

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 New Orleans 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 The Hermes Bar. 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 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. Well-behaved children are welcome and encouraged. To avoid the line, pre-purchase your tickets at PreservationHall.com. I normally arrive 30-40 minutes early, and grab a drink and quick bite at Le Spectacle next door.

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, either 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 Michelin star, ZASU (127 N. Carrollton Ave.) 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. There are two sets: 8pm and 10pm. Get there early or just be smart, and make a reservation because it is teeny tiny.

THURSDAY: Check out www.TourNewOrleans.com for their daily tours including Cemetery + Voodoo, Scandalous Cocktail, French Quarter, Tremé, Garden District, Music and Haunted Tours, or for a private, custom experience, call the owner, Rob Florence at (504) 947-2120. Book a lunch reservation now at Lilette (3637 Magazine St.) then walk over to The Columns Hotel for happy hour, where the front porch will transport you to another era.



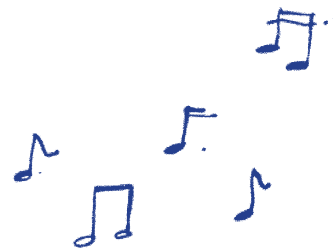
THURSDAY NIGHT: Catch the 5pm show at Preservation Hall, in the French Quarter then enjoy divine cocktails and dinner at award winning, Jewel of the South (1026 St Louis St.) or Holy Water (622 Conti St.) Afterwards, walk to Frenchmen Street and check out an array of live music at Snug Harbor Jazz Bistro, DBA, The Spotted Cat, The Frenchman Hotel and many more. Only walk down Royal or Chartres Streets.

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 on cornet: Kevin Louis.

SATURDAY: Hopefully you wake up and when you do, grab coffee and a savory at Ayu Bakehouse (801 Frenchmen St) or Brunch at Paladar 511 (511 Marigny St.) 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 galleries, boutiques and antique stores on Royal Street in the French Quarter or stroll down Magazine Street. For an afternoon bite, there's Turkey and The Wolf (739 Jackson Ave.) Atchafalaya Restaurant (901 Louisiana Ave) or La Petite Grocery (4238 Magazine St.) or Saba (5757 Magazine Street.) P.S. You could also do this any day of the week.

SATURDAY EVENING: If you are a REAL FOODIE, book a table at Emeril's and be prepared to be impressed and delighted. If a food coma does not strike you down early, check out music at 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: Go old-school and enjoy a lively Jazz Brunch at Commander's Palace (1403 Washington Ave.) Try and reserve a sunlit table in the garden room. Continue with an afternoon walk through the picturesque, Lafayette Cemetery No. 2 and the Garden District where some of New Orleans most moody mansions are situated. If you're downtown, transport yourself to France and enjoy Brunch al fresco in the most glorious garden at N7 in the Bywater (1117 Montegut St). 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 café au lait at Café 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 cornet 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, New Orleans Jazz and Blues Market, The U.S. Mint**, and my favorites: **Preservation Hall, The Bayou Bar, Land of Dreams, Three Maries Jazz Club and Toulouse Theatre.**

Preservation Hall Jazz Band (Traditional jazz)

Jon 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)

Quiana Lynell (Jazz Vocalist)

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)

Rivers Eckert (teenage phenom on the piano)

Tab Benoit (Blues)

Lost Bayou Ramblers (Cajun)

Nathan Williams & the Zydeco Cha-Chas (Zydeco)

Joe Lastie & The New Orleans Sound (drummer)

Jamison Ross (Grammy Nominated Drummer)

Erica Falls (New Orleans R&B)

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, Land of Dreams, Tiptina's, and Jazz and Blues Market

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

Beyond the Quarter: The Bayou Bar, Tipitina's, Gaza Gaza 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. Eat lunch or have cocktails under the 300 year-old oak trees at the Audubon Clubhouse.

Jean Lafitte National Park: Look for alligators and 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. Start at Merchant House (1150 Magazine St) and walk all the way uptown.

The Bywater: Spend an hour at Studio Be, a 35,000-square-foot 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, the restaurant has earned TWO MICHELIN stars and 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 a different food menu.)

Zasu - MICHELIN Star and my fave restaurant for sophisticated fish-forward cuisine, headed up by 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 - Italian restaurant in the Bywater with amazing pastas, salads and pizzas. If they have their lemon ricotta pancakes or 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. Afterwards, walk next door to his Bouigny tavern for an after-dinner drink.

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 Pontchartrain 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.

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.

Kingsway - A chic, dark, fine dining contemporary Asian restaurant experience Uptown on Magazine Street. The menu is a four-course tasting menu, where you can choose your own adventure, with three options for each course.

Dakar NOLA - In 2022, chef Serigne Mbaye was nominated for a James Beard Award for Best Emerging Chef and has since earned Best Restaurant in the USA. Serigne's Senegalese tasting menu have been among the most exciting, noteworthy dining experiences in New Orleans. Dakar's new location is on River Road along the Mississippi River.



Galatoire's - I've celebrated countless birthdays at this quintessential iconic restaurant. 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 for 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 listening to live jazz stroll through. Ask for a table in the Garden Room! NOW you understand why New Orleanians pride ourselves on service.

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

Arnaud's - A New Orleans Creole classic. Dine in the elegant main dining room, with its etched leaded glass, patterned tile floors and tuxedo-clad waiters. Meals unfold leisurely here, ideally ending with the theatrical Café Brûlot—blue flames, citrus, liqueur and spice.

Holy Water - A stylish, family-run Oyster bar in the French Quarter. Perfect for light bites and delicious cocktails.

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

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

Saint Claire - a French-themed countryside oasis. A fusion of dining experiences with dinner, brunch, and picnic options across the River. Included in The New York Times's 2025 list of the nation's 50 best restaurants.

Mister Mao - A tropical roadhouse in an Uptown Cottage with a creative kitchen devoted to robust flavors, produced with precision. If you're headed to Tiptina's for a show, you can eat here before the show and walk over.

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.

Doris Metropolitan - It's a steakhouse with a metropolitan feel. Being a vegetarian, I enjoy the vegetarian apps, including the stuffed beet. Reservations recommended but when not possible, the lively bar is fun.

Cochon - Real Cajun / Creole / Southern food by James Beard and award-winning chef Donald Link. This is the only place in the city you should order gumbo. I'll take two quarts to-go please and thank you very much!



Bouigny 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 shorts, but SOMETIMES...you want to dress up and have nice cocktails and outstanding small plates in a hip atmosphere. Amen Bouigny! 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.

Saint Pizza - Named one of the best pizzerias in the U.S. 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 mates from outta town.

El Pavo Real - A Low-key Mexican cafe serving the best Mexican food and homemade margaritas in the Broadmoor neighborhood.

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

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

Chada - A divine Thai restaurant in Mid-City with outdoor seating as well as fabulous decor. My fave.

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.

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 racetrack.

Gaijin Sandos - Japanese Style, Southern Flavor. A little twist on a classic Japanese sando in the Bywater.

Union Ramen - A Vietnamese Chef and a Filipino Restaurateur serving Japanese food originally hailing from China. And in this town, it's all about flavor, baby.

Budsi Thai - Super yummy Thai street food in this relaxed Marigny café-style casual restaurant.



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 until Midnight.

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

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

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

Le Spectacle: Located next door to Preservation Hall, serving delicious libations and quick bites.

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.

Bouligny 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 amazing bar 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 inside Arnaud's and perfect for after-dinner cocktail, Bananas Foster and Café Brûlot.

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.

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

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



FOR THE KIDS

Ride the Streetcar - Climb aboard the oldest continuously operating street railway in the world! 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 75s 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.

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.”

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

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

If you're looking for my work while exploring New Orleans, pop into:

Papier Plume — 842 Royal Street (*French Quarter*)

Merchant House — 1150 Magazine Street (*Lower Garden District*)

Marquette Shoppe — 3458 Magazine Street (*Uptown*)

New Orleans Museum of Art - Gift Shop — *City Park on Bayou St. John*

You may also purchase directly from my website and select "local pick up" when checking out and pick up from my home office by appointment only - Monday through Thursday.

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.

Le Marais, Peony, Art and Eyes, SoSuSu, West London BTQ, Pippen Lane, Pilot & Powell, PiedNu and Basics Underneath 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, Bambi Deville Vintage Clothing, and **Broadway Bound Costumes** are unique retailers featuring curated collections of vintage, wigs, makeup, costumes, corsets and headpieces.

Gentlemen, NOLA is not Los Angeles. You should be dressed to the nines in my town! A visit to **George Bass** can help you achieve that: English shoes, Italian cashmere, seersucker & tailoring. Be sure to visit **Meyer the Hatter** for a dapper hat.

HGM Fine Jewelry and **Keil's Antiques** are my favorite estate jewelers and **Porter Lyons** is my favorite wearable art. **Leontine Linens** is preserving and reinventing the classic art form of linens, infusing it with a modern twist. **Hové Parfumeur** creates custom blended fragrances since 1931.



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 my favorite 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 came 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 1840s grey manse 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.

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.

MELISSA

airbnb.com/h/chartresmain - A historic 4-bedroom, 4.5-bathroom, three-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 reimagined 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.



HOTELS

Maison Métier: A serene, upscale guesthouse with 67 rooms and suites in the Central Business District (CBD), Maison Métier 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 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 new 40-room sanctuary with bar and cafe.

The Warbler: An upscale boutique hotel on St. Charles Avenue designed in the spirit of the Jazz Age with soulful luxury, boasting three unique places to eat and drink, a rooftop pool and bar.

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 Whit: An intimate, well-appointed, 15-room, dog-friendly mansion in the heart of the Garden District.

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.



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

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

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

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

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

PRIVATE CHEF: Michael Saxer (504) 460-7171

CRAWFISH BOILS: Nick (504) 717-5574, Bill (504) 296-2452

SWAMP TOUR BOAT CAPTAIN: Ross (504) 689-7577

FISHING CAPTAIN: Frank (504)881-9966, or Jaque (504)303-1494

BOW FISHING: Jack Hill (504)881-3474

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

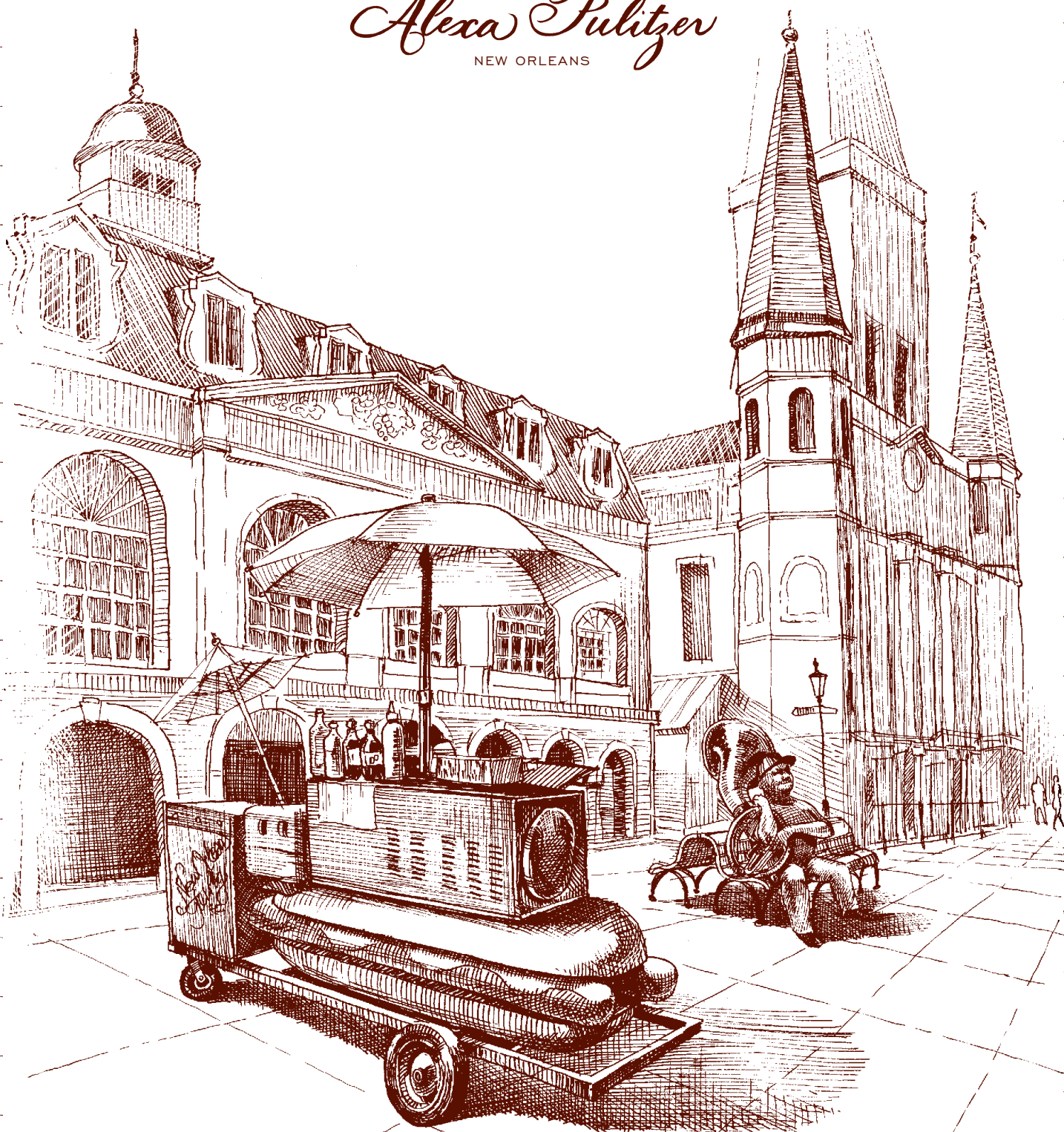
FITNESS: New Orleans Boxing Club · The SPYRE · SCULPT Pilates Studio · Romney Pilates
Wild Lotus Yoga · The New Orleans Athletic Club · Swan River Yoga · Vibrant Market

THE REMEDY ROOM: Think IV after a long 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

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



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