

Greetings from the best place on earth: New Orleans, where no one lives passively. To be here is to make an active choice. The living is NOT easy — despite what the song says — and yet, ask any local and they'll tell you the exact moment or reason they decided to return after Katrina leveled us, or why they stayed through the long, uneven road to recovery. Nearly two decades later, my city is still reinventing itself. New businesses, restaurants, and an influx of post-Covid transplants have brought fresh energy. But at its heart, New Orleans remains true to its Afro-Cuban-European roots: music, food, architecture, cultural traditions, and the warm, embracing community that make it unlike anywhere else.

To really know the city, you have to move beyond the French Quarter. The soul of daily life beats in neighborhoods like the Lower Garden District, the Marigny, the Bywater, Uptown, the Garden District, Faubourg St. John, Tremé, St. Roch, the 7th Ward, Algiers and Lower Nine. Here, people live fully: making beignets at home, hosting crawfish boils, dancing to music on street corners, sipping snowballs, taking kids to second lines — often with a daiquiri in hand. Festivals, majestic live oaks, late-night music clubs, and long tables covered in seafood are just the surface. This is a city where joy is stitched into our daily lives and the extraordinary is ordinary!

So, consider this your insider's list — the one that'll make your trip to New Orleans not just worthwhile, but downright legendary. When you're ready for the next list — the one with the realtors (because, baby, this city gets under your skin) — you know where to find me. And just so we're clear, no favors, or sweet talk will get you featured. This is my love letter - not fucking Yelp. And, P.S. stay away from Bourbon Street at all costs, ya' heard!





A WEEK IN NEW ORLEANS - WHAT I DO

New Orleans is a city full of inherent tourist draws to keep any visitor enamored for a long stay, but when I travel, I personally like to have an inside scoop on what locals do. As a native of my beloved city, please allow me to introduce you to some of my favorite things to do in New Orleans.

MONDAY: New Orleans has a peerless cocktail pedigree (the French 75, the Sazerac, the Old Fashioned, the Grasshopper, the Ramos Gin Fizz, the Pimm's Cup.) My favorite spots to try these cocktails include: Jewel of the South (1026 St Louis St.) The Columns Hotel, N7 (1117 Montegut St.), The Napoleon House (500 Chartres St.), French 75 Bar (813 Bienville St.) and The Elysian Bar (2317 Burgundy St.) In the annex of Antoine's Restaurant (713 St Louis Street) you can order from the oldest menu in town at At The Hermes Bar and my favorites are Oysters Rockefeller, Oysters a la Foche, Shrimp Remoulade, Crabmeat Ravigote and Baked Alaska (a dessert, which you will want to order when you order your cocktails since it takes time to prepare). Afterward, listen to my dearest friend, Ben Jaffe, blow his sousaphone or play the upright bass with his band: The Preservation Hall Jazz Band at Preservation Hall (726 St Peter St.) the legendary music hall and institution with live traditional jazz music. There are four sets nightly: 5pm, 6:15pm, 7:30pm, and 8:45pm. Preservation Hall is my church. "The Hall" does not serve alcohol and well behaved children are welcome and encouraged. To avoid the line, pre-purchase your tickets at preservationhall.com.

TUESDAY: Eat lunch at R'evolution, John Folse's fine dining establishment in the French Quarter (777 Bienville St.) After lunch, stroll down Royal Street to go antiquing and visit The New Orleans Historic Collection and The Cabildo. For dinner, enjoy a modern Creole meal Uptown at Brigtsen's (723 Dante St.) or Clancy's (6100 Annunciation St.) before heading to The Maple Leaf (8316 Oak St.) to hear some blues, funk or brass. You never know who you'll run into at this local haunt ;) IYKYK

WEDNESDAY: Enjoy lunch in the warehouse district, at Herbsaint or Peche, right by a cluster of captivating institutions including the Ogden Museum and the National WWII Museum (not to be missed.) For dinner, enjoy the best fish in town at ZASU (127 N Carrollton Ave.) or an Ottolenghi inspired menu at Doris Metropolitan (620 Chartres St.) I enjoy eating at their bar when I can't get a table. If you're Uptown, check out Peter Harris Trio at The Bayou Bar (in The Pontchartrain Hotel.) It's mindblowing who ends up playing in this intimate room! Seriously, The Bayou Bar IS a very cool jazz club where you can also eat dinner. The best nights are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and there are two sets: 8pm and 10pm. Get there early or just be smart, and make a reservation.

THURSDAY: Check out www.tourneworleans.com for their daily tours including Cemetery + Voodoo, Scandalous Cocktail, French Quarter, Tremé, Garden District, Music and Haunted French Quarter Tours, or for a private, custom experience, call the owner, Rob Florence at (504) 947-2120. Book your reservation now, for a delicious lunch at Lilette (3637 Magazine St.) For something funky, slurp down some oysters and fried seafood at Casamento's (4330 Magazine St.) Happy Hour at The Columns Hotel, where the front porch vibe will transport you to another era or listen to live music in the garden at Bacchanal Wine Bar, down in the Bywater (600 Poland Avenue.)



THURSDAY NIGHT: This is the night to head into the Marigny and Bywater neighborhoods. Enjoy dinner at Paladar 511 (511 Marigny St.) or at N7 (1117 Montegut St.) then head back to Frenchmen Street to check out an array of live music at DBA, Snug Harbor Jazz Bistro, The Spotted Cat, The Frenchman Hotel. However, If you're Uptown, eat dinner at Jack Rose and catch the last set at 10pm at The Bayou Bar, inside the Ponchartrain Hotel on St Charles Avenue.

FRIDAY: Every New Orleanian has had several eight hour drunken lunches at the quintessential Galatoire's restaurant (209 Bourbon Street.) Gents, wear your sport coat and ladies, look your best. My favorite menu items include: Shrimp Rémolade, Oysters Rockefeller, Crabmeat Maison, Stuffed Eggplant, Crabmeat Sardou, Trout Almandine and Café Brûlot, to end. Ladies, watch your hair when they set the table on fire! When you finally stumble out of Galatoire's, you must find music. Just a block away, Jeremy Davenport will be crooning on the third floor of the Ritz Carlton at 8pm. Walk another stone skip away to Preservation Hall, Mahogany Jazz Hall (125 Chartres St) or Palm Court Jazz Cafe (1204 Decatur St) and listen to living jazz legends, including one of my faves: Kevin Louis. P.S. If you enjoy Burlesque, head to the Royal Sonesta Hotel just before midnight to catch Trixie Minx's Burlesque Ballroom. OPTIONS!

SATURDAY: Hopefully you wake up and when you do, check the local live music listing at: www.calendar.offbeat.com/calendars/all-events, and plan your evening around what you will listen to! Honestly, why else did you come to New Orleans? Spend the day exploring boutiques and antique stores on Magazine Street. For lunch, there's Lilette (3637 Magazine St) or La Petite Grocery (4238 Magazine St.) P.S. You could also do this any day of the week however most boutiques are not open on Sunday.

SATURDAY EVENING: if the weather is nice, transport yourself to Paris and dine al fresco at N7 in the Bywater (1117 Montegut St) or if you are a REAL FOODIE, then dine at Emeril's and be prepared to be impressed and delighted. If a food coma does not strike you down early, check out my new music club, The Toulouse Theatre in the French Quarter, Tipitina's, Snug Harbor or Chickie Wah Wah which present the finest music talent as well as the rock and rollers passing through The Big Easy.

SUNDAY: Enjoy a lively Jazz Brunch at Café Atchafalaya (901 Louisiana Ave.) with new Bayou dishes, and a packed jazz brunch scene, or go old school and reserve a sun lit table in the garden room at Commander's Palace (1403 Washington Ave.) Continue with an afternoon walk through the picturesque Garden District where some of New Orleans most moody mansions are situated. If you're downtown, enjoy brunch al fresco in the most glorious garden: N7 in the Bywater. Finish your day playing the musical houses at The Music Box Village (neworleansairlift.org) or seeing fine art at The New Orleans Museum of Art and their Sculpture Garden, in City Park. Should you crave an afternoon snack, indulge in hot beignets and cafe au lait at Cafe Du Monde, behind the sculpture garden. The WWII Museum, The Historic New Orleans Collection, and The Ogden Museum of Southern Art are also a must! Every Sunday at 7:30pm, my mate, Mark Braud blows his golden coronet at the Palm Court Jazz Cafe (1204 Decatur St.) in the French Quarter. Be sure to check out who's playing at Snug Harbor too!



As soon as you arrive in New Orleans, turn your radio dial to WWOZ 90.7 FM (wwoz.org)
Go hear as much live music as possible while you are in town! My faves are below!

LISTEN: Before you arrive, watch the documentary, "A TUBA TO CUBA" and check out who is performing at these state of the art venues: **George & Joyce Wein Heritage Center, Ellis Marsalis Center for Music, The U.S. Mint, New Orleans Jazz Market** and my favorites: **Preservation Hall, The Bayou Bar, and The Music Box Village** (neworleansairlift.org)

Preservation Hall Jazz Band (Traditional jazz)
John Cleary (R&B Piano & Vocals)
David Torkanowsky (my favorite pianist)
Stanton Moore Trio (New Orleans drummer)
Shannon Powell (New Orleans drummer)
Herlin Riley (Neo-bop jazz drummer)
Pedro Segundo (International Percussionist)
Irma Thomas (Queen of Soul)
Dee Dee Bridgewater (Female Jazz Vocalist)
Judith Owen (Welsh piano playing chanteuse)
Helen Gillet (Belgian cello playing chanteuse)
Germaine Bazzle (Female Vocalist)
Tank & The Bangas (R&B)
Tyrone Foster & The Arc Singers (Gospel)
John Boutte (singer/jazz/gospel)
Peter Harris (Bassist/band leader)
Nicholas Payton (Piano & Trumpet player)
Donald Harrison (saxophonist)
Kyle Roussel (Modern Pianist)
Oscar Rossignoli (Pianist)
NOJO (New Orleans Jazz Orchestra)
YUSA (Cuban force of nature)

Galactic (Funk)
Trombone Shorty (one man rock star!)
George Porter Jr. (Bassist/Funk)
Corey Henry (trombonist/funk)
79ers Gang (N.O. Brass Band)
The Soul Rebels (N.O. Brass Band)
Rebirth Brass Band (N.O. Brass Band)
The Treme Brass Band (N.O. Brass Band)
Kermit Ruffins (Trumpeter/Vocals/Rap)
James Andrews (Trumpeter/Vocals)
Trumpet Mafia (it's all in the name!)
Wendell Brunious (Trumpeter/Vocals)
Mark Braud (Trumpeter/Vocals)
Kevin Louis (Trumpeter/Vocals)
Ashlin Parker (Trumpeter)
John Michael Bradford (Trumpeter/Vocals)
Tab Benoit (Blues)
Lost Bayou Ramblers (Cajun)
Nathan Williams & the Zydeco Cha-Chas (Zydeco)
Joe Lastie & The New Orleans Sound (drummer)
Black Magic Drum Line (pure joy in the streets)
BOYFRIEND (rap cabaret)

DAILY LIVE MUSIC LISTINGS: calendar.offbeat.com/calendars/all-events

NOLA Official Visitors Website: neworleansonline.com



WHAT TO DO + SEE!

Music is the Heartbeat of New Orleans. Live music is everywhere here — it's truly the soul of the city. Prioritize catching it while you're in town, and don't forget to bring some music home with you.

Buy Local Sounds: The Louisiana Music Factory, Euclid Records, and Peaches.

Live Music Venues in the French Quarter: Preservation Hall, Snug Harbor and Toulouse Theatre

Frenchmen Street Hotspots: Snug Harbor, DBA, Maison, The Blue Nile, The Spotted Cat.

Beyond the Quarter: The Bayou Bar, Tipitina's, and Chickie Wah Wah.

Insider tip: Stroll Royal Street or Chartres Street for music, art, and atmosphere. Avoid Bourbon Street. (Gag!)

Parks, Strolls & Outdoor Fun

City Park: A must-visit with Couturie Forest, the Sculpture Garden (free!), Storyland, City Putt-Putt, Carousel Gardens Amusement Park, the Children's Museum, golf courses, and of course, Café du Monde for beignets.

Audubon Park: Another gem for oak-lined beauty, walking paths, and golf.

Jean Lafitte National Park: Explore Louisiana's natural and cultural heritage just 30 minutes from the Quarter.

Crescent Park: A 1.4-mile urban oasis along the Mississippi River in the Bywater, perfect for walking, jogging, and taking in sweeping skyline and river views.

History & Culture

Backstreet Cultural Museum: The world's most comprehensive collection of African-American community traditions — Mardi Gras Indians, jazz funerals, social aid and pleasure clubs, Baby Dolls, and more.

Cemeteries: St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 (1789) is the oldest in the city, with its iconic raised marble and stone graves. For something more intimate, visit the St. Roch Cemetery Ex-Voto Shrine.

Whitney Plantation: About an hour upriver — an important cultural museum exploring the history of slavery.



WHAT TO DO + SEE (continued)

Art & Museums

New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA): In City Park, with its world-class Sculpture Garden.

Ogden Museum of Southern Art: Don't miss Thursday evenings with food, cocktails, and live music.

Julia Street (Gallery Row): Explore contemporary galleries, then lunch at Herbsaint, Emeril's or Pêche.

Pharmacy Museum: A quirky 1823 apothecary with exhibits of early medicine and "superstitious cures."

Sazerac House Museum: Free and interactive — learn how New Orleans' coffee houses and pharmacies evolved into America's first bars.

Neighborhood Wandering

Magazine Street: An all-day affair — five miles of boutiques, antiques, restaurants, and galleries. Think SoHo of the South.

The Bywater: Spend an hour at Studio Be, a 35,000 sq. ft. landmark featuring powerful work by artist Brandan "BMike" Odums.

Music Box Village: In the Bywater — whimsical musical houses you can play, plus curated concerts (check schedule at musicboxvillage.com).

National Treasures

The National WWII Museum: A world-class, immersive experience that explores the global scale of the war. Truly not to be missed.

The Historic New Orleans Collection: A research center and museum dedicated to preserving the city's history and culture. A treasure trove for the curious.

Preservation Hall: An iconic music venue dedicated to preserving traditional New Orleans jazz. Intimate, raw, and authentic — no trip is complete without experiencing a performance here.

The Cabildo: Once the seat of Spanish colonial government, this historic building on Jackson Square now serves as a museum filled with artifacts that tell the story of Louisiana's past.

Faulkner House Books: Browse rare editions in the Quarter, right next to St. Louis Cathedral.



EAT

Emeril's - If you're going to propose or celebrate, this is THE finest restaurant in New Orleans. Now helmed by Emeril's son, E.J. Lagasse, who earned TWO Michelin stars serves a tasting menu featuring a refined and elegant approach to Louisiana cuisine. Known for elevated and warm hospitality, the food is simply divine and creative. Everything is perfect from start to finish and has a more affordable wine bar next door (with different food menu.)

Zasu - My fave restaurant in MidCity for sophisticated cuisine, headed up James Beard award-winning Chef, Sue Zemanick.

N7 - French fare with an expansive wine list in an eclectic garden in the Bywater. This is my go-to for Brunch.

Paladar 511 - Casual Italian restaurant in the Bywater. Amazing pastas, salads and pizzas. If they have the tuna crudo on the menu, order it! Heck, order two!

Lillette - Chef John Harris's sophisticated French fare in a sexy, sun filled stylish space. Next door to his Bouigny tavern.

Saba - Alon Shaya's Uptown bistro with family-style platters of locally sourced Middle Eastern fare & outdoor dining

Jack Rose - Fun is the goal at this lively restaurant in The Ponchartrain Hotel and my fave place to celebrate my birthday. The restaurant looks like it was decorated with finds from estate sales except for its shiny portrait of Lil Wayne.

Dakar NOLA - In 2022, chef Serigne Mbaye's was nominated for a James Beard Award for Best Emerging Chef and has since earned 6th Best Restaurant in the USA. Serigne's Senegalese tasting menu (dinners) have been some of the most exciting, noteworthy dining experiences in New Orleans.

Pêche - Outstanding seafood restaurant by chef, Donald Link of Cochon and Herbsaint. Open loft-like atmosphere with a stellar bloody mary and the freshest catch!

Rosedale - No matter how you arrive to this tucked away gem in Mid-City, you'll be served the freshest, locally sourced ingredients. Operated by award winning chef, Susan Spicer with outdoor dining.

Clancy's - An Old School New Orleans gem tucked into an Uptown Corner Shop.

Doris Metropolitan - It's a steak house with a metropolitan feel. Chic, mod and delicious! Being a vegetarian, I enjoy the vegetarian apps, including the stuffed beet. Reservations recommended but when not possible, the lively bar is fun.

Pigeon + Whale - A nautical Uptown bar with a noteworthy bounty of seafood and a color wheel of negronis.



Galatoire's - I've celebrated countless birthdays at this quintessential iconic restaurant. I once had lunch and our beverage total was 10 times the cost of our food. Whoops! It's a lively place that is all about celebrating! Every local has their favorite waiter: I love Casey and Rachelle. Don't even think about asking to see a menu - simply ask what's fresh? My favorite is Trout Almondine and steamed artichoke hearts with Spinach Rockefeller and jumbo lump crabmeat. Order Café Brûlot at the end. Jackets required for gents but they'll have one for you if you forget.

Commander's Palace - The Grand Dame of New Orleans Cuisine. Great for big groups or romantic dinners. Oh, and go for Sunday Brunch and start drinking Brandy Milk Punches at 11am while listenign to live music strolling through. Ask for a table in the Garden Room! NOW you understand New Orleans.

Brightsen's - Modern Creole fare by acclaimed and multi award winning chef, Frank Brigtsen served in a cozy Uptown cottage.

Arnaud's - This Louisiana Creole Fine Dining establishment is one of the city's classics. The elegant, early 19th-century main dining room, with its huge expanse of etched leaded glass, is where you want to dine. Guests routinely spend three hours at the table as if nothing else mattered. Swiftly moving tuxedo-clad waiters glide along the patterned ceramic-tile floors; bearing pots of Café Brûlot emitting blue flames and the aroma of citrus, liqueur and spices

Boulinny Tavern - New Orleans is awesome because it's cool to visit from NYC and go out to dinner and see music in flip flops and cargo shorts, but SOMETIMES...you want to dress up and have nice cocktails and outstanding small plates in a hip atmosphere. Amen Boulinny! Super mid-century design inside a 100+ year old New Orleans residence. Chef John Harris, the owner, really does wear that 70s 'stache and spin vinyl.

Acamaya - Acclaimed chef, Ana Castro's, casual Mexican seafood restaurant in the Bywater will surprise even the most experienced traveler.

Cochon - Real Cajun / creole / southern food by James Beard and award-winning chef Donald Link (mentioned above.) This is the only place in the city you should order gumbo. I'll take two, please. Thank you very much!

Addis Nola - A well-appointed Ethiopian restaurant nestled on Historic Bayou Road, New Orleans' oldest road and a cultural hub of Black owned Businesses. Great for Happy Hour and/or dinner.

Coquette - Contemporary southern cuisine in the heart of the Garden District.

Luvi - some of the best Japanese food in NOLA and Hao, the chef+owner run an outstanding operation.

Miss Shirley's Chinese Restaurant - A neighborhood spot for dim-sum, and Cantonese specialties in New Orleans' Irish Channel, Uptown.



Mister Mao - A tropical roadhouse in an Uptown Cottage with a creative kitchen devoted to robust flavors, produced with precision. If your headed to Tiptina's for a live show, you wanna go here before.

El Pavo Real - A Low-key Mexican cafe serving the best Mexican food and home made margaritas in the Broadmore neighborhood.

1000 Figs - Amazing Mediterranean food (and I lived in the Marais!) near City Park - my go to is their Falafel platter and fries.

Lamara Coffee + Cafe - A plant based organic and gluten free West Coast style Cafe in Mid City. My fave for Saturday morning.

Saint Pizza - Named one of the best pizzerias in the US by the NYT and perfectly situated on Magazine Street (in the LGD) next door to **Patron Saint**, an organic wine shop and bar and Merchant House.

The Butcher - Awesome sandwich shop run by the Cochon Folks (aka Donald Link). The cookies? HOLY SMOKES! Hands down the best Gumbo in town. I order it to take away when I'm hosting folks from outta town.

Liuzza's by the Track - There is a saying in New Orleans – "the best food is at the places where you wouldn't want to use the bathroom." That applies here. Super busy, a little smelly, but the best BBQ shrimp poboy near the race track.

Casamento's - This third-generation oyster bar has some of the freshest local oysters in town, delicious raw, fried or cooked. The French fries are fresh-cut and the seafood is always cooked to order. Closed in summer.

Budsi Thai - Thai Street food–inspired dishes are served along with homestyle cuisine at this relaxed Marigny restaurant.

St. James Cheese Shop - You can't eat Creole food every day. Go here for a gourmet ploughman's platter or the best sandwich Uptown.

Stein's - New Orleans's best (only?) proper Jewish & Italian deli where you can get an awesome Reuben, BLT, Matzoh ball soup, or turkey on rye. Loads of beers by the bottle and fancy schmancy soft drinks.

Barracuda - An uptown taco stand and Margarita garden offering outdoor dining near Tiptina's. I love the broccoli taco.

Union Ramen - A Vietnamese Chef and a Filipino Restaurateur serving Japanese food originally hailing from



TALES OF A COCKTAIL

kick back after a long day of walking around the city and enjoy a cocktail

Jewel of the South: A James Beard award-winning, specialty cocktail bar and restaurant with amazing cocktails and a lovely private courtyard. Great way to start or end your evening because they serve food til Midnight.

The Elysian: Located in the Hotel Peter & Paul serving lite fare and cocktails in the Bywater.

Bar Marilou: Specialty cocktails with live music and fantastic interior design.

Fives: A sun filled raw oyster and cocktail bar on Jackson Square. Fun fact - I grew up in The Pontalba's where this bar is. Lucky Me.

The Columns Hotel: I first met Jude Law, James Gandolfini and Sean Penn here in 2004. Pretty Baby was filmed in this magical St. Charles Avenue manse, which has been refurbished. Enjoy cocktails and great food on the front porch as the streetcars pass by. Be sure to check their live music listings!

Hotel Saint Vincent: Not just the cool kid in town, but a perfect place for a nightcap in the LGD.

The Chloe: Grab a bite and a cocktail before a show at this Uptown boutique hotel.

Boulogny Tavern: A chic 70's den and courtyard with fantastic food prepared by John Harris of Lilette.

The Delachaise : Wine bar on St Charles Avenue with divine food. The owner, Evan has stellar music taste and is a very charming host, particularly if you tell him we are friends ;)

Arnaud's French 75 Bar: A classic French Quarter bar serving Bananas Foster and Cafe Brulot.

Carousel Bar: Some of the nicest bartenders in all of New Orleans and there's always live music!

Napoleon House: This patina rich french quarter staple suspends you in time. Listen to Beethoven's Eroica, which he composed for Napoleon, while sipping a Pimm's Cup, and basking in an ambiance that could only be New Orleans

Manolito: Cuban cuisine & frozen cocktails in an intimate house in the heart of the French Quarter.

Peychaud's: A timeless French Quarter Patio bar inside the new Celestine Hotel, opens at 4pm.

Sazerac Bar: The Sazerac Bar pays homage to the granddaddy of New Orleans cocktails: The Sazerac. It's a sophisticated lounge in the Roosevelt Hotel, and a nice place to drink before or after a show at The Orpheum or Saenger Theatres.

St. Germain: French Wine bar in the Bywater with a separate dining room.

Bacchanal: Bohemian wine shop with food & live music in the Bywater with an enormous garden.



FOR THE KIDS

Ride the Streetcar - Climb aboard the oldest continuously operating street railway in the world — 34 olive-green, now-electric cars running for 188 years! For just \$1.25, catch it at Canal & Royal and ride up to Audubon Park. Hop off for a bite at Camellia Grill, New Orleans Original Daiquiris, or Superior Seafood (great kids' menu, raw or grilled oysters, and Frozen French 75's for grownups — ask for a to-go cup).

City Park - A paradise for families!

Ride the carousel and train in Storyland (a fairy-tale oasis for kids).

Rent a paddleboat or bike.

Play putt-putt at City Putt.

Visit the New Orleans Museum of Art and the world-class Sculpture Garden (free!).

Snack on beignets & café au lait at the 24-hour Café du Monde behind the Sculpture Garden.

Don't miss the Louisiana Children's Museum — with Acorn restaurant, perfect for breakfast or lunch.

JAMNOLA™: A topsy-turvy stroll through 17 exhibits celebrating New Orleans art, music, food, and theatrics — created by 30+ local artists. Tickets online recommended.

Music Box Village (Bywater): Kids adore playing the whimsical musical houses — or catch one of their curated concerts.

Audubon Zoo: Open daily except Mondays, with the award-winning Louisiana Swamp Exhibit. Cool Zoo: In summer, splash at the water park and lazy river inside the zoo.

Aquarium: Reimagined and walkable from the Quarter along the Moonwalk — kids love the “fishies.”

Snowballs: My favorites are Plum Street and Hansen's (Both are Uptown.)

Café du Monde: Beignets 24/7! Insider tip: don't waste time in line — grab a seat inside.

Commander's Palace (Sunday Brunch): Surprisingly kid-friendly with live music, balloons, Brandy Milk Punch for grownups, and Bread Pudding Soufflé. Dress up! Reservations required.



SHOP

Papier and Plume: If you're looking for my work, pop into this charming paper & pen boutique on 842 Royal Street in the French Quarter.

Dirty Coast: New Orleanians love their self-referential T-shirts, and you can look just like one with a trip to one of Dirty Coast's three locations (LGD, French Quarter & Uptown). Just make sure you understand what you are wearing. I license several of my designs to Dirty Coast so go getcha yourself one!

The Historic New Orleans Collection and **The New Orleans Museum of Art:** Well respected museum gift shops stuffed with unique New Orleans memorabilia, books, and gifts. I also sell my work here.

Faulkner House Books is a treasure trove of rare books located in Pirate's Alley by St. Louis Cathedral. Faulkner was living here when he wrote "Soldiers' Pay." **Baldwin & Co.,** is a black-owned cafe and independent bookstore in the Marigny using the power of books to inspire social justice.

Gentlemen, you should be dressed to the nines! A visit to **George Bass** can help you achieve that: English shoes, Italian cashmere, seersucker & bespoke tailoring. Be sure to visit **Meyer The Hatter** for a hat around the corner.

United Apparel Liquidators (aka UAL): It's stuffed and small but customers swear by it! \$300 jeans for \$50 (did that!) Four locations: Magazine Street, Metairie and two locations on Royal Street in the French Quarter.

Peony, SoSuSu, West London BTQ, Le Marais, Phippen Lane, Pilot & Powell, and Art and Eyes are some of my favorite boutiques featuring curated collections of feminine clothing & accessories along Magazine Street.

Merchant House, Vice & Graft, Century Girl Vintage, FiFi Mahoney's, Trashy Diva Lingerie, Bambi Deville Vintage Clothing, and Broadway Bound Costumes are unique retailers featuring a curated collection of vintage, wigs, makeup, costumes, corsets and headpieces.

HGM Fine Jewelry and **Keil's Antiques** are my favorite estate jewelers and **Porter Lyons** is my favorite wearable art.

Sparkle & Swag: a party supply store with 2 locations offering balloon decor.

Leontine Linens: Founded in New Orleans in 1996 by friend, Jane Scott Hodges. Leontine Linens is preserving and reinventing the classic art form of couture linens, infusing it with a modern twist.

Hove Parfumeur

Custom blended fragrances since 1931. (Inspiration for Tom Robbins' *Jitterbug Perfume*).



Before you come, WATCH & READ:

A Tuba to Cuba - My friends, TG & Nicelle Herrington, Ben Jaffe and Danny Clinch made this documentary, which follows famed Preservation Hall Jazz Band as they retrace their musical roots from New Orleans, the storied city of jazz to Cuba.

All on a Mardi Gras Day - An intimate portrait of Big Chief Demond Melancon's journey through the secret 200-year culture known as the Black Masking Culture of New Orleans.

Down By Law - A 1986 B&W Cult film, written and directed by cult director, Jim Jarmusch.

By Invitation Only - My childhood friend, Rebecca Snedeker explores the insular world of the elite, white Carnival societies and debutante balls of Mardi Gras.

The Princess and The Frog - Disney's love letter to New Orleans is set in New Orleans during the 1920s and happens to be my favorite Disney film! The soundtrack isn't bad either!

Treme - Set in post-Katrina New Orleans, this drama series, from "The Wire" executive producers David Simon and Eric Overmyer, follows the lives of ordinary residents as they struggle with the aftereffects of the 2005 hurricane.

Algiers, America - A docuseries directed by my friend, Jackson Fager, that tells the story of a remarkable High School football coach in the center of one of New Orleans' oldest neighborhoods, Algiers, and the community that's fighting together for hope and survival.

The World that Made New Orleans - Historical reference by Ned Sublette written for anyone who wants to know how New Orleans became to be the most unique city in America.

A Confederacy of Dunces - a mischievous novel featuring the misadventures of an educated but slothful 30-year-old living with his mother in the early 1960s New Orleans, who, in his quest for employment, has various adventures with colorful French Quarter characters. One day, I hope to see this book made into a movie!



Alexa Pulitzer
NEW ORLEANS

SOME OF MY FRIENDS RENT THEIR SUPER FAB FURNISHED HOMES. *Tell them I sent you.*

BANKS

Urbania House: [vrbo.com/2296615](https://www.vrbo.com/2296615) - Circa 1838, iconic raised Center Hall Villa in the Lower Garden District, completely unique, even for New Orleans, intoxicating from the moment you enter with its ethereal rooms, grounds, and pool. 5 Bedrooms / 3 Bathrooms.

Oddfellows Club: [vrbo.com/1712210](https://www.vrbo.com/1712210) - On the edge of the Garden District with its storied streets and mysterious mansions there is one 1840's grey manse that is hidden in plain sight but long forgotten, this home and its secret gardens with pool loom behind tall mossy walls. 4 Bedrooms / 3.5 Bathrooms.

[vrbo.com/1736414](https://www.vrbo.com/1736414) - Teeming with architectural features, this 1855 Greek Revival townhouse apartment is luxuriously large and feels more like a private home with its own courtyard. 2 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms.

[vrbo.com/1344330](https://www.vrbo.com/1344330) - Residing in the Lower Garden District, this historic Greek Revival townhouse with balcony overlooking Magazine Street offers restaurants, museums, parks, and boutiques just steps from the front door. 2 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms.

MELISSA

airbnb.com/h/chartresmain - A historic 4 bedroom 4.5 bathroom, 3-story home surrounded by vibrant dining, bars, and music venues with a plunge pool and lush courtyard nestled on the banks of the Mississippi River and reimaged by local designers.

airbnb.com/h/thebouligny - Historic 3 Bedroom 3 Bathroom Victorian home with heated pool and chef's kitchen. Located one block from New Orleans' best shopping and dining (Magazine Street) and only a short 6 block walk to St. Charles Ave and streetcars.

airbnb.com/h/dvavery - A historic Greek Revival home featuring 9 bedrooms, 11 bathrooms, a grand double parlor, luxurious dining room, and three enchanting courtyards on Prytania, one of New Orleans' oldest streets in the Lower Garden District.

MELANIE

maisondeviolette.com - 3 bedrooms / 2.5 Bathrooms. 1840's Luxury Townhouse with balcony overlooking Magazine Street in the Lower Garden District.

TODD

www.vrbo.com/1247901 - 3 Bedroom w/ Balcony on Frenchman St in the Marigny above Ayu Bakehouse.

www.vrbo.com/1247881 - 2 Bedroom w/ Balcony on Frenchman St in the Marigny above Ayu Bakehouse.



HOTELS

Maison Metier: A serene, upscale guest house of 67 suites in the Central Business District (CBD), Maison de la Luz has its finger on the pulse of New Orleans. Home to Salon Salon — arguably the most beautiful bar in town — this private hideaway is where celebrities stay (and are left in peace).

Hotel Saint Vincent: Once a 19th-century orphanage, now reimagined as an über-stylish Deco-disco playground in the Lower Garden District. With an Italian restaurant, Vietnamese café, Chapel Bar, POOL, and prime location for shopping and sightseeing, it's an irresistible mix of history and glamour.

Hotel Peter & Paul: A Catholic school turned boutique stay in The Marigny, this hotel feels like it's been part of the neighborhood forever. Beloved by locals, it features a restaurant, café, the atmospheric Elysian Bar, and a breathtaking church space for private events, weddings, and concerts.

The Four Seasons: The only five-star hotel in New Orleans — though locals will tell you “true five-star” doesn't quite exist here. Still, it impresses with a spa, the glittering Chandelier Bar (live music on Sundays), two standout restaurants: Miss River and Chemin à la Mer and a theatrical view overlooking the Mississippi River.

The Muses by Dear Valentine: A historic retreat in the heart of New Orleans' storied Lower Garden District, The Muses is a collection of three meticulously restored 19th-century homes along Prytania Street. Together offering twenty-one thoughtfully curated rooms available to be booked by the room - or by the home. for larger groups. (<https://www.dearvalentine.co/muses>)

The Chloe Hotel: Set in a 19th-century Uptown mansion on St. Charles Avenue, The Chloe is a stylish boutique hotel with a lively bar, restaurant, and POOL. Perfect for Mardi Gras, happy hour, or lazy Sunday afternoons under the oaks.

The Columns Hotel: 1883 National Landmark, Michelin keyed Hotel / Restaurant / Bar. The perfect location for Mardi Gras on Historic St. Charles Avenue. Their sister hotel across the avenue, **Hotel Henrietta** is a brand spanking new 40 room sanctuary with bar and cafe.

Inn at The Old Jail: A funky, award-winning small guesthouse set in a National Historic Landmark in Tremé. Quirky, colorful, and full of character. It's also perfectly located — just three minutes from the French Quarter and ideal for Jazz Fest visitors.



IMPORTANT RESOURCES

LOCALLY MADE GIFTS + PRINTED GOODS: AlexaPulitzer.com (504)766-6201

CUSTOM CULTURAL + VIP EXPERIENCES: Lacey @ RoulezPresents.com | (504) 722-1247

LIVE MUSIC BOOKING: David Torkanowsky (504) 232-7464 | Torkanowsky@me.com

CATERING: Palate (504) 864-2990, Patti Constantin (504) 913-6866, Laura Arrowood (504) 352-6687

PRIVATE CHEF: Jason Goodenough (215) 834-6022, Michael Saxer (504) 460-7171

SECOND LINE PARADES: Lacey Wood (504) 722-1247 | ILoveVieux.com

FLOWERS: Kim Starr Wise (585) 330-0643, Mitch's Flowers (504) 899-4843

EVENT PLANNERS: Thea Pagel (504)236-1841, Z Events (561)346-4909, Contessa & Co. (504)390-3399

PRIVATE YOGA + BREATHWORK + MASSAGE: Jess Huneycutt (310) 467-6566

ROLFER: John DeMahy (504) 488-7555, Misty DeMahy (504) 493-9236

MASSEUSE: Mary Jefferson (504) 376-4577 or Horn Hom (504) 388-7744

FACIAL: Egle @ Good Face (504) 617-8755

HAIR STYLIST: Courtney or Jared @ Paris Parker Salon on Prytania St. (504) 891-8874

SECURITY: Les Schmidt (310) 975-9238

DRIVER: Mohammed (504) 258-8585

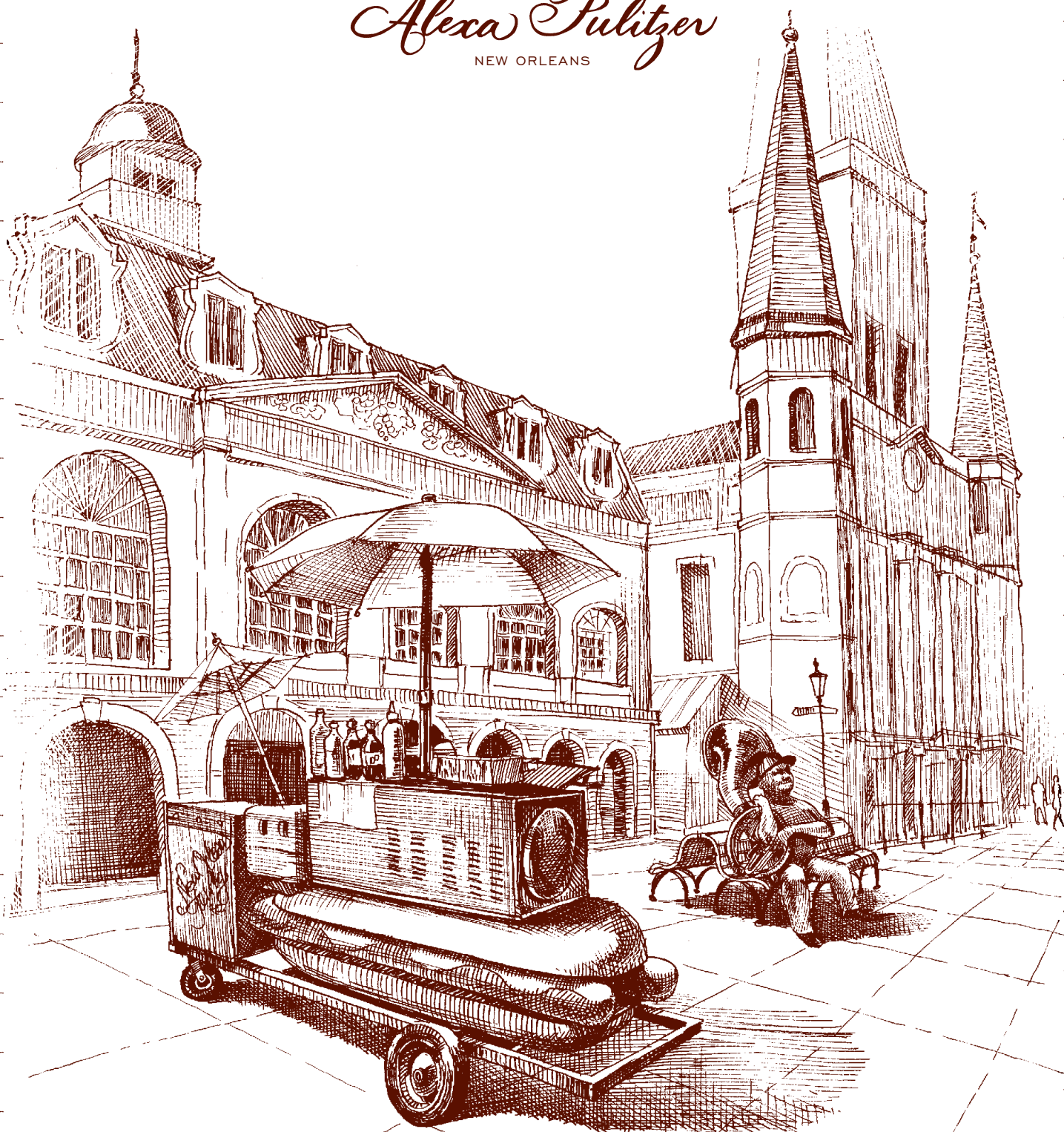
THE REMEDY ROOM: Think IV after long a night! Mignonne Mary, MD is a national leader in innovative wellness with a focus on disease prevention, nutritional medicine and infusion therapy. (504) 386-3851

SWEAT & EXERCISE: New Orleans Boxing Club · The SPYRE · SCULPT Pilates Studio · Romney Pilates Wild Lotus Yoga · The New Orleans Athletic Club · Swan River Yoga

PRIVATE TOURS : If you're looking for a guided experience of New Orleans "must see's" presented with historical accuracy and a true passion for our remarkable city, check out writer, documentarian, preservationist, Rob Florence and his 30 year old company, **NOLA Historic Tours**. Visit: www.tourneworleans.com for their daily tours including Cemetery + Voodoo, Scandalous Cocktail, French Quarter, Treme, Garden District, Music and Haunted French Quarter or for a private, bespoke experience, call (504) 947-2120.



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