

GLOBAL EATS

By John Park

Food is no longer a singular influence. With the ability to source ingredients from across the world, food has truly become globally inspired. Growing up in Virginia as a South Korean immigrant, my family's food identity became shaped by our Korean influences along with those of our new home. Thanksgiving in our family has become turkey with all the fixins served alongside Korean BBQ, kimchi, and other banchan (side dishes) altogether as a celebration of our past and present.

In my travels throughout Virginia, I've seen this reflected in restaurants as well. **Pico Taqueria** in Chincoteague is owned by two couples that pull influences from their love of Mexican food culture, as well as the Eastern Shore community where they operate their restaurant. Tacos made with handmade tortillas and traditional styles like carne asada are present (and delicious!), but so are soft shell crabs and cornmeal fried oysters for a decidedly "fresh from the ocean" feel.

THE SHACK
Staunton

CHAD WILLIAMS



I WANTED TO STUDY
HOW THE PEOPLE AND
HISTORY OF A REGION
INSPIRED THE CUISINE
AND HOW I COULD THEN
ADD INFLUENCES OF
OUR AREA TO BRING IT
TO A NEW AUDIENCE.

—NICK KINCAID
Chef, Lucky

The global experience continues as you travel to Staunton to **The Shack**, which is truly a hidden gem of the Commonwealth. Chef Ian Boden has created a menu deeply steeped in Appalachian cuisine, but then incorporates the Jewish and eastern European techniques of his roots. Their menu changes almost daily to showcase the freshest ingredients, and a four to five course dinner can be experienced here Thursday through Saturday.

Head south down 81 and you will end up at **Lucky**, nestled on a quiet side street in the heart of downtown Roanoke. Since opening in 2010, Lucky has always been a destination for a truly impressive cocktail experience, but they also recently renovated their space and relaunched to feature a menu filled with globally-inspired dishes. Inspired by the COVID lockdown and the inability to travel, Chef Nick Kincaid began voraciously studying cookbooks from all over the world. “The backbone of my inspiration in the kitchen is how culture speaks through food,” says Kincaid. He adds, “I wanted to study how the people and history of a region

JOHN PARK



KATHERINE VERDRAKE



inspired the cuisine and how I could then add influences of our area to bring it to a new audience.” Gumbo graces the menu as a southern staple, but then receives the smoky addition of poblano peppers and a coconut crema that truly makes it feel like a trip through several different cultures. The menu also updates regularly to feature seasonal items from nearby farms.

From colonial origins to Appalachian influences to southern inspirations, Virginia represents a “culinary crossroads” unlike any other in America. Now as global influences find their way into the fold, we have access to a truly unique food experience that shouldn’t be missed.

These are just some of the globally-inspired tastes we can now experience in Virginia. Also on my upcoming “to-dine” list ...

- **The Pakalachian Food Truck**, Abingdon
(Southern Asian/Appalachian)
- **The Block Food Hall**, Annandale
(poke/dumplings/banh mi/etc.)
- **Soul Taco & JewFro**, Richmond
(Latin/Jewish/Southern)



SNOCREAM COMPANY
Annandale

JOHN PARK

TASTE VIRGINIA

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1

JOIN

Create itineraries and receive updates from your favorite wineries by creating a virginiawine.org account to personalize your adventure.



2

PLAN

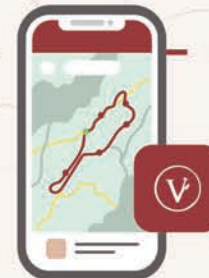
Plot your next adventure. Build in stops at wineries with unique tasting offerings, on-site restaurants or overnight accommodations.



3

TRAVEL

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4

EXPLORE

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5

SAVOR

Once you find your way into the vineyards, sit back and enjoy a taste of #vawine.



VIRGINIA
WINE

www.virginiawine.org/pages/visit

FAVORITE FESTS

By Hannah Armstrong

VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY



GRASSROOTS MOTORSPORTS' HYPERFEST

Get a taste of the fast life at **Grassroots Motorsports' Hyperfest**! Head to the VIRginia International Raceway in Alton to race with the best of them at this "Automotive Amusement Park." Ride with professional drifters, take a helicopter ride and camp with friends and family - plus live music, games and delicious food and drink.

Throughout the year Virginia hosts a plethora of fun and fascinating festivals all around the state, from beloved icons like FloydFest to quirky favorites like Queen City Mischief & Magic. Here are a few funky fests to add to your lineup this year.

ALEX MONG / RACHEL STEVENS

URBANNA OYSTER FESTIVAL

Love oysters? We've got the perfect festival for you. Once a year, the **Urbanna Oyster Festival** draws over 50,000 people to the quaint town of Urbanna to celebrate, you guessed it, the oyster! Try them raw, fried, frittered and more, all while enjoying live music, beer and wine tastings, and fun activities for the whole family.

ALI ZAMAN



URBANNA



Stuart, Virginia is a charming town known for its historic architecture and its delectable apple dumplings. Every fall, the town holds the **Apple Dumpling Festival** to showcase all things apple, as well as arts, crafts and live music.



SOUTHERN GAP ELK FEST

The **Southern Gap Elk Fest** is a truly one-of-a-kind event that takes place every October in the Heart of Appalachia. Whether you come for guided elk tours, mountain games, live music, the mountain arts showcase or the wild game dinner, you are bound to find something to love.



Richmond's **Pocahontas Reframed Film Festival** celebrates Native American storytelling and re-frames the narrative of how we as a society view and understand the Native American experience. For an entire weekend, enjoy films created by and of the Native American community, and engage in important conversations on culture in America.



Norfolk rings in PrideFest strong with the country's first and only **Pride Boat Parade**! Private boats outfitted in vibrant decor cruise down the Elizabeth River, while PrideFest goers watch and celebrate from Towne Point Park. Be sure to stick around for Norfolk's **PrideFest**, one of Virginia's largest pride events!



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BGF / NICK DAVIS / CAROLINE SHANK / EDWARD JOHNSON



FOLLOW THE SCOUT



A Virginia Beach native and Richmond local of the past eight years, Emily Wyman combines a creative eye with an impressive background (projects like “Homeland” and “Dopesick”), bringing a unique perspective to her work as a fim scout.

Could you share a little bit about how the process works?

Sure! First there is a script or lookbook to reference and a Production Designer to guide the location vision and requirements. There’s a mix of artistic and logistical guidance, and often the search is time sensitive. If I can, I like to share reference photos to get immediate feedback on what the director is drawn to. Once I’m confident about what sort of location to look for, I do some advanced research and put together a game plan, either

contacting businesses in advance or dropping location letters with my elevator pitch about the project.

Sometimes, talking to locals who know the area can really help open up options. Talking to people (and sending emails) is a large component of the job. I have to present them with the project and ensure I am only showing options that we would have permission to film at. I walk the property owners through the project scope, then take detailed photos of all of the options I’m able to find. Next, I submit photo files of each location to the

Producers, Director and key creatives for discussion. We usually narrow down the best options and then bring a van load of folks to do a Director’s scout to preview and hone in on a selection. Finding the perfect location can happen within 24 hours, a week, or a month - it all depends!

What do you look for in a location?

From a creative lens, I might be drawn to a location that has a unique exterior, a well maintained front patio, big windows or old clapboard siding. I am always drawn to

SIMON VALENCIA

Season 7 of "Homeland" filmed in Virginia because it was versatile on screen and a welcoming home for the cast and producers.



MAIN STREET
West Point

The acclaimed Hulu series "Dopesick" filmed in several locations throughout central Virginia and Clifton Forge in 2020.

working on!) has a nondescript/unsuspecting exterior but totally transforms if you attend an open skate, the local roller skating scene is so vibrant and joyful; the location comes to life during their open skates.

Orapax Farm in Goochland is a gorgeous destination for upland bird hunting enthusiasts — it has an incredible landscape that is really special with some unique outbuildings as well.

What's a favorite project you've worked on and why?

"Dopesick" (currently streaming on Hulu!) was one of the most meaningful shows I've worked on. The script led me to a wide variety of locations where I was able to connect with folks about the show. It didn't matter if I was scouting an estate or a motel, everyone I encountered knew someone impacted by the opioid crisis. It was really meaningful to be a part of bringing that story to life.



Why do you think people are influenced by locations they see in a film/show?

It's exciting to know that the actors, camera and crew were previously onsite, and to see what sort of movie magic was implemented to bring a location from its everyday identity into its make-believe identity. The number of people who freaked out when Virginia had locations featured in HBO's "Succession" was really funny. I had people tell me they were screaming at the TV show when they connected the dots.



Check out Emily's Instagram [@emilyscoutslocations](#) to see the film industry through her eyes!

historic buildings, which is why scouting in Virginia is so amazing. From a logistic lens, I may be excited by ample parking, proximity to other locations or the ease of loading gear in. Those details are a lot less sexy, but equally important!

What about Virginia makes it a special place to film?

Virginia is a special filming location because it has so much variety to offer without being an oversaturated market. For example, you can cheat downtown

Richmond as D.C. without dealing with the traffic or permitting challenges of the DMV area; you can then drive 15 minutes and film a waterfall at Maymont or go south on Route 5 to pastoral farmlands. There are so many film-friendly locations and we have a tight-knit, amazing community to hire local crew, rent equipment and work with ease.

What's a favorite place you've discovered while scouting - or - have you ever returned to a film location to visit on your own time?

I recently discovered my favorite spot for chicken wings while scouting. It's a hole in the wall location called Family Secrets, and the food called me back! Otherwise, I would say Virginia State Parks are locations I both love to scout and visit on my own time.

Are there any destinations that surprised you / weren't what you expected?

Richmond's Rollerdom (which will be featured in the TV show I'm currently



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Goochland

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Different Side
OF VIRGINIA

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NEXT TRIP

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

ANTONY PLATT / EMILY WYMAN

ANTONY PLATT

love letter to the road trip

12 days of pure freedom,
exploration, creativity
and adventure.

Written by Cyn Blooms
Photographs by Mulbah Media

Chincoteague

5 days before we were staring down the bridge connecting Virginia Mainland with Chincoteague Island with a camera bag, an overloaded duffel and my boyfriend's tiny suitcase in the trunk, I was scrolling through Google images after Joel, my boyfriend, proposed to do a road trip through the entire State of Virginia. In between different city images and pictures of - what it seemed - abandoned houses, I saw a few nice overlook photos, but nothing too convincing really. None of what Google Images was showing really screamed "road trip" to me. But missing the outdoors a lot, Joel's idea reinitiated my appetite for adventure, so I agreed on taking route 175 towards our first spot: Chincoteague.



7 days ago, I ran into the ocean, towards the golden sun that was setting. Joel and I arrived at the Kiptopeke State Park in Cape Charles right when the conditions were just too perfect for us, to not create. Joel took out his camera instantly and, when he looked up, he found me already dancing in the ocean, embracing the sun rays kissing my skin and gazing into the blue sky that was about to turn pink. After a long while of not creating together, Kiptopeke worked its magic and made the two of us start creating together again, taking photos and videos, all whilst having the ocean waves slamming on our bodies. And we excelled at our craft like we never did before.

This road trip was about more than just going out and exploring, I'm realizing today. This trip was about reclaiming our passions and purposes. Joel and I bonded on a deeper level that day. We created until the night fell, but our connection lasted longer than just the night.

Dancing in
Cape Charles



Biking in Richmond

4 days ago, Joel and I spent our night gazing at the stars

in our topless Jeep and listening to the soothing voice of Michael Kiwanuka. We found ourselves in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, where we chased some more sunrises and sunsets, explored the beautiful overlooks and indulged ourselves into the endless greens and blues of the acres of mountains and trees. We spotted beauty in every crevice and corner. We took things at our own pace, woke up to the most amazing views and explored some of the most beautiful parts of the country.



White Oak Lavender Farm



We took things at our own pace, woke up to the most amazing views and explored some of the most beautiful parts of the country.



We made it a priority not to miss a sunset

2 days ago, we learned what it meant to overcome difficult situations together.

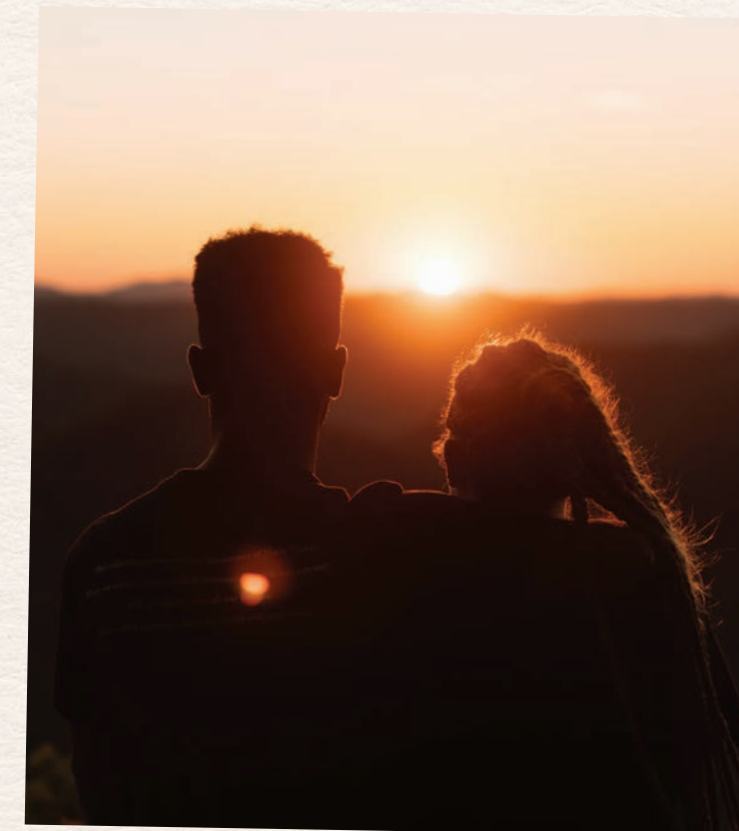
Joel and I arrived at Smith Mountain Lake and we were incredibly excited to be spending some hours on the lake, trying out new watersports. So we checked into our apartment at Mariner's Landing, dropped our luggage and immediately went on the paddle boards Bridgewater Boat Rental provided us with. We paddled, jet skied and swam in the lake until the sky turned dark. That night a heavy storm broke over Smith Mountain Lake. The next morning we woke up, ready to take on the road to our final destination. With horror we had to realize that the storm did not have any mercy with our topless Jeep. Our car was filled with water, our blankets were drenched and we could only hope that the mechanics didn't get broken. Luckily they didn't. First reaction: frustration. But then we realized that frustration is not going to help us in this situation. What we needed were solutions. We hung all our blankets in the sun to dry, got the water out of the car with some buckets and waited for everything to dry whilst we spent some additional time at the lake, happy that we found a solution and excited for our next and final destination: Breaks Interstate Park.



We chose joy, over and over again. We slept under stars, challenged ourselves to climb mountains at 4am, overcame our fears and jumped into water, spent moments—slowed down and wrapped up in the in-betweens—with the person we love.



Now, we are on our way back home, hearts filled with memories from an unforgettable road trip through beautiful Virginia. 12 days of pure freedom, exploration, creativity and adventure. We found joy in the little things like stopping our car at the side of the road to take in a view, or making it a priority to never miss sunset, or savoring for the first-time delicious oysters at Black Narrows Brewing or giving each other undivided attention. We chose joy, over and over again. We slept under stars, challenged ourselves to climb mountains at 4 AM, overcame our fears and jumped into water, spent moments - slowed down and wrapped up in the in-betweens - with the person we love. We were taught how to overcome difficult situations together, find solutions, solidify our relationship and grow. What a beautiful road trip this was!



What a beautiful road trip this was!