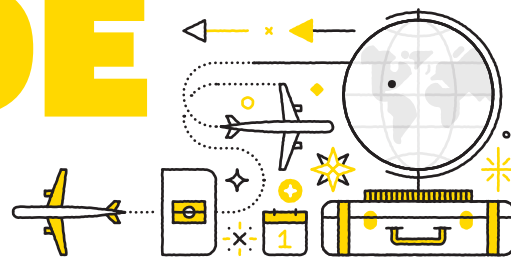


# CITY GUIDE

## NEW ORLEANS



➤ **Why Go Now:** Celebrate the city's 300th birthday with legendary cocktails, artsy strolls, and jazz on every corner



The beat of New Orleans: Darryl Young, "Dancing Man 504," struts a fine line.



New Orleans sure knows how to throw itself a party. Marking its 300th birthday in 2018, this city founded by the French has stocked the bar with Sazerac and kept the king cake coming for the merry-makers flocking here to explore and to celebrate. Neighborhoods such as Riverbend, Algiers, and Mid-City burble with fresh energy. The bike-share program Blue Bikes pairs with the city's flat-as-a-bar-top terrain to make an afternoon's pedal under the shade of live oaks—and through history—a winning prospect. Hop off at Magazine Street for finders-keepers shopping (beaded clutches, vintage enamelware) and let your appetite guide you to restaurants, such as Indian-themed Saffron NOLA, that showcase the many cuisines in this vibrant city. Grab a fork and raise a glass. On its birthday New Orleans is a gift to all.

—Starlight Williams and Andrew Nelson

KNOW IT  
NEW ORLEANS



Craft drinks and crisp wines top the menu at sneaker-casual Cane & Table.



Shaken and Stirred

Louisiana’s “cradle of civilized drinking” toasts the heady art of the perfect cocktail

Cocktails are to New Orleans as red beans are to rice: the perfect local pairing. Today’s trends turn to fresh takes on classic tipples. At the breezy **COMPÈRE LAPIN**, a Caribbean restaurant in the Warehouse District, bartender Abigail Gullo sends spirits soaring with her saucy Sazerac and anecdotes of the drink’s place in local lore. “It is New Orleans in a glass,” she says. The French Quarter’s **ARNAUD’S FRENCH 75** shakes up gin fizzes as exciting as a first kiss. At **MANOLITO**, bartender Chris Hannah mixes a range of daiquiris; try his jazz daiquiri, a potion of rum,

crème de cacao, and coffee. “Old cocktails have stories,” Hannah observes, “and new ones better, as well.” The cocktail menu is rum-centric at **CANE & TABLE**, also in the French Quarter, overseen by Kirk Estopinal, a mover and shaker in the famed Freret Street bar Cure. Punches, swizzles, and sours satisfy a yen for a night in the tropics. Wander toward the Mississippi River and pull up to the bar at **BYWATER AMERICAN BISTRO**, where Crystal Pavlas rustles up a sour starring *singani* (a South American grape spirit), aloe liqueur, cantaloupe, and lime.

Hotels: Vintage Goes Modern

- TRENDY
- NEW
- CLASSIC

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

Life’s a party at this 1906 beaux arts icon, as popular for its comfy rooms as for the Loa Bar, where a “spirit handler” pours creative drinks. A bonus: The hotel’s art-filled lobby hosts quirky and seasonal events.

HOTEL JUNG

This newbie lodging brings a reboot of a 1920s classic on Canal Street. The 207-room property features large rooms and suites with marble floors and furnishings in a soothing palette of sands and grays.

HOTEL MONTELEONE

*Breakfast at Tiffany’s* author Truman Capote declared himself born in this classic French Quarter hostelry (he wasn’t), and it continues to exude a Holly Golightly fizz. A historic landmark that opened in 1886, the Monteleone pampers guests in its Literary Suites (the Eudora Welty suite is all gold and blues) and packs in newcomers and locals at its rotating Carousel Bar—both a sight and an experience, with its decorated top, revolving seats, and Vieux Carré Cocktail.

TAMER KOSELI (ALL ILLUSTRATIONS); BRYAN TARNOWSKI (DRINK, PATIO); PREVIOUS PAGE: DAYMON GARDNER

EAT IT  
NEW ORLEANS



New Classics

New Orleans is all about culinary daring. **DTB** (Down the Bayou) is an homage to Creole coastal sensibilities: Chef Carl Schaubhut’s rice bowl spills over with shrimp and blue crab, while his vegetarian boudin balls smack of mushrooms. Housed in an 1832 Creole cottage by the Ace Hotel, **Seaworthy** means oysters. The bivalves here are fresh enough to slap your taste buds awake, and the caviar (sturgeon, bowfin, trout roe) is a must. Magazine Streeters trace a spice road to Indian-inspired **Saffron NOLA**, where curry and creole form a dynamic mix.



Rooted in Flavor

Once the heart of New Orleans’ African-American community, the **Pythian** vanished during the Great Depression. In 2018 this onetime social club was reborn as the **Pythian Market**, a food hall with restaurants rooted in local traditions and serving everything from gumbo to Vietnamese banh mi. We love Chef Micah Martello’s **Fete au Fete**, a newfangled New Orleans favorite for its creamy red beans and rice served with andouille sausage and jalapeño cornbread, and gumbo ya-ya, made with a dark roux.



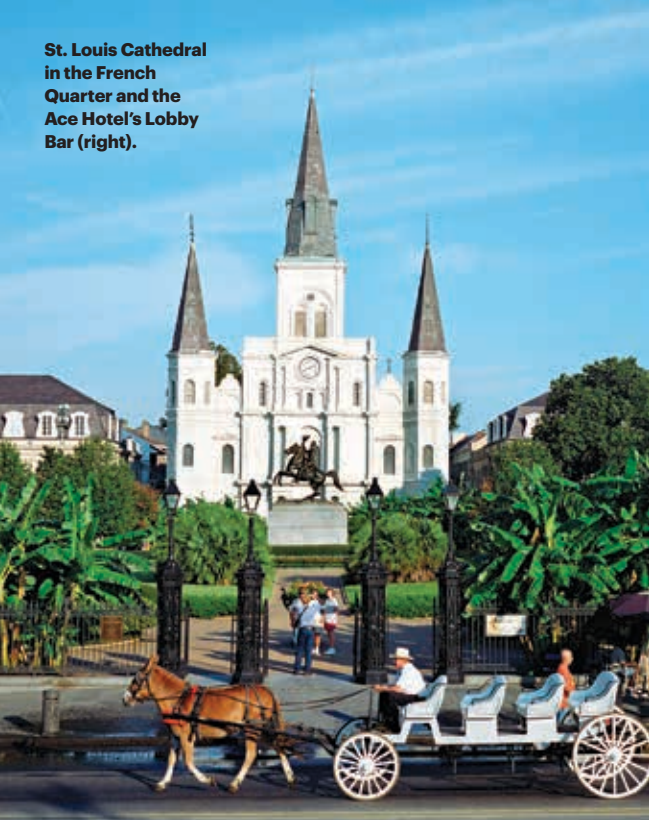
Just Desserts

Everyone heads to **Café Du Monde** for classic New Orleans treats of sugar-powdered beignets and chicory coffee. But the city’s newest sweet spot may be patisserie and cocktail lounge **Bakery Bar**, which serves another local delectable: seven-layer doberge cake, iced in flavors from chocolate to cinnamon RumChata pudding. You’ll find more portable bites at **Aglio**, which brings a taste of Italy to the Crescent City with its fig cookies—semisweet shortbread bites filled with fresh figs and topped with a rainbow of sprinkles.



Commanding Lead

New Orleans’ isn’t the only landmark birthday that is being feted in 2018. **Commander’s Palace**, the Garden District favorite known for its service and 25-cent martinis, is marking its 125th year. Lally Brennan and Ti Adelaide Martin’s flagship keeps standards high. Its signature courses of turtle soup and crawfish boil quiche have been perfected by generations of chefs, including Paul Prudhomme and Emeril Lagasse. And, gentlemen, remember: blazers for brunch, lunch, and dinner. No flip-flops allowed. Ever.



BRYAN TARNOWSKI (CHURCH, BAR)



# SEE IT NEW ORLEANS

## Meet the Neighbors

From music to museums to merch, these vibrant Crescent City districts have you covered



### Faubourg Marigny

**1** Swap Bourbon Street's raucous beads-'n'-beer atmosphere for the Marigny's **Frenchmen Street**, where locals go for music. Clustered in three blocks are some of the city's jazziest joints; swing by **Snug Harbor**, **Spotted Cat**, and **d.b.a.** After dancing the night away, refuel at **13 Monaghan** (try the "tachos," tater tots piled with cheese, chili, and more) and **Dat Dog**; its "bacon werewolf" pairs Slovenian sausage with bacon and sauerkraut.

### Garden District

**2** Locals love to take in this neighborhood's Greek Revival manses, Victorian cottages, and one-of-a-kind shops. Travel back to belle époque Europe along **Magazine Street** at **Balzac Antiques**, where Murano chandeliers share space with period chairs. **Funky Monkey** is a treasure chest of vintage clothing and costumes, from orange suede shoes to fuchsia wigs. Fashion got you famished? Tuck into the five-course blind tasting menu at **Coquette**.

### Warehouse District

**3** Once the heart of New Orleans' industrial area, **Julia Street** (known also as **Gallery Row**) is a showcase for regional artists. On the first Saturday of every month, people flock to its galleries at 6 p.m. for **Art Walk**, where artists debut their latest with a side of wine and cheese. Another crowd-pleaser, for the younger set: the **Louisiana Children's Museum**, where little ones can poke, prod, and clamber their way through exhibits, including a giant model of an eye.

### Carrollton

**4** Take the St. Charles Avenue streetcar to **Oak Street**, an eight-block microcosm of Norman Rockwell storefronts and New Orleans funk. At **Blue Cypress Books**, resident cat Kitty Meow guides bibliophiles through a vast stash of literature. Follow your nose (and stomach) to vegan **Breads On Oak** for its "muffanada," a meatless take on the muffuletta sandwich. At **Maple Leaf Bar**, which opened in 1974, catch the funky, Grammy-winning Rebirth Brass Band.



Boating party: Visitors canoe the lagoon at New Orleans' Museum of Art.

## Museums: On and Off the Wall

### National WWII Museum

New Orleans played a vital role in World War II as the base for the maker of Higgins landing craft, which were key to the invasions of D-Day. This museum focuses on American contributions to Allied efforts.

### Historic New Orleans Collection

Artifacts from the city's past are displayed at this French Quarter site, from Victorian absinthe spoons to 17th-century maps. Its newest annex, opened in 2018, adds some 12,000 feet of display space.

### New Orleans Slave Trade Marker Project

A city long reticent about its past as a slave port and market is bringing it to light with plaques on landmarks. Bonus: The New Orleans Slave Trade Marker Project includes an app that maps this sobering city chapter.

### New Orleans Jazz Museum

This popular attraction in the Old U.S. Mint brings alive the rich history of New Orleans jazz music with interactive exhibits and live performances. Special displays celebrate the city's tricentennial.