

TRAVEL & CULTURE

YOUR GUIDE TO THE SOUTH NOW



THE South's Best

To see complete lists of all the winners, go to southernliving.com/souths-best.

FOR THE SECOND year in a row, our editors launched a digitally crowd-sourced survey around the South's best places. From a family-owned brewery in Asheville, North Carolina, to an enchanting restaurant in Richmond, Virginia, to the most charming small town in South Carolina, it reminded us why we're so proud to call this region home.

As we pored through more than 32,000 responses, we applauded first-time winners, commended the staying power of repeat recipients, and even considered settling a tie. (Turn to page 76, and you'll understand why the top spot for barbecue joint deserves to be shared.) So sit back, pour yourself a glass of sweet tea, and celebrate your favorites—which, we're delighted to see, are beloved by many of our editors too.

Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina

South's Best Resorts



No. 1 *Blackberry Farm
WALLAND, TENNESSEE

Blackberry Farm emanates hospitality, from its farm-to-table offerings to the porches on guest cottages. blackberryfarm.com

No. 2 Montage Palmetto Bluff

BLUFFTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Guests can kayak on Lowcountry marshes in front of balconied guest-houses overlooking moss-draped oak trees. montagehotels.com/palmettobluff

No. 3 Lake Austin Spa Resort

AUSTIN, TEXAS

You'll forget that bustling Austin is only 40 minutes away. Splurge on a hot tub cottage for even more relaxation and stargazing. lakeaustin.com

No. 4 The Cloister

SEA ISLAND, GEORGIA

Once a retreat for Presidents and business tycoons, the historic Cloister remains a bastion of old-school luxury. seaisland.com

No. 5 Rancho Loma

TALPA, TEXAS

For those serious about going off the grid, it offers luxe Texas ranch living in a contemporary-style five-bedroom house. rancholoma.com

No. 6 Rancho Pillow

ROUND TOP, TEXAS

Part Texas farmhouse and part *Pee-wee's Playhouse*, this retreat suits Round Top's creative community. ranchopillow.com

No. 7 The Greenbrier

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, WEST VIRGINIA

A true grande dame of American resorts, it has been welcoming guests since 1778. greenbrier.com

No. 8 Big Cedar Lodge

RIDGEDALE, MISSOURI

This cabin-style property is perched above Table Rock Lake in the Ozark Mountains. Activities here include paddleboarding, bass fishing, and water-skiing. bigcedar.com

No. 9 Little Palm Island Resort & Spa

LITTLE TORCH KEY, FLORIDA

Little Palm offers guests 30 oceanfront suites, and azure water views abound. littlepalmisland.com

No. 10 Primland

MEADOWS OF DAN, VIRGINIA

Wake up in the Blue Ridge Mountains in one of Primland's Tree Houses. Take stargazing to a new level at the resort's high-altitude observatory. primland.com



Clockwise from top: Ballroom grandeur at The Greenbrier; elegance and opulence at The Cloister; the serene Blackberry Farm



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: BALL & ALBANESE; PETER FRANK EDWARDS/REDUX; HELEN NORMAN