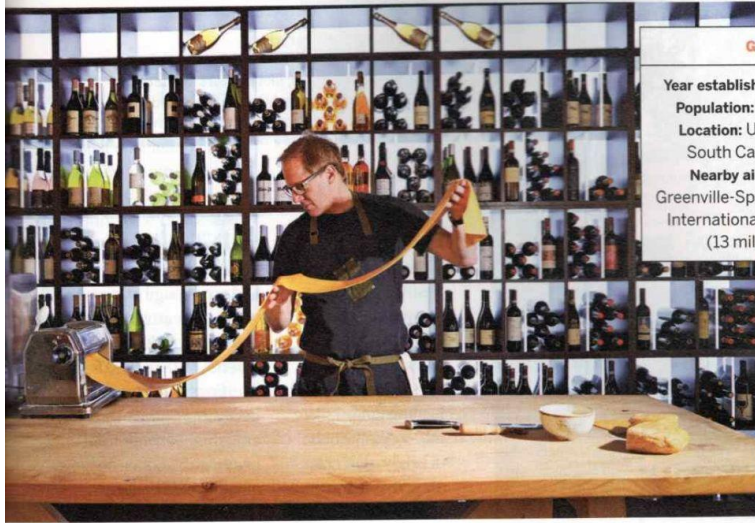


INSPIRED RENOS  
FOR OLD HOMES

THE WILD  
BEAUTY OF  
HARPERS FERRY







### GREENVILLE AT A GLANCE

<b>Year established:</b> 1786	<b>Community centers:</b> 4
<b>Population:</b> 72,310	<b>Average annual temperature:</b> 60°F
<b>Location:</b> Upstate South Carolina	<b>Closest state park:</b> Paris Mountain State Park (7 miles)
<b>Nearby airport:</b> Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport (13 miles)	<b>Permanent public artworks:</b> 120 plus

Friends of the Reedy River newsletter," he says. "Now I'm board president." That's how it goes in this city. There are also festivals for foodies: Spring Fest in April, Tapas & Tinis in July, and Euphoria (the biggest) in September. Each showcases flavors from local chefs and gives back to a variety of good causes. Walk downtown to meet people from "somewhere else" while still feeling right at home. "We chose Greenville partly for the climate—a May snowfall in Des Moines sent us looking to the South," Butler says. "Every time we go on a trip, it just feels so good to come back here."

of 45, so retirees mingle with younger residents at the dog-friendly Abingdon Vineyards along the river, the new Summers rooftop bar, The Tavern (built in 1779), and festivals such as the Abingdon Fiddlers' Convention. There's even the College for Older Adults, pickleball culture, and golf galore. While Dalton's electronics business used to take him around the world, Abingdon feels like home now. "This is a resort at a fraction of the cost, especially if you want an active lifestyle," he says proudly.

<b>ABINGDON AT A GLANCE</b>
<b>Year established:</b> 1778
<b>Location:</b> Southwestern Virginia
<b>Population:</b> 8,336
<b>Nearby airport:</b> Tri-Cities Airport (33 miles)
<b>Size of historic district:</b> 20 blocks
<b>Restaurants:</b> 30 plus

### BEST FOR FOOD LOVERS

#### GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Scott Butler reports that he and his wife, Gayle, have dined out three times in the last three days. It's not so strange in Greenville, where happiness comes by the bite. The couple, who have lived here for eight years after careers in Des Moines, are enjoying adventures, trying different things, and making new friends—exactly what retiring is all about. With a median home value of \$349,300, the city sustains its high-end eateries with dedicated diners. "The number of restaurants has doubled since we moved to town," says Butler. "We have traditional, grab-and-go, and international spots plus so much more." For his part, the native Nebraskan delights in classic Southern plates (like shrimp and grits or chicken and waffles) as well as Greenville specialties, like Stecca Bread

(a baby baguette) at Swamp Rabbit Cafe & Grocery and the White Chocolate Banana Cream Pie at Soby's downtown. It's all good, and area chefs and restaurants have the James Beard Award recognition to prove it. Beyond food, Greenville fuels newcomers' calendars. The Senior Action organization offers ballet, line dancing, pottery, Qigong, and health classes as well as field trips and planned vacations. Furman University invites the 50-plus crowd to participate in OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) experiences. The Peace Center and the Greenville Museum of Art will stimulate your mind as a visitor or as a volunteer. Butler, with a professional background in finance and accounting, has found his own niche. "I signed up for the



**Tastes of Greenville** (From top) Chef and owner Michael Kramer makes pasta by hand at his modern Italian restaurant, Jianna. "Cali-Mex" spot Califas is popular for its birria tacos.