



FALL/WINTER 2023

# Lively CHARLESTON

MAGAZINE

FEATURE STORY

## Celebrating the Seasons in the South

CULTURE

**The Colors that Paint  
the Lowcountry**

REAL ESTATE

**Agent Spotlight:  
Marissa Trudo**



*“I have heard  
it said that an  
inoculation  
to the sights  
and smells of  
the Carolina  
lowcountry  
is an almost  
irreversible  
antidote to the  
charms of other  
landscapes,  
other alien  
geographies.”*

*— Pat Conroy*



# From The Publisher

Dear Reader,

We are thrilled to present the Fall/Winter 2023 issue of Lively Charleston Magazine!

From the rich architectural history to the crisp autumn air and cozy winter festivities, this issue takes a peek into the past and captures the essence of the holiday season here in Charleston. Our team has worked hard to curate a mix of captivating articles, beautiful photography, and local insights that celebrate the charm and liveliness of our beloved city.

The holiday season in Charleston is truly magical. From the beautiful lights illuminating the historic buildings to the festive flair of the local cuisine, there is no shortage of fun and memorable ways to make the most of this special time of year. The feature story of this issue explores everything from markets and parades to performances and other events. We hope everyone spending the holiday season in the Holy City has an unforgettable experience.

As always, I want to shout out our fantastic team and local partners whose hard work and commitment make this magazine a reality. A special thank you to our talented writers Joey DiGioia and Tre Manchester, our amazing Chief Editor and writer Marissa Trudo, and our brilliant Creative Director Crystal Bryant!

Whether you are a long-time resident or a first-time visitor, we hope this issue inspires you to explore all that Charleston has to offer. Thank you for choosing Lively Charleston Magazine as your guide to the Lowcountry.

Cheers!



**Jeremy Feldman**  
Publisher



# Lively Charleston Magazine

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# The Colors that Paint the Lowcountry

By Joey DiGioia

**Any first-time visitor to our city will instantly feel themselves awash in the unique Lowcountry color radiating from Charleston's buildings. This architectural rainbow is so sought-after there is actually a commercially available Charleston color palette.**

Charleston's color and design styles are bottled up and used by paint, building, and design manufacturers for mass consumption everywhere, not just in Charleston. These colors run deep and represent the culture, physical attributes, and social scene specific to Lowcountry living.

We're going to talk specifics on five hues and colorways that genuinely encapsulate Charleston proper's historic and modern lifestyles. And in typical Charleston fashion, each color has its own story and respective contribution to our Holy City.

## HAINT BLUE

If it's not Haint, it ain't...

Take any walking tour around downtown Charleston and we can pretty much guarantee Haint Blue will be a topic of conversation. A lightish — not quite sky and not quite aqua — blue with slight green and white additives give it its unique composition.

Often seen painted on the ceilings of Charleston's piazzas, or what you may call front porches, Haint Blue's origin stems from the Gullah Geechee, an African American ethnic group whose customs are synonymous and integral to the Lowcountry lifestyle.

Historically, Haint Blue was painted on the exterior of Gullah homes to keep out evil haunts (or haints in Gullah). In Gullah belief systems, blue

mimics the color of the sky or water, thus confusing would-be interloping spirits from entering the home, a bit of after-life vertigo.

But there may actually be some non-pseudo-scientific basis to this ghastly deterrent. Haint Blue has some inherent insect repellent mixed right in. Because blue is on the opposite end of the color spectrum than the warmer reddish tones that attract insects, specifically disease-carrying mosquitoes, houses painted Haint Blue would be less attractive to these pests.

This also had to do with the chemical makeup of how paint was made back in the day. Haint Blue's lighter water-like color comes from adding some green to the mix. Historically, creating green paint often meant using lime extract. Lime and other citrus flavors are a natural insect repellent, still very much in vogue. Think citronella candles and those tangy-smelling bug sprays we use today!

Considering that mosquito-borne diseases were such an issue for early residents of Charleston, maybe the line between disease-spreading mosquitoes and malevolent spirits was rightfully blurred. Either way, to many people, if the Lowcountry was "a color," it would be Haint Blue.

## CHARLESTON GREEN

It may shock many to find out that Haint AIN'T the ACTUAL official color of Charleston. That bestowal goes to a color that may not seem like a color at all, but rather a slightly faded black: Charleston Green. Charleston Green is a very, VERY dark green, often seen painted on doors, shutters, or as an exterior accent.

The origin of Charleston Green is attributed to the reconstruction period after the Civil War. As part of the city's reconstruction efforts, the federal government supplied the area's builders with black paint, which was the cheapest to produce. In true Charlestonian fashion, residents put their own spin on things and often mixed yellow or greenish pig-

ments into the black paint, along the way developing Charleston's eponymous shade of green.

Today, this color is seen all over Charleston. It's often used in lieu of blacks, specific to the Carolina black and white design style we often see throughout the Southeastern United States.

## VERDIGRIS GREEN

Verdigris sits between the hints of Haint Blue and the near black of Charleston Green. And to confuse you on the whole official color debate even more, from all of our time walking around and taking in the architectural wonders of Charleston — when taking into account mere quantity alone — Verdigris Green might REALLY be the official color of Charleston.

Today, Verdigris Green is a purposely sought-after design and colorway. However, it didn't start that way. If you think that Verdigris Green looks a lot like New York's Statue of Liberty, you would definitely be onto something. And, as some of you may have heard, the Statue of Liberty was not originally green but copper, and that's precisely how Charleston's Verdigris Green came to be as well.

Before, and up to the 20th century, many paints contained copper as a popular paint texture mixed right into the pigment. As the copper-infused color oxidized over time, it turned green — something that was not initially intended.

Today, in many places — similar to the Statue of Liberty — this is an unwanted byproduct we have come to accept in almost an antique-like reverence. Charlestonians, however, have truly leaned into this unique, greenish shade, and it is now an in-demand banner color for many plans and designs.

In terms of shades, Pantones, or Hex codes, Verdigris Green can be more challenging to nail down. Generally speaking, it is slightly teal (but much heavier on the green than blue) and represents Charleston's coastal and Caribbean-infused style.

## BERMUDA PINK

Speaking of Charleston's Caribbean roots — Bermuda (or Creole) Pink is another common color on Charleston homes and buildings. According to Benjamin Moore, Bermuda Pink is a "washed-out shade that still contains a hint of pink."

Famously seen on Rainbow Row or The Pink House (one of Charleston's oldest buildings), one could make a case for Bermuda Pink to be the official color of Charleston, too — we may just have a true color scandal on our hands here.

Unlike the others we've mentioned, Bermuda Pink is not generally used as an accent color but often as a base color for an entire building.

Charleston — and the Lowcountry as a whole — does not contain rocks with limestone, the

precursor to concrete. By importing Bermuda stone from the Caribbean, brick building materials could be easily made, especially with the support of the criminal free labor of Charleston's historically large slave population.

Bermuda Stone is naturally light in color, thus allowing soft hues, like Bermuda Pink, to maintain its longevity. This material is no longer sourced, so much of the Charleston architecture we see today in Bermuda Pink has been that color — or preserved with that color — for a very long time.

## SANG DE BOEUF

Sang De Boeuf, french for oxblood for you non-francophiles, is a seemingly direct contrast to our previous four colors — a deep, burgundy-like red-to-brown shade that is both a base color and accent color on doors, window shutters, and roofs all over Charleston.

Many Italianate or terra-cotta styles will use this, or a gradient version of this color, to give a design an intentionally washed-out or weathered look. Evoking a combined Mediterranean and colonial essence that also checks some historically French architectural guidelines, Sang De Boeuf is a melting pot of style fit for Charleston.

According to folklore, the original paints and pigments contained cow or ox blood to give it its deep red tone. Although that hasn't been confirmed, there is no doubt the color is accurate for the common name.

Sang De Boeuf has recently seen a modern revival. Its flexibility to work within many architectural designs and its neutrality and matching abilities with some of Charleston's brighter color palates make it a prevalent base color around the Holy City.

The colorful city of Charleston can't be broadstroked into just five colors, but there's definitely a historical pathway when determining Charleston's architectural rainbow, how it came to be, and how it inspired architecture around the world.





CULTURE

# The Real Reason Why Everyone is Moving to the Holy City

By Tre Manchester

**Charleston, South Carolina, is a city that has captured the hearts of many (50 or so per day, but who’s counting). Here, we explore four compelling reasons why Charleston is a top destination for those seeking a new place to call home.**

**RICH HISTORY & CHARM**

Charleston is known for its rich history and undeniable charm. From the beautifully preserved historic mansions to cobblestone streets lined with colorful buildings, this city exudes a unique character that effortlessly transports you to another era. It’s like taking a step back in time.

Explore iconic landmarks like Rainbow Row, where colorful Georgian-style homes are a hallmark of the city. Or take a visit to the Provost Dungeon, which was originally built when Charleston was under British rule. It’s impossible to walk down the street and not feel the history here — it is embedded in the ground.

**ARTS & CULTURE**

From art galleries and theaters to music festivals and historical landmarks, the city fosters creativity and embraces cultural diversity. You can immerse yourself in captivating performances, exhibi-



tions, and events that inspire and enrich the soul.

From Credit One Stadium hosting international acts such as Elton John and Dave Matthews to off-broadway performances at the performing arts center, I can’t think of another city that offers the perfect blend of marquee and avant-garde. Between Piccolo Spoleto and First Friday Art Walks, all the way over to the live music echoing from the dives on Folly Beach, the vibrant pulse of southern artistry isn’t lost on visitors to this town.

**THRIVING REAL ESTATE MARKET**

Let’s not forget about the thriving real estate market in Charleston. Whether you’re looking for a historic gem in the heart of downtown or a modern waterfront retreat, the city offers a diverse range of options to suit every lifestyle and budget.

From charming single-family homes with lush gardens to luxurious waterfront properties with stunning views, the different areas of the city have something for everyone. A strong and stable market, coupled with its desirable location and high quality of life, makes Charleston an appealing choice for those looking to make a move or invest their money in a real estate market with plenty of upside potential.

**CULINARY DELIGHTS**

Renowned for its delectable Lowcountry cuisine, this city offers a vibrant food scene that showcases fresh seafood, farm-to-table ingredients, and innovative culinary creations.

Flush with outdoor cafes and boutique dining experiences, Charleston captures the food-driven spirit of New York or Chicago and bundles it into a pint-sized powerhouse, delivering a myriad of options for all flavor profiles.

It’s almost impossible not to have a perfect meal in Charleston – with a booming tourist industry to back up the diverse tastes, foodies will delight in the exceptional service that blends southern hospitality with big-city taste buds.

So now you know why everyone - and their mother - is moving to Charleston. In every part of the city, you don’t have to look far to see why so many people love to call this place home.

If you don’t already live in Charleston but are considering a move, be prepared to immerse yourself in a city that blends history, culture, and an amazing sense of community.

CULTURE

# Uncovering the Architectural Gem of the Charleston Single House

By Joey DiGioia

**We can’t talk about Charleston’s unique architecture without starting with Charleston’s most storied and recognizable architectural namesake: The Charleston Single House.**



Built on the characteristically narrow city lots of the Holy City, the Charleston Single House is built deeper than it is wide – at least from a street view perspective.

An often-heard Charleston myth proclaims homes were built this way as a loophole for property tax prices that were based on rooms visible from the street, but that’s not exactly true. When South Carolina was still a British colony, strict urban planning rules were established by parliament back in London for all land development in the emerging cities of British North America.

Many homes built in Charleston from the early 1700s to the 1890s would have been a Charleston Single House. That’s a pretty broad architectural epoch. While there isn’t an exact historical date, builder, or architect credited with inventing the Charleston Single House style, you’ll know it when you see one.

One major clue to the design origins can be found in the Caribbean island of Barbados. In the 1700s, Charleston represented the southernmost border of the British colonies in North America. Many of Charleston’s first inhabitants were immigrants twice over, leaving Barbados (then also under British rule) and once again resettling in the new, promised lands of soon-to-be South Carolina.

They brought over the tried-and-true residential house style from the coastal settlements of Barbados — a design that was based more on function than style in the extreme heat and storm-susceptible climate of the tropics.

These homes were often built with business and social needs at the forefront. Back then, a house was not just a place to lay your head but also a place to sell your goods and services, often while playing host to lavish parties filled with men in wigs and women in dresses so big they could be used as drapes in those large great rooms.

You may also notice that most brick Charleston Single Houses are directly adjacent to each other or feature a brick or stone wall right on or



flush to an obvious property line. This is not just to keep out nosy neighbors but is a leftover of one of America's first official fire prevention building codes. Early on, Charleston was devastated by several fires, and these walls were built as a fire break from one property to another.

These days, when it comes to form and style, the Charleston Single House can be quite ambiguous in its aesthetic design. Today, you will often see Charleston Single family homes styled in NeoGothic, Greek Revival, Italianate, Victorian, Federal, and even modern flavors.

But while loose with design or architectural form in modern times, when it comes to being an authentic Charleston Single House, there are some strict functional rules in exterior and interior layout. In classic form, it is one room wide with two rooms on each floor and a centrally located staircase with ascending floors layered the same way.

All feature a columned piazza, or front porch, on the south or west side of

the house. This layout allows the home to take advantage of the prevailing winds and maximize sun exposure with Charleston's geographical location, which was a lot more important before the invention of electricity and central air-conditioning but still has its benefits today.

In modern Charleston, single-family and multi-family dwellings and storefronts have kept the Charleston Single House style going strong. Its seamless outdoor/indoor living architectural concept has been lauded and used as a design feature worldwide.

Charleston is a unique and storied city with a visual style not seen anywhere quite like it. As a city with both historical and modern architectural wonders, there is no doubt the Charleston Single House was the start of Charleston finding its one-of-a-kind architectural stride.

And if you're looking for a Charleston Single House of your very own, make sure to reach out. The Lively Charleston team would love to help!



Photo from Husk



Photo from FIG



Photo from The Ordinary



Photo from Xiao Bao Biscuit

## FOOD & DRINK

# Savoring the Flavors of Charleston

By Jeremy Feldman

Welcome to Charleston, one of the oldest cities in the United States, known for its rich history, beautiful architecture, and delicious cuisine. Here, we will explore some of the best restaurants and tour the city's culinary scene.

### HUSK

Our first stop is at Husk, located in the heart of downtown Charleston. This restaurant is famous for its Southern cuisine and locally sourced ingredients. The menu changes daily, based on what's available at the farmers' market, so you're always in for a unique dining experience. We recommend trying their crispy fried chicken or their shrimp and grits for a taste of classic Lowcountry cooking.

### FIG

Next, we have FIG, a farm-to-table restaurant serving delicious Mediterranean-inspired dishes. The menu constantly changes to showcase seasonal ingredients, but some of our favorites include the wood-grilled octopus and the ricotta gnocchi. Be sure to save room for dessert, as their pastry chef is one of the best in town.

### THE ORDINARY

For seafood lovers, there's no better place than The Ordinary. This oyster bar and seafood restaurant is located in an old bank building and has a stunning atmosphere. Their raw bar is a must-try, with a variety of oysters from both coasts of the US. We also recommend trying their lobster roll or their crispy whole fish.

### XIAO BAO BISCUIT

Last but not least, we have Xiao Bao Biscuit, a restaurant that offers a unique fusion of Asian and Southern flavors. Don't let the name fool you, as their menu goes far beyond biscuits. Their okonomiyaki, a savory Japanese pancake, is a crowd favorite, as is their Korean fried chicken sandwich. Wash it all down with one of their creative cocktails or a cold beer.

From classic Southern cuisine to innovative fusion dishes, there's something for everyone in this foodie city. So, next time you're in town, check out one of these amazing restaurants and experience the best of Charleston's culinary scene.



# Tomato & Goat Cheese Dip

Looking for a tasty new appetizer to impress your guests this holiday season? This simple Spanish-style dip will do the trick. The hot tomato and goat cheese mixture is a unique blend of tang and spice that is sure to please a crowd.

## Ingredients

8 oz. tomato sauce  
4 cloves garlic, minced  
1 tsp sugar  
1/2 tsp crushed red pepper  
1 tsp coarse black pepper  
4 oz goat cheese  
Parsley, to garnish  
Balsamic vinaigrette, to garnish  
Toasted baguette rounds, to serve

## Recipe

Preheat the broiler.

Mix the tomato sauce, sugar, pepper, and garlic in a small bowl.

Place into an oven-safe dip dish.

Slice the goat cheese and dollop over the top of the sauce.

Broil for about 10 minutes until the cheese melts and the dip bubbles.

Garnish with parsley and a drizzle of balsamic vinaigrette if desired.

Serve with toasted baguette rounds.

*Recipe & photo from The Hungry Buddha Eats the World. Copyright © 2023.*



# Cranberry Orange Whiskey Cocktail

This delicious drink is the ultimate combination of tart, sweet, and spice with the added warmth of whiskey. It's the perfect compliment to any holiday meal and a wonderful way to cozy up by the fire on a cool night.

## Ingredients

1 oz. unsweetened cranberry juice  
3 oz. orange juice (preferably freshly squeezed)  
2 oz. whiskey  
0.5 oz. Cointreau  
0.5 oz. freshly squeezed lemon juice  
0.5 oz. simple syrup  
2 oz. ginger beer  
2 sprigs of thyme for garnish (optional)  
Orange peel for garnish (optional)

## Recipe

Add all ingredients, except the ginger beer and thyme, to a cocktail shaker filled with ice.

Shake vigorously for 30 seconds.

Strain into a chilled glass.

Top it off with the ginger beer.

Garnish with fresh thyme and orange peel if desired.

*Recipe & photo from Crowded Kitchen. Copyright © 2023.*







FEATURE STORY

# Celebrating the Seasons in the South

By Marissa Trudo

As the warmth of summer and early fall has begun to fade and a gentle breeze carries the scent of change, Charleston, South Carolina, eagerly prepares to embrace the special holiday seasons that lie ahead. While the charm of Christmas in this historic city is renowned, there is so much more to discover and celebrate throughout the fall and winter months. From the breathtaking colors of fall to the heartwarming winter traditions, this city never ceases to amaze you no matter what time of year. Join us as we embark on a journey through this cozy season, discovering the beauty and magic of the holiday festivities in Charleston.

## CHARLESTON'S FALL HARVEST

During the fall season in Charleston, the city comes alive with a myriad of activities and events that capture the city's essence. Visitors and locals alike can enjoy the vibrant fall foliage by taking scenic walks along the historic streets or exploring the picturesque plantations. The city also hosts festivals like Oktoberfest, where you can indulge in traditional Bavarian food and beer, and the Harvest Festival, which showcases the seasonal abundance of local produce and crafts. From pumpkin patches to historic home tours, Charleston offers an exciting lineup of activities that celebrate the beauty and spirit of the fall season.

## 2023 FALL FESTIVALS & EVENTS

- Nov. 4: Harvest Festival at James Island County Park
- Nov. 11: 2nd Annual Oyster Roast & Wellness Fair for Mental Health Heroes
- Nov. 11: Holy Smokes BBQ Festival at Riverfront Park
- Nov. 12: 5th Annual Fall Fest at Holy City Brewing
- Nov. 18: Donut Fest Charleston at Rusty Bull Brewing Co.
- Nov. 19: Charleston Day Drinking Tour

## THANKSGIVING FESTIVITIES

Thanksgiving in Charleston is a time of cherished traditions and warm gatherings. Families and friends come together to celebrate this special holiday with a distinctive Southern flair. Many choose to kick off the day with the iconic Turkey Trot run along the scenic streets of Charleston. Traditional Thanksgiving dinners are enhanced with Lowcountry delicacies such as shrimp and grits, collard greens, and sweet potato casserole. From warm hospitality to flavorful cuisine, Charleston's Thanksgiving traditions embody gratitude and togetherness.

## 2023 THANKSGIVING EVENTS

- 46th Annual Turkey Day Run & Gobble Wobble 5k
- Kiawah Island Turkey Trot
- Isle of Palms Thanksgiving Day Golf Cart Parade





A CHARMING CHARLESTON CHRISTMAS

Charleston shines during Christmas, showcasing its historic charm in a new light. The city’s cobblestone streets and charming architecture transform into a holiday masterpiece adorned with twinkling lights, wreaths, and garlands. Charleston hosts a multitude of events and festivities, such as the Charleston Christmas Parade, the Holiday Festival of Lights at James Island County Park, and the iconic Holiday Market in Marion Square.

The Charleston Place showcases a particularly impressive display of holiday spirit. Every year, from the end of November through New Year's, this luxury downtown hotel goes above and beyond to create a unique and memorable experience with its elaborate and extravagant seasonal decor. One of the most beloved traditions at The Charleston Place is a whimsical display featuring an intricately crafted train winding its way through a miniature replica of iconic Charleston landmarks.

2023 CHRISTMAS EVENTS

- Nov. 18-19: Christmas Tree Festival at Boone Hall Farms
- Nov. 24: Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis at North Charleston Coliseum & Performing Arts Center
- Nov. 24: Darren Criss: A Very Darren Chrissmas at Charleston Music Hall
- Nov. 28-29: Cirque Dreams Holidaze at North Charleston Coliseum & Performing Arts Center
- Nov. 29 - Dec. 20: Christmas Carol at Dock Street Theatre
- Dec. 1: Uncorked, An Annual Holiday Wine Event at Boone Hall Plantation
- Dec. 1: James Island Holiday Market
- Dec. 1-3: Christmas Made in the South at Exchange Park Fairgrounds in Ladson
- Dec. 2: Isle of Palms Holiday Street Festival
- Dec. 2: Holiday Swing: Charleston Jazz Orchestra at Charleston Music Hall
- Dec. 2: Sarah Brightman: A Christmas Symphony at the Gaillard Center
- Dec. 3: Wine Under The Oaks at Boone Hall Plantation
- Dec. 6: Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical at Gaillard Center
- Dec. 8-22: A Very Merry Footlight Holiday Special at the Queen Street Playhouse
- Dec. 9: Folly Beach Christmas Parade
- Dec. 9: Reindeer Run benefitting MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital
- Dec. 9: Holiday Market & Craft Show in Mt. Pleasant
- Dec. 9: A Charlie Brown Christmas Live on Stage! at the Gaillard Center
- Dec. 9: Holiday Pops: A Celebration of Wonder with the North Charleston Pops! at the North Charleston Coliseum & Performing Arts Center
- Dec. 2-3, 9-10, 16: Charleston Holiday Market in Marion Square
- Dec. 10: Big Band Holidays at the Gaillard Center
- Dec. 10: Christmas Light Parade in Mt. Pleasant
- Dec. 13: A Gullah Christmas Concert at Boone Hall Plantation
- Dec. 14: The Illusionists: Magic of the Holidays at the Gaillard Center
- Dec. 14-23: The Charleston Christmas Special at the Charleston Music Hall
- Dec. 15: Elf in Concert at the North Charleston Coliseum & Performing Arts Center
- Dec. 17: Dorrance Dance at the Gaillard Center
- Dec. 21-23: Holiday Pops! at the Gaillard Center
- Dec. 26: Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet at the North Charleston Coliseum & Performing Arts Center

EXPLORING OTHER FESTIVE TRADITIONS

During the winter and holiday season, Charleston takes pride in celebrating a variety of religious and cultural traditions. The city is filled with lively festivities, such as the annual Hanukkah Menorah Lighting, where the Jewish community comes together to light the menorah in Marion Square. The Diwali Festival of Lights showcases the rich heritage of the Hindu community through vibrant decorations, music, and dance. Additionally, Charleston embraces multiculturalism with events like the Kwanzaa Celebration, honoring African-American traditions and values. Throughout the season, these diverse traditions create a tapestry of joy and unity that adds to the festive atmosphere that Charleston is known for.

WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR

Charleston knows how to welcome the New Year with a bang. As the clock strikes midnight on December 31st, the city comes alive with a host of exciting events. On New Year's Eve, Charleston offers many incredible locations to catch fireworks lighting up the night sky. Families and friends gather at iconic spots like the historic Battery Park, where they can watch the full display over the Charleston harbor. Those looking for a more lively atmosphere head to popular spots like Marion Square or Waterfront Park, where the festivities are filled with music, food, and entertainment. Meanwhile, countless countdown celebrations take place across the city, where people come together to embrace the fresh start the new year brings. Another popular tradition in Charleston is the annual Polar Bear Plunge, where crowds of locals gather at Folly Beach and take a revitalizing plunge into the chilly Atlantic Ocean.

2024 ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVENTS

- New Year's Eve Flip-Flop Drop & Fireworks on Folly Beach
- Annual New Year's Day Polar Bear Plunge on Folly Beach



WONDERFUL WINTER TRADITIONS

Winter in Charleston may not bring snow-covered streets and sub-zero temperatures, but the season is an exciting time of festivals and culinary delights. For food and wine enthusiasts, the Charleston Wine and Food Festival showcases the Lowcountry's culinary culture, featuring renowned chefs, tastings, cooking demonstrations, and educational workshops. From wine tastings to farm-to-table experiences and local seafood feasts, the Charleston Wine and Food Festival offers a true gastronomic journey that celebrates local flavors.

Another prominent event that draws nature enthusiasts and wildlife lovers is the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition (SEWE), a three-day festival that celebrates the region’s rich wildlife heritage through art, conservation education, and sporting demonstrations – offering a unique experience for the whole family.

2024 WINTER EVENTS

- Jan. 11-21: Charleston Restaurant Week
- Jan. 19-20: Taste of Folly on Folly Beach
- Jan. 20: Annual Charleston Half Marathon & 5K
- Jan. 26-28: Charleston Boat Show at the Charleston Area Convention Center
- Feb. 4: Lowcountry Oyster Festival at Boone Hall Plantation
- Feb. 10: Colour of Music Festival – Charlestonia: A Folk Rhapsody
- Feb. 16-18: Southeastern Wildlife Exposition (SEWE)
- Feb. 6-10: Charleston Wine & Food Festival

Beach season may be behind us, and our jackets pulled out from the back of the closet, but that certainly doesn't mean Charleston hibernates until spring. In fact, the cooler weather in Charleston provides the perfect opportunity to indulge in the many outdoor festivities of the fall and winter seasons without the heat and humidity of the spring and summer months that sometimes make it hard to bear. So, don't miss the opportunity to explore and indulge in the diverse range of seasonal experiences the Holy City has to offer. Discover the beauty, warmth, and magic that awaits in Charleston as you celebrate the seasons in the South.



# Agent Spotlight: Marissa Trudo

Each month, Lively Charleston Magazine features an interview with a real estate agent from the Lively Charleston Properties team. This month, we're sitting down with Marissa Trudo to learn about her recipe for success as a Realtor in Charleston.

Before entering the real estate industry, Marissa had a deep desire to move beyond the cubicle to help people more directly and meaningfully. Since putting down roots here in Charleston, Marissa has found great joy in her community. She recognized that buying a home is about more than just a place to live – it's an integral piece to each person's life story and the memories created there.

*Why did you decide to pursue a career in real estate?*

I decided to start a career in real estate due to a combination of factors. First, my previous job experience in public accounting provided me with a strong foundation in business and an understanding of financial transactions, so real estate seemed like a natural progression as it allowed me to apply those existing skills in a new and exciting way.

I was also really drawn to real estate for the opportunity to help people through what can often be a complex and overwhelming process. Buying or selling a property is a significant decision in people's lives, and I wanted to guide and support them throughout the journey. Seeing the joy and satisfaction on my clients' faces when they find their dream home or successfully close a deal is truly fulfilling.

I also have a keen interest in home design, and real estate allows me to tap into that, enabling me to assist clients in finding spaces that not only meet their practical needs but also fulfill their style preferences. Whether it's helping someone envision the potential of a property or working with them to stage their home for sale, I love being a part of the creative process.

Lastly, I genuinely enjoy meeting new people and building relationships. Real estate provides ample opportunities for networking and forming connections with clients, other professionals, and community members. This allows me to expand my professional network and continually learn from others, which is both enriching and rewarding.

*What is one of the biggest challenges you face in the industry?*

One of the biggest challenges in this industry is navigating the constant changes in the market. Over the past few years, the real estate market has experienced significant shifts and fluctuations. It's crucial to stay updated and adapt to these changes to best serve my clients.



It can also sometimes be challenging to help clients understand how market dynamics impact their purchase or sale strategy. Many people thinking about buying or selling property may not be aware of the current trends or understand how market conditions can influence their decisions. I make it a priority to provide clear and concise explanations, ensuring that my clients are well-informed throughout the process and can make informed decisions that align with their goals.

*You've had a GREAT year. What's your secret to success?*

I think I've been able to create success because of my ability to build connections, nurture relationships, and earn the trust of the people I work with. Trust is crucial in real estate transactions, where clients make significant financial and emotional decisions. I pride myself on taking the time to understand my client's unique needs, concerns, and goals, and I want them to always feel like I am doing my very best to help them achieve those goals. Establishing that level of confidence and trust leads to repeat clients, referrals, and a strong reputation in the industry.

*Do you have a mantra or quote you live by?*

You can never go wrong with the Golden Rule: treat others the way you want to be treated. In business, relationships, and everyday interactions, I try to live in a way that reflects that principle.

*What's your favorite thing about living in Charleston?*

I love the vibrant culture Charleston offers. Its melting pot of classic southern charm, coastal vibes, rich history, beautiful architecture, and incredible cuisine are what brought me and my family here more than

five years ago. Now we get to play "tourist" in our own city, which makes living here so fun!

*Any tips for new real estate agents or people considering a career in real estate?*

Find a great mentor you respect and admire, then find a great team because you don't know what you don't know. 90% of what you need to know as an agent is learned through experience or having GREAT training. I was fortunate enough to find both early on, so I'd recommend the same for anyone considering a real estate career.

*Goals for the next year?*

My goal for the next year is to continue growing my business to help more people navigate the process of buying and selling real estate. I'd also like to experience more personal growth and become a mentor for someone else since having a great mentor was so impactful in my own journey to success.

# Five Tips for Organizing your Home Search



By Jeremy Feldman

**Where are all my type-A friends? No shame. I am right there with you. If you can't help but keep everything in your life organized at all times, I've compiled my five best pieces of advice for staying organized during your home search.**

First up, **create a digital or physical folder for all of your important documents.** This can include pre-approval letters, listings you're interested in, contractor information, or whatever important information you might need during the process.

Second, **keep track of your budget.** Determine how much you can afford and stick to it. No cheating. Trust me, in the long run, this will save you a ton of time, energy, and heartache.

Number three, **make a list of your must-haves and your nice-to-haves.** This will help you prioritize what's important to you in a home so you can decide if those purple counters are a dealbreaker or if you can just add pastels to the rest of the kitchen and call it a home-sweet home.

*Pro tip on this one: use a shareable document or list if you're buying with a significant other so you can literally stay on the same page.*

Next step, **keep track of the homes you've seen.** Start using a spreadsheet or a note-taking app so you can list out line-by-line all the pros and cons of each listing so you can know what you've looked at and what you've liked so far.

Lastly, and this step is super important, **take lots of pictures.** Obviously, most listings will have photos online, but you'll want to take pictures of the things that are most important to you as you tour the home. Plenty of pictures will be key. You can even create separate folders in your phone for each property so you don't get them confused.

Implement these tips and you'll be well on your way to finding your perfect home.

If you have any questions whatsoever about the home-buying process, give the Lively Charleston Properties team a call at (843) 779-7350.



REAL ESTATE

# Featured Community: Bowen, A Waterfront Village

Bowen is a lively mixed-use, multi-family master-planned residential and commercial community on nearly half a mile of deep waterfront along the Cooper River. This charming waterfront village in Hanahan, South Carolina promotes southern lifestyle and neighborhood connectivity.

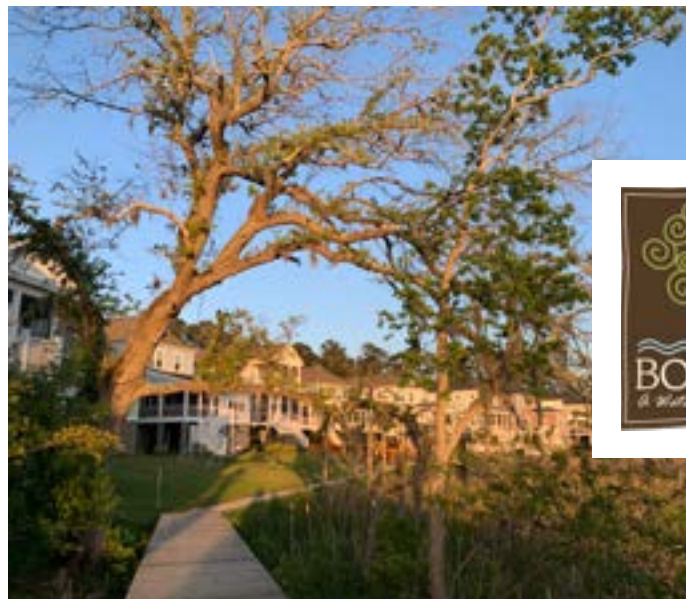
Much like an urban, walkable campus, Bowen is a purposeful development where many people live in a small area. This community is comprised of single-family homes and cottages, national award-winning multi-family apartment homes, condominiums, and mixed-use residential and commercial spaces.

This tight-knit village offers many opportunities for socializing and engagement through neighborhood events, pools, walking trails, swings, park benches, pickleball courts, boat docks and the Bowen Waterside.

Bowen has been strategically designed to enable residents to live, work, and play within a five-minute walk or bike ride. This multipurpose, pedestrian-friendly community supports a harmonious connection between residents and businesses.

Bowen Market, the village's commercial and residential "Main Street" district, provides Bowen and the surrounding area with retail, cultural, office, entertainment, and residential spaces that serve as a place to gather alongside neighbors. Residents can easily hop on their bicycles and safely ride and walk on sidewalks to visit a friend and gather at restaurants within Bowen.

Visit [www.BowenVillage.com](http://www.BowenVillage.com) to learn more about this remarkable community and all it has to offer.







### SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

# The Glamping Collective: An Escape to the Majestic Mountains

By Marissa Trudo

**As the southern summer heat of Charleston slowly fades away, it's the perfect time to escape from the bustling city crowds and into the enchanting embrace of the Great Smoky Mountains.**

Just a short drive from Charleston, a true hidden gem outside of Asheville, NC, The Glamping Collective offers an unparalleled opportunity to escape the coastal surroundings of Charleston and immerse yourself in the tranquility of the mountains. Whether you are an adventure seeker or simply yearning for a romantic retreat with your loved one, this mountain getaway promises an extraordinary escape that will leave you rejuvenated and inspired.

Embarking on a weekend getaway to the Glamping Collective truly be-

gins when you reach the property's front gates, followed by a scenic drive up the gravel road winding alongside the mountain's edge as you make your way up to your private lodging. Along the way, you're surrounded by towering trees and the sounds of nature from every angle. The journey sets the stage for what is to come – tranquility, seclusion, and a profound connection to the world around you.

The Glamping Collective is not your typical mountain retreat but rather a luxury glamping experience on over 150 acres of private mountain-top. It offers a collection of private geodesic domes and glass cabins perched against the mountainside, overlooking the vast expanse of the Great Smoky Mountains. The domes and glass cabins are thoughtfully designed to blend rusticity with comfort and modern convenience – contemporary style finishes, plush king-sized beds, well-equipped



kitchenettes, and large glass walls overlooking the uninterrupted views of the sky and mountainscape. The glamping experience is further elevated with private terraces featuring Adirondack chairs, a fire table, and a private hot tub for one or two.

Whether you're seeking a cozy weekend getaway or a weeklong excursion, this idyllic sanctuary has something for everyone. For the adventure-seeking souls, The Glamping Collective offers access to 5 miles of private hiking and biking trails teeming with wildlife, scenic overlooks, and a 70-foot cascading waterfall. And as the day fades, don't miss the opportunity to witness a breathtaking sunset from the mountain's majestic summit.

If you'd prefer the quiet solitude to recharge and reconnect with yourself



or a loved one, The Glamping Collective provides the perfect environment to cozy up with a good book, indulge in uninterrupted conversation on the outdoor terrace, experience a calming meditation session in the midst of a serene forest clearing, or simply marvel at the starlit sky as you relax in your private hot tub.

One of the charm points of The Glamping Collective is the opportunity to connect with fellow travelers. As the sun slips behind the mountains, gather around the crackling flames of the communal fire pit, where stories are shared, friendships are forged, memories are made, and time seems to stand still.

For the first time, discover "Christmas at The Collective" this holiday season. From Thanksgiving through New Year's Day, your visit will be enhanced by the enchanting glow of holiday lights adorning the grounds and your accommodations. During your stay, you can also capture the perfect holiday card photo in front of a stunning 15-foot Christmas tree with the mountains creating an idyllic backdrop.

While Charleston may not experience the traditional fall and winter seasons, a trip to The Glamping Collective offers an escape into this enchanting sensory journey. Savor the vibrant hues of autumn, feel the crispness in the air, and relish the unforgettable experience of a chilly winter night under a blanket of stars. It's a chance to revel in the authentic fall and winter atmosphere that Charleston rarely offers and unlock a profound connection with the great outdoors as you delve into an experience bound to leave a lasting impression.





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Sweet Rolls Gifts Set

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★★★★★ "Amanda was awesome, very responsive and professional. Great advice on what to fix/repair to sell home. She kept with me for months looking for perfect home until she found it. Definitely recommend her to anyone in the Charleston area."

★★★★★ "Scott's dedication was second to none when it came to finding our new home, he was thoroughly understanding of our needs and wants. He was not only professional but he was headstrong in voicing our concerns and questions during the homebuying process. He followed up with any issue at hand in a timely manner which is vitally important when trying to close on a home in this fast paced market."

"Kyle was a great agent in helping me find the perfect spot on Johns Island. He steered me away from some potholes and helped negotiate an offer that was not only accepted but also well below the appraisal. The other great thing about Kyle was his availability and patience throughout the process. He's a good guy and a good agent." ★★★★★

"What an awesome experience working with Lively! Marissa was amazing - presented all of our options while helping us to navigate through our specific situation. She was responsive, personable, and leveraged every resource available to her to make sure that we had everything we needed! We found an incredible forever home for our family and it wouldn't have been possible without Marissa on our side! ★★★★★"

★★★★★ "I had the pleasure of working with Ellie and Ellie was the best!!! From start to finish she was on top of it all. She was very knowledgeable about each house we looked at and was always available at any time!! She was very professional and always made me feel like a priority. Highly recommend this realtor for buying or selling purposes!!"

"Jeremy has been a fantastic realtor for us from start to finish. He's actually worked with us on 2 properties! Super attentive to detail and takes his time listening to what we are looking for, showing us houses and getting the deal done. The entire team at Lively Charleston make the home buying process a breeze (despite how competitive and overwhelming the market is). Highly recommend! ★★★★★"

"We cannot say enough about Tre Manchester! He was incredibly knowledgeable, thorough, and helpful throughout the process of purchasing a home. He patiently navigated the process with us and kept us informed. He was our advocate when we had a few hiccups after the inspection and got the issues resolved for us. He is the best realtor we have ever worked with. ★★★★★"

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