

VERANDA

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2020

Escape *to the* Country

**PASTORAL
RETREATS**
FROM SONOMA
TO SUSSEX

+
**Modern
Embroidery**
OUR A-TO-Z GUIDE



New Orleans's HOT STREAK

As it marks 15 years since Hurricane Katrina, **the historic port city** flexes its innate style and soul in districts from Bywater to Audubon, drawing design enthusiasts to shop its well-trodden streets.



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BEST
SHOPPING
CITY of
2020
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THE BEST WAY TO shop New Orleans today is with an open mind and a wanderer's spirit," says interior designer Courtney McLeod, who grew up in New Orleans East and the Lakefront area. "Turn down the side streets, explore crumbling storefronts. That's where you stumble upon the true heart of the city."

Growing up there in the 1970s and '80s, "I was very

aware that our city was different. The impact of its position as a port city, blending Native American heritage with Black, French, Spanish, and other global influences, has had an incredibly long impact compared with other seaports," says McLeod, who spent weekends riding the streetcar through the Garden District with her parents and strolling storefronts in the French Quarter. "There's always been

so much color," she says, noting the bright shotgun houses in the Lower Ninth Ward and the Gentilly area, the street art in the Quarter, "vivid with jazz scenes and cathedrals. No one is afraid to be bold and different here, and that's a point of pride. It's part of what makes the city so special."

Much has changed since then, says McLeod, who now lives in Harlem, New York, with a design office in the

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"No one is afraid to be bold and different here, and that's a point of pride. It's part of what makes the city so special."

—INTERIOR DESIGNER
COURTNEY MCLEOD

INSIDER FAVORITES



Crescent City locals share their must-hits for arts and antiques.

COURTNEY MCLEOD
Interior designer
(Right Meets Left
Interior Design)
and NOLA native



"Leontine Linens is the grande dame of Magazine Street. I also love **Malachite Home** and its Hollywood Regency vibe, as well as **Shaun Smith Home**. It has a very collected kind of feel—elegant, with a Continental mix of antiques but also vintage pieces that feel very personal."



THOMAS JAYNE
Interior designer and
part-time resident

"The new location of **Lucullus Antiques** in Bywater is both a showroom and studio for amazing restoration work. It feels bohemian and fun, which fits well with the neighborhood. They're a great source for antiques. **Nadine Blake** is a special place for gifts, and **M.S. Rau** always has eye-popping stuff."

JULIE NEILL
Lighting designer and
New Orleans native



"Check out **Julie Silvers's** pottery and beautiful fertility goddesses and **Raine Bedsole** at **Callan Contemporary**, who makes these lovely spirit boats. **Antiques on Jackson**, in an old Popeye's Chicken building, is a great spot for finding things you didn't know you were looking for."



JANE SCOTT HODGES
Owner of
Leontine Linens

"**Alex Beard's** studio is filled with elaborate wildlife compositions that blow my mind! **Keil's Antiques** and **Moss Antiques** on Royal Street have beautiful heirloom jewelry, and stop in at **West London BTQ** for fashion inspiration from Mariah and lots of good energy."

Handcrafted Antonino Piscitello ceramics and a trio of cacti by La Gioiosa Ceramica. INSET: Jewelry by Nadia Fallica and a scarf based on Sicilian tiles



NOLA's Little Sicily

THERE EXISTS A BEAUTIFUL kinship between New Orleans and Sicily, contends William Brockschmidt and his husband, Richard Dragisic (above, right to left). The pair, both trained as architects, have been visiting the Italian isle for two decades and in recent years had been "trying to figure out a way to bring our love for Sicily to America," says Dragisic. "On trips to New Orleans, we noticed how infused Sicilian culture is with Creole lineage, yet it remains largely unsung," he adds, noting that the first Sicilians to settle there came as fruit merchants in the mid 1800s.

Less than a year old, **Sud** stocks everything from Antonino Piscitello's heavily appliquéd white ceramic vases, lamp bases, and candlesticks to gilded lace jewelry embellished with semiprecious stones from Palermo-maker Nadia Fallica. Also of note: hand-painted canvas floor cloths and diaphanous silk scarves with patterns inspired by 18th-century tile. "Everything here has a story," says Brockschmidt. **4021 Magazine St.**; sudneworleans.com.

—SARAH GREAVES-GABBADON ♦