

Our State

✓ CHECKLIST

14 MUST-VISIT RESTAURANTS FOR A MEMORABLE MEAL

This is destination dining: Across North Carolina, acclaimed restaurants serve up fine food — and unforgettable experiences.



Canyon Kitchen

THE GAMEKEEPER **Boone**

Pheasant, bison, and ostrich — oh my! Enjoy game meat from the High Country and beyond in a 1950s stone cottage, once the residence of the founders of Camp Yonahlossee, the oldest camp for girls in North Carolina.

3005 Shulls Mill Road
Boone, NC 28607
(828) 963-7400, gamekeeper-nc.com

BEEF 'N' BOTTLE **Charlotte**

It takes a reservation made well in advance to score a booth in the low-lit dining room of this storied steak house on a Saturday night.

4538 South Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28209
(704) 523-9977, beefandbottle.net

McNINCH HOUSE RESTAURANT **Charlotte**

This pink-and-purple Queen Anne-style mansion once belonged to Victorian-era Charlotte mayor Sam McNinch who, in 1909, even hosted President William Howard Taft there. Inside, discover perfectly plated dishes that are as exquisite as the exterior.

511 North Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 332-6159, mcninchrestaurant.com

KINDRED **Davidson**

The artful entrées at Kindred turned Davidson into a destination, but the milk bread appetizer alone is worth a trip: Baked in a graniteware bowl and sprinkled with flecks of hand-harvested sea salt, it's more than a mere loaf. Warm and pillowy, sweet and salty — it's pure magic.

131 North Main Street
Davidson, NC 28036
(980) 231-5000, kindreddavidson.com

THE BLUE POINT **Duck**

Watch the sun set over the water — and dig into jumbo lump crab, oyster stew, and seared sea scallops — at this seafood restaurant perched on the edge of Currituck Sound.

1240 Duck Road
Duck, NC 27949
(252) 261-8090, thebluepoint.com

WASHINGTON DUKE INN **Durham**

This prestigious hotel offers weekend brunch and an upscale dinner menu — as well as an afternoon cuppa. Order a pot of tea and an array of sweets, scones, and dainty tea sandwiches, and put your pinkie up.

3001 Cameron Boulevard
Durham, NC 27705
(919) 490-0999, washingtondukeinn.com

RIVER HOUSE INN & RESTAURANT **Grassy Creek**

At this 1870 farmhouse turned inn and restaurant surrounded by Ashe County countryside, sip a pre-dinner cocktail on the front porch, which overlooks the North Fork New River.

1896 Old Field Creek Road
Grassy Creek, NC 28631
(336) 982-2109, riverhousenc.com

VINTAGE HOUSE **Hickory**

A glass of wine and an elegant meal at this 1915 home feels like having dinner at your fanciest friend's house — if your friend hand-cut and aged their own filet mignon.

271 Third Avenue Northwest
Hickory, NC 28601
(828) 324-1210, vintagehouserestaurant.com

CHEF & THE FARMER **Kinston**

In 2006, Chef Vivian Howard and her husband, Ben Knight, opened their hugely successful fine-dining restaurant in Howard's native Kinston. Fifteen years later, it remains a foodie mecca.

120 West Gordon Street
Kinston, NC 28501
(252) 208-2433
vivianhoward.com/chef-the-farmer

FEARRINGTON HOUSE RESTAURANT **Pittsboro**

At this award-winning restaurant in a 1927 Colonial Revival farmhouse, you'll know you've arrived when you spot the black-and-whites — the famed Belted Galloway cows lounging in the shade of a silo.

2000 Fearrington Village Center
Pittsboro, NC 27312
(919) 542-2121, fearrington.com

SECOND EMPIRE **Raleigh**

Make sure to look up from your meal to notice the original heart-pine floors and red-brick masonry walls in this ornate 1879 Victorian-era home downtown.

330 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, NC 27603
(919) 829-3663, second-empire.com

NEWMAN'S **Saluda**

The former summer lodgings for railroad employees now house The Orchard Inn and its on-site restaurant, where a glassed-in dining porch offers a breathtaking view of the mountains — and an unforgettable Sunday brunch.

100 Orchard Inn Lane
Saluda, NC 28773
(828) 749-5471, orchardinn.com

CANYON KITCHEN **Sapphire**

A majestic box canyon — the largest one east of the Mississippi — serves as the soaring backdrop of this restaurant, which is open seasonally from May through November and serves farm-to-fork fare inspired by the landscape.

150 Lonesome Valley Road
Sapphire, NC 28774
(828) 743-7967, lonesomevalley.com

ASHTEN'S RESTAURANT & PUB **Southern Pines**

For more than 20 years, since before "eating local" gained a name, much less a movement, this proper pub has been sourcing its menu ingredients from area farms.

140 East New Hampshire Avenue
Southern Pines, NC 28387
(910) 246-3510, ashtens.com

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Milk bread at Kindred

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