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A SPECIAL
SECTION

52 PLACES TO GO



PORAS CHAUDHARY FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



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**GREENVILLE,
SOUTH CAROLINA**

Set in the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Greenville has established itself on the culinary scene. The quaint city of about 70,000 has more than 200 restaurants — 85 percent of which are local — in its strollable downtown area alone. Visitors may come for the access to outdoor adventures, but will most likely leave having been introduced to flavors from around the world. Even as the renowned Soby's celebrated its 25th anniversary in

2022 and two food festivals — euphoria and Fall for Greenville — attract tens of thousands of people annually, restaurants continue to crop up. The second location of Charleston's Lewis Barbecue opened to long lines in September. Mr. Crisp, with Greg McPhee as executive chef, highlights seafood, especially its crisp-yet-tender hand-battered fish and chips. Keipi (some of its food shown here) celebrates Georgian khachapuri and the coun-

try's ancient wines; Aryana delivers a taste of Afghanistan; and Califas has brought Mexican birria tacos to Greenville.

"The real heartbeat of Greenville is a creative and diverse food community that keeps reinventing itself," said Sid Evans, the editor in chief of Southern Living. "The food here is adventurous, and the chefs have embraced the global influences shaping the modern South." **ARI BENDERSKY**

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**MACON,
GEORGIA**

The area around Macon has been home to multiple Native American tribes for 12,000 years. That history will be acknowledged this year, when Georgia is expected to get its first national park: The Ocmulgee Mounds, some of the most significant prehistoric Indigenous mounds in North America, date to the year 900, and are now a national historical park.

The national park will include the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, for a total of 50,000 acres, and offer a network of exquisite hiking trails and artifacts from American Indian culture. Management will be shared by the Muscogee Nation and the National Park Service.

Additionally, the city, whose musical roots run deep — Little Richard,

the Allman Brothers and Otis Redding all got their start here — is celebrating its 200th anniversary with a new 10,000-seat amphitheater. Visitors can check out the Hotel Forty Five, a boutique hotel that opened downtown last year and that was named both for the angle of the street on which it sits and as a nod to musical history.

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