

the CORNBREAD MAN of SELMA P.88 | SECRETS of a FRENCH BAKER P.94

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CELEBRATING NORTH CAROLINA

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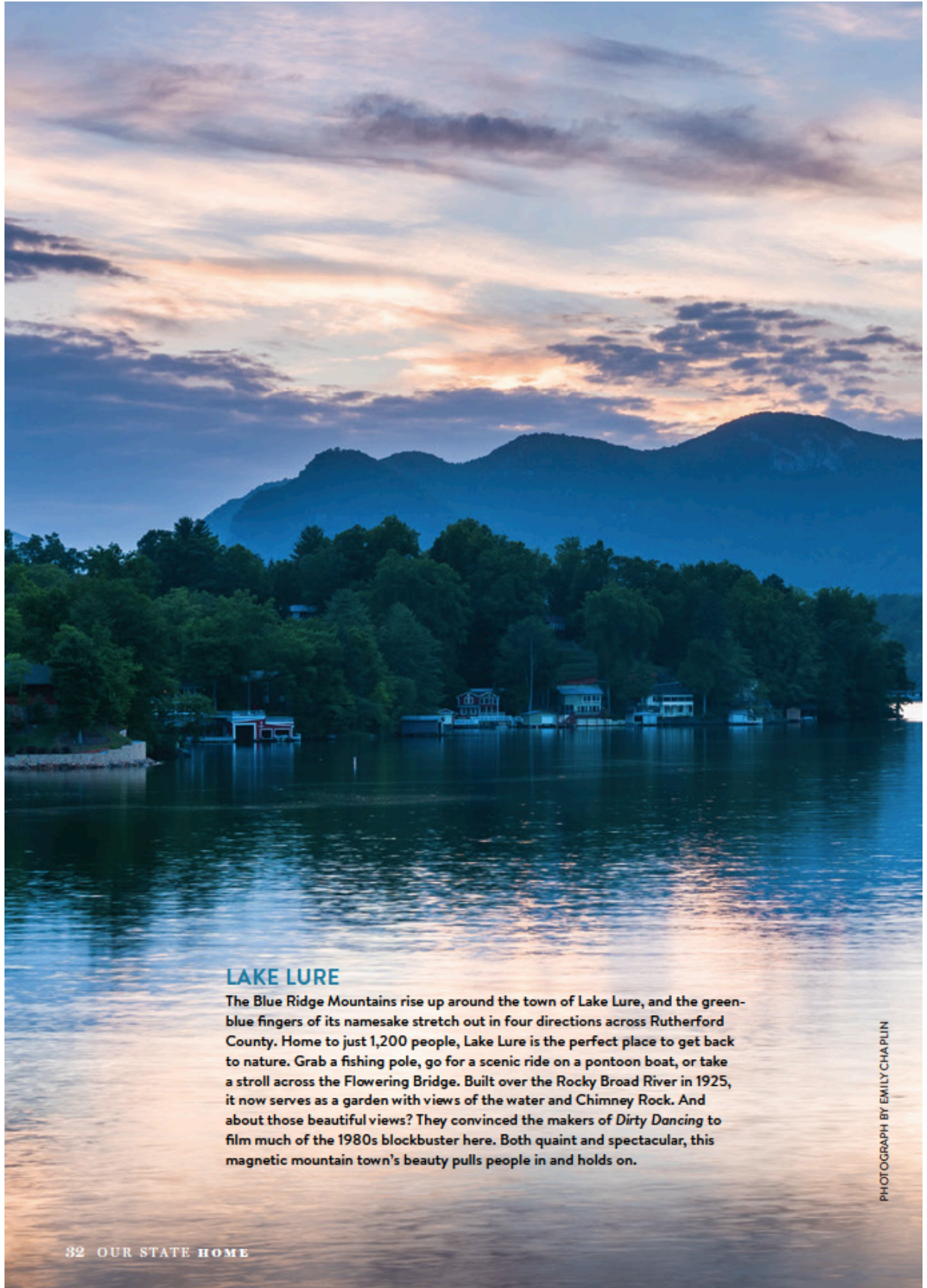
INSIDE!  
HOMES  
WE  
LOVE  
BONUS 48-PAGE  
PULLOUT

# BISCUITS!

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MUST-EATS  
P.70



— ★ —  
Texas Pete  
chicken biscuit  
from Krankies in  
Winston-Salem.



## LAKE LURE

The Blue Ridge Mountains rise up around the town of Lake Lure, and the green-blue fingers of its namesake stretch out in four directions across Rutherford County. Home to just 1,200 people, Lake Lure is the perfect place to get back to nature. Grab a fishing pole, go for a scenic ride on a pontoon boat, or take a stroll across the Flowering Bridge. Built over the Rocky Broad River in 1925, it now serves as a garden with views of the water and Chimney Rock. And about those beautiful views? They convinced the makers of *Dirty Dancing* to film much of the 1980s blockbuster here. Both quaint and spectacular, this magnetic mountain town's beauty pulls people in and holds on.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EMILY CHAPLIN



# dream destinations

25 PLACES *to*  
RETIRE • RELOCATE • RELAX

*written by* KAIA FINDLAY

As you take in the beauty of Lake Lure, it's easy to forget its existence is very intentional: One man's dream (and a dam) brought it to life in 1926.

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## Washington

Situated right where the Tar River ends and the Pamlico River begins, "Little" Washington was the first city to be named after the president. Yes, even before our country's capital. In this Beaufort County town, the river provides a perfect environment for wildlife to thrive, as well as opportunities for human inhabitants to spend afternoons wandering the mile-long waterfront promenade or relaxing under the oak trees at the Town Commons, watching herons poke their way through cypress groves. But despite the wonders of the water — and the famous cheese biscuits served at Mom's Grill — Washington remains as quiet and peaceful as the river on a still, sunny day.

## EDENTON

On the edge of Albemarle Sound, historic Edenton is filled with colonial architecture and waterfront views. The Penelope Barker House, built in 1782, acts as a welcome center that introduces visitors to local spots, including the picturesque 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse in Edenton Bay and the lush gardens of the Cupola House, built in 1758. Paddlers will find serenity on Queen Anne Creek, and diners will delight in the menu at The Table Restaurant. Once named one of America's Prettiest Towns by *Forbes* magazine, Edenton has preserved its past in a way that offers plenty of present-day charm.



The Penelope Barker House keeps watch over Edenton Bay.



## BEAUFORT

In Beaufort, all roads lead to the water — with plenty to see and taste along the way. Which makes a leisurely bike ride the ideal way to get to know the town. With 300 years of coastal history, traces of the past are everywhere here. Pedal past long stretches of white picket fence that enclose homes dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries. Wander through the Old Burying Grounds, a historic cemetery that holds secrets in its stones. On Front Street, visit the Harvey W. Smith Watercraft Center, a tribute to the state's rich history of wooden boatbuilding. And at sunset, park your bike for a waterfront meal at The Spouter Inn Restaurant. Across Taylor's Creek, past the busy harbor, you'll spot a collection of small islands known as the Rachel Carson Reserve. Everyone keeps an eye out for its most famous residents: wild horses.

## MOREHEAD CITY

Salty air, oysters on the half-shell, cool bungalows shaded by cedar trees, and the warm current of the Gulf Stream have attracted generations of families seeking salt and sunshine to this Carteret County town. Tradition lies in the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament, a popular competition here since the 1950s, in the fried scallops at the iconic Sanitary Fish Market — one of the oldest waterfront restaurants in town — and in the charter boats that line the waterfront. Day after day, year after year, they take fishermen out to toss their lines into sparkling swells for a chance to catch dinner — or bragging rights.



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