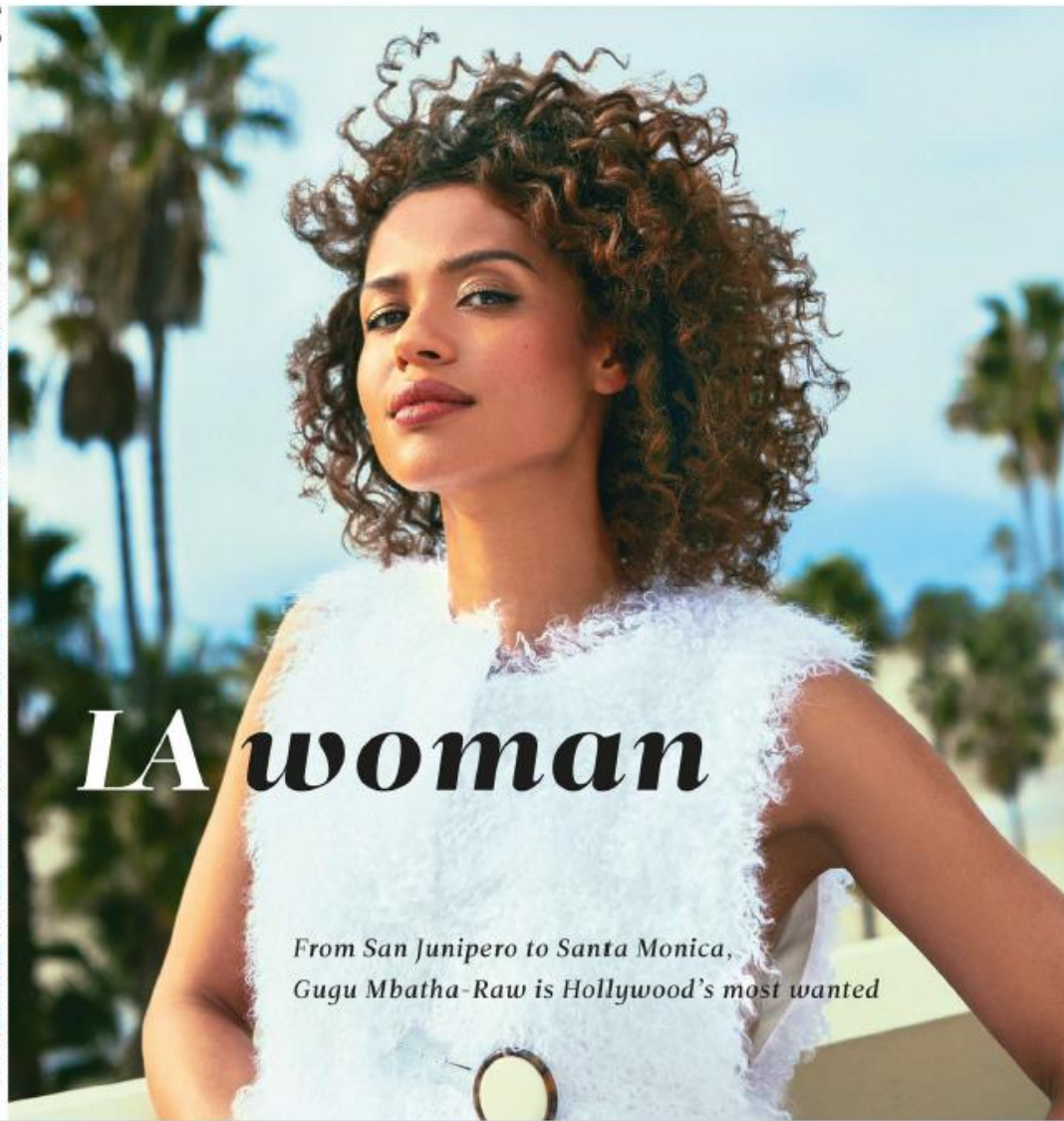


HIGH LIFE

March 2020 ANDY WARHOL IN PITTSBURGH, PHILADELPHIA'S HEAD CHEF AND HADLEY FREEMAN ON THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP

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PHILADELPHIA PORTLAND NEW YORK PITTSBURGH LOS ANGELES MALDEN AND DUBAI MIAMI BRISA LONDON RISHIKESH PARIS NEW ORLEANS MADRID



LA woman

*From San Junipero to Santa Monica,
Gugu Mbatha-Raw is Hollywood's most wanted*



Raw

talent

Oxford-born and Rada-trained, Gugu Mbatha-Raw has adopted Hollywood as her home while she makes waves on the big screen – and she has the “hiking” habit to prove it. Martha Hayes meets her in Los Angeles

☺
Photography: Austin Hargrave
Styling: Sarah Nealis

G

ugu Mbatha-Raw is wandering through the adjoining rooms of an ocean-front suite in the Casa del Mar hotel in Santa Monica with the wide-eyed wonder of someone who has never been to a hotel before, let alone one with postcard-perfect views of white beaches, palm trees and rippling blue waves. It's a bit like the scene in *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York* (the film she once joked gave her her first impression of NYC) when Kevin McCallister checks into his room and discovers the cookies in the minibar. "I want to live in this hotel," Gugu declares. "Or at least take a bath in it."

Despite her endearing Brit abroad enthusiasm for the location of her *High Life* cover shoot, the Oxford-born star of *Black Mirror*, *A Wrinkle in Time* and, most recently, Apple TV's flagship series, *The Morning Show*, has been to LA before. In fact, she's been living here on and off for ten years now. "I've had to become quite adaptable," she reflects on the career that's taken her all over the world. But baths are non-negotiable. "I'm a bath addict. I used to take teabags with me everywhere. Now I know I can probably get them where I'm going! It's good to have the things you like, but it's also good to experience where you are, rather than try and make where you are where you used to be."

As if on cue, there's a knock at the door and I can't help raising an eyebrow when a detox green juice arrives on a silver platter. So, in other words, she's a fully-fledged LA convert these days? "Many of the things that people perceive as 'LA', such as green juices and yoga, I was already doing before I came here. And I love hiking," she pauses, checking herself with an awkward laugh. "I used to call it walking. In England, you go for a walk; a hike is practically mountaineering. I find LA an inspiring place to be. I mean, sometimes the business is a bit in your face and you think 'Ugh', I'm aware as an actor - all the billboards that are around - that it's not real."

The 36-year-old had better get used to seeing her name on billboards. Since her big break as aristocrat Dido Elizabeth Belle in Amma Asante's well-received 2013 period drama, *Belle*, Mbatha-Raw's star has been on the ascent. Her body of work is diverse - appearing opposite Will Smith (*Concussion*, 2015), Matthew McConaughey (*Free State of Jones*, 2016) and Oprah Winfrey (*A Wrinkle in Time*, 2018) - and, while her choices haven't always lit up the box office, she consistently delivers stellar performances. In the last year alone, she has starred alongside Reese Witherspoon, Jennifer Aniston and Steve Carell in *The Morning Show* and been directed by Edward Norton (*Motherless Brooklyn*). This month sees the cinema release of *Misbehaviour*, a charming and thought-provoking *Made in Dagenham*-style British drama about the Miss World competition in 1970.

Co-starring Keira Knightley and Keeley Hawes, the film depicts a unique moment in history, when the women's liberation movement not only led a protest against the competition but the first woman of colour - Miss Grenada, played by Mbatha-Raw - was crowned. @

DESTINATION
HEAVEN IS A PLACE ON EARTH

ON REFLECTION

Top, price on request,
Miu Miu (miumiui.com);
sunglasses, £23,
Privé Revaux
(priverevaux.com);
rings, £345,
Nancy Newberg
(nancynewberg.com)

Previous page:
Satin Bianca jacket,
£820, Bella Freud
(bellafreud.com);
diamond earrings, £687,
Zoe Chicco
(zoechicco.com)



DESTINATION
HEAVEN IS A PLACE ON EARTH

***“Miss World was
a real platform for
Jennifer Hosten...
she was a pioneer for
how we perceive
beauty. There was no
Beyoncé or Rihanna”***

IRREPLACEABLE VIEW

Embroidered DNA
dress, price on request,
Mary Katrantzou
(marykatrantzou.com);
Earrings, £709, Zoe
Chicco (zoechicco.com)



**DESTINATION
HEAVEN IS A PLACE ON EARTH**

DRAMATIC FLARE

Kempner top, £360, and corduroy trousers, £390, both Bella Freud (bellafreud.com); Rainbow sandals, £425, Sophia Webster (sophiawebster.com); Pearl and diamond earrings, £1,073, Nancy Newberg (nancynewberg.com)

Shot on location at Hotel Casa del Mar, Santa Monica (hotelcasadelmar.com)

"In the wake of #MeToo and Time's Up, women's marches and a renewed sense of reclaiming power in our culture for women, it was fascinating to look back at a time when that was happening in a different way," she explains, when we meet the next day for a cup of Earl Grey in a cosy corner of Hollywood institution, Chateau Marmont. "Now, it's more about the abuse of power. Then, it was more about liberation. Before the internet and social media, how do you get the attention of the media? And that was the perfect moment. Miss World was the most watched TV programme in the world."

Mbatha-Raw has spoken in the past about the responsibility she feels as an actor and woman of colour to help culture evolve by telling untold stories, and Jennifer Hosten (Miss Grenada) is a prime example: "Miss World was a real platform for her," she says. "You could argue that before we had words like 'intersectionality' or 'representation', she was a pioneer for how we perceive beauty. There was no Beyoncé or Rihanna. Jennifer was somebody who, for the first time on the world stage, was perceived to be an icon of what is attractive and powerful."

Mbatha-Raw got a similar buzz teaming up with actor Edward Norton for his first directing role in almost two decades, *Motherless Brooklyn*. In the neo-noir crime drama adapted from the 1999 novel

by Jonathan Lethem, Mbatha-Raw plays Laura Rose, a lawyer and community activist campaigning against racial discrimination in the 1950s. "She eschews all the clichés of the 1950s noir movie," she says. "She's not a femme fatale, a 1950s housewife or a jazz club singer, she's more sophisticated and layered than that. She's an activist and has a deep emotional journey that was complex and interesting to me."

Does she specifically look for roles that challenge perceptions of how women are portrayed on screen? She nods. "I think that's the rebel in me," she smiles. "What is going to create a conversation? What is this going to show that we haven't seen before?"

Talk naturally turns to *The Morning Show*, Apple TV+'s star-studded satire about the cut-throat world of breakfast TV and the chaos that ensues when the show's co-host Mitch Kessler (Steve Carell) is fired for sexual misconduct. Mbatha-Raw plays Hannah Shoenfeld, a staff member who has her own complicated relationship with Mitch.

"I'd never seen anything go that deep or direct into the issue of sexual assault in a way that dealt with the grey area. It's not just predator-victim, it's more nuanced," she says. "In the media, we see, 'How is it hurting this corporation,' or 'How is it hurting the Weinstein company?' but, actually, what's the personal cost to the survivor?" @

BEYOND THE LIGHTS: GUGU'S LA ADDRESS BOOK

**SALAZAR
SILVERLAKE**

"I've spent my last three birthdays at this Mexican restaurant. It's really cool and great for a group. Just order the set menu – tacos, steak, guacamole – so you don't even have to think about it. They do nice Margaritas and it has an Eastside hipster vibe." salazarla.com

**HIKING
GRIFFITH PARK**

"I'll often hike the Beachwood Canyon Stairs or do the Fryman Canyon Loop Trail, but I love hiking up to the observatory in Griffith Park. The best time of day to do it is at sunset because the park has a bigger vista." laparks.org/griffithpark

**THE NOW MASSAGE
BOUTIQUE
VARIOUS LOCATIONS**

"There's a whole spectrum of self-care things to do in LA but this is a good mid-range massage place. Getting massages has become part of my routine. I don't really look at it as being a luxury – I see it more as maintenance!" thenowmassage.com

**JUST FLOAT
PASADENA**

"Floatation therapy is a good jetlag buster. You go into these pods with a very high intensity of Epsom salts and you float. When I first went, I thought, 'This is the first time I've been in something like this since the womb.'" justfloat.com

**SKYLIGHT BOOKS
LOS FELIZ**

"There are little handwritten recommendations of books all around this shop – I always come out with something whenever I go there. I like to read self-improvement or psychology books between jobs as I think they help sustain you." skylightbooks.com

**SPERANZA
SILVERLAKE**

"This is an Italian neighbourhood restaurant where they make their own pasta. What I like about it is it's very unpretentious. You see people there with their families and there's a patio surrounded by greenery." 2547 Hyperion Avenue



BELLE ÉPOQUE

Lace dress, £1,555,
Bora Aksu
(boraaksu.com)

Shot on location at
Hotel Casa del
Mar Santa Monica
(hotelcasadelmar.com)

It's probably just as well. Mbatia-Raw is reluctant to share details of her personal life. "I grew up watching actresses of my generation and saw how savage and invasive the British press were," she reasons. "Not everything is up for consumption. You've got to keep something back for yourself. It's nice to have a separation between your character and your public life and what's just for you. If you open that door it's very hard to close it again, so I was conscious quite early on to keep a respectful distance between the two."

She seems to have garnered just the right amount of fame, as she is left undisturbed by passers-by while posing for pictures under Venice's iconic sign on Pacific and Windward and on Santa Monica pier.

She does share that she lives near the Hollywood Hills with a housemate who works in casting. "It's great because if you're away for months on end, it's being lived in," she smiles. "It's not like coming back to a house that's been empty for six months and feels cold and sad!"

Growing up in Oxfordshire, the only child of a South African doctor and an English nurse, Mbatia-Raw was an "outgoing inbetweener who loved school and joined every club". A stint at the Oxford Youth Music Theatre in her teens paved the way to study at Rada, but Mbatia-Raw never had loftier ambitions than performing on the stage. "Hollywood always felt very far away," she admits.

She got an early insight into what fame looked like when she was cast as Ophelia in Jude Law's *Hamlet* in a 2009 production on Broadway as well as London's West End. "Every night at the stage door there were hordes of screaming women," she laughs. "I didn't envy that! But it definitely made me appreciate that it was Jude Law who was playing Hamlet and he had a body of work in film. In the back of my mind I thought, 'If I want to come back and play leads on the West End or Broadway, I need to get a film and TV profile behind me, too.'"

That was her only motivation for pursuing a career in Hollywood? "Yes. It was like, 'Well, I want to do *Cleopatra*. Maybe now is the time to explore a different genre and that will allow me to go back to the theatre and put bums on seats.'"

Mbatia-Raw describes that production of *Hamlet* as the biggest turning point of her career, when one might have assumed it was her first lead film role in *Belle*. "I'd already been living in the USA for three years and had worked in an American accent on various film and TV things," she says, pointing to JJ Abrams' TV series, *Undercovers*, Kiefer Sutherland drama, *Touch*, and *Larry Crowne* with Tom Hanks.

Did it bother her when her early career didn't gather pace? "I wasn't twiddling my thumbs," she says. "For me it's about the journey. I've always got fulfilment from what I'm doing. It's been gradual and I'm fortunate for that. It's not like I woke up one morning and was suddenly in a huge franchise like *Star Wars*, plastered all over the world."

It's an arrangement that also enables her to indulge in one of her biggest passions: travelling, from backpacking in Guatemala to exploring South Africa by train. Most recently she's been on missions to Rwanda and Uganda with the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR.

"When you pretend to be other people for a living, you come back to yourself when you put yourself in an unfamiliar situation," she says. "Travelling invigorates me. It's a way to find out what you're made of. When you've been observed – by the camera or an audience – it allows you to be the observer again and take a step back." ■

Misbehaviour is out in the UK on 13 March. Rates at Hotel Casa del Mar Santa Monica, a member of Preferred Hotels & Resorts, from £343ppn, preferredhotels.com. 1973 Mercury Cougar courtesy of the Beverly Hills Car Club, beverlyhillscarclub.com, with thanks to Alex Manos (@malexmanos), Santa Monica Travel & Tourism, santamonica.com. To find out more about things to do in LA, visit discoverlosangeles.com



Watch *Motherless Brooklyn* on board (selected flights)



FIND IT AT BA.COM
British Airways flies to Los Angeles daily from
London Heathrow. Flight time: 11 hours

Hair: Matt Fungle at Trunkery Management; Clothing: Jodie Jacobs; Makeup: Emily Cheng at The Red Carpet; Photo: John O'Connell; Photographer's assistant: Nuray Dese; Art direction: James McPherson; Production: Amy Wray; Hair Production: Marissa Head; Thanks to: Christie Clark; PG; Grace; Priscilla; Alesha; Nora; Beawon

Unexpected States

The boldest and brightest new arrivals across the Atlantic

Compiled by Andy Morris

Additional words: Alex Bistrot, Kelly Williams, Kate Snow, Amy Jacobs, Kate Slater
Photography: Kelly Hoover-Baughman, Jeff Cozzani



LOS ANGELES

Let Rinny Riot be your intersectional guide to LA

As a postmodern Instagram artist and stand-up, Houston-born Rinny Perkins is well-versed in the sheer ridiculousness of the city she now resides in. Still, the woman behind artwork such as *Everyone I Dated In 2017 Was A Mistake* knows where to find the fun. Here she explains her favourite spots

Favourite LA pop culture trope? The Long Beach Antique Market! I've had the best luck finding rare publications there. I got 1974 and 1975 *Ebony* magazines in mint condition for \$5. Honourable Mention: Amoeba Music. When I first moved to LA, I would go there to buy and sell albums. It was a good spot to meet a potential bae who might be into the same music as you (I was successful in trading phone numbers once).

Which LA gallery excites you the most? I tend to gravitate towards the spaces that make an effort to ensure opportunity is awarded to marginalised artists within their programming. The biennial *Made In LA* exhibition at the Hammer Museum is not to be missed.

What is your failsafe good-time place in LA? World on Wheels roller rink. It reopened in 2017 after closing its doors in 2013. Many roller rinks all over the US shut down in the past couple of decades. World on Wheels reopening was huge. It's a part of the fabric of LA culture. On almost any given night, you can see talented jam and rhythm skaters of all ages on the wood. I consider it my second home.

What are your key style spots for fashion? The Rose Bowl Flea Market. I can spend a good 45 minutes going through \$2 piles of clothing and come out with some gems.

What should British tourists avoid doing in LA? Avoid waiting in lines for bars that charge you \$100 to get in. There are plenty that do not have a cover charge. Don't be fooled by the overpromoted spots you see online. @rinnyriot

SANTA MONICA
The Ambrose Hotel

This boutique hotel on Ocean Avenue has recently undergone a multi-million-dollar renovation. Enjoy fully revamped signature rooms, a 24-hour fitness centre and bespoke Ambrose bicycles for travelling the short ten-minute ride to the beach and Santa Monica Pier. For anything further afield, make the most of the Tesla house car that'll drop guests anywhere within three miles of the hotel.

From £210pn, ambrosehotel.com



SANTA MONICA
The Void

This immersive VR experience allows 'travellers' to step into a variety of cinematic universes. Don a stormtrooper's outfit to recover imperial intelligence in *Star Wars: Secrets of the Empire*, employ Wakandan and Stark technologies in *Avengers: Damage Control* or obey the call of the drums in *Jumanji: Reverse the Curse*, all via state-of-the-art Rapture Rig headset. thevoid.com

SANTA MONICA
Citrin & Mélisse

Two-Michelin-star restaurant Mélisse has finally reopened after closing for renovations in March 2019. Now chef Josiah Citrin has reimaged the space as two concepts. Citrin is a 77-seat dining room and bar, and Mélisse provides an intimate five-seat dining experience where guests are served personally by the chefs, not the waiters. Try the Miyazaki Wagyu or spiny lobster 'A La Presse'. citrinandmelisse.com



LOS ANGELES

Some people move on – but not Marvel

If you thought the Avengers had assembled for the final time, you're in for a shock. To celebrate Marvel's 80th anniversary last year, Disney is opening the first 'Avengers Campus' at Disneyland Resort, California. Many franchise favourites are slated to feature including Black Widow, Doctor Strange and Ant-Man and The Wasp, as well as heroes from Wakanda and Asgard. But the star of the show? The 'Worldwide Engineering Brigade' (WEB), which will feature the first ever ride-through Spider-Man attraction. Visitors can test drive a 'web-slinger' vehicle as well as collecting Spider-bots by slinging their own webs. Fans of Ant-Man and The Wasp shouldn't miss the Pym Test Kitchen, which we suspect will feature some seriously strange-sized food. Avengers Campus opens at Disney California Adventure Park in summer 2020.



NEW YORK

Get a different perspective on NYC

The hugely anticipated highest outdoor observation deck in the Western Hemisphere – 'The Edge' – is finally set to open this spring. Take in an unrivalled 360° view of the Big Apple, then head upstairs (!) to Peak, a brand-new bar and restaurant situated on the 101st floor of 30 Hudson Yards. Enjoy contemporary American cuisine from executive chef Chris Cryer, who promises to source produce from "local farmers,

fisherman and purveyors". The menu will include dishes such as chicken brodo and roasted monkfish with clams, mussels and broccolini – but given that he'll be cooking at 1,149 feet up in the heart of Manhattan, presumably that means that we might be seeing a lot of pigeon on the menu, too? The Edge opens 11 March, Peak opens 17 March. hudsonyardsnyc.com

Photography © 2019 Disney Enterprises, Inc./Marvel. Courtesy of Peacock Culture. Illustration: Joseph Hillman



New York's most famous museum celebrates the British brew

As part of the Met's 150th birthday celebrations, this month it unveils its renovated British Galleries, dedicated to fine decorative arts, design and sculpture... alongside two ten-foot cases of the world's most elaborate antique teapots. "Our staggering teapot display will be one of the centrepieces of the galleries," says lead curator Wolf Burchard. "Everybody associates Britain with drinking tea, so we gathered an extraordinary range of 100 teapots in two huge semi-circular cases. The incredible variety of colours and designs illustrates that the ceramists had to be creative and think outside the box to market their products – a theme that should resonate with our creative and entrepreneurial audience." Opens 2 March. metmuseum.org



Off Broadway, soft play goes to a dark place

Tony-nominated Taylor Mac returns to The Flea for his hugely ambitious *The Flea*, set inside a giant ball pit (Mac's original plan to cover the cast, crew and audience in mud didn't work out). His text is a loose retelling of Aristophanes' 405 BC theatrical triumph *The Frogs* and is given fresh resonance by the current political landscape. It's about power, responsibility, joy and family and also, it has to be said, balls. Until 12 April. theflea.org

DESTINATION AMERICAN BEAUTY

Hogwarts arrives stateside

Potterheads will have a new home this summer as the first flagship Harry Potter store opens alongside the Flatiron Building. As well as requisites such as Bertie Bott's Every Flavour Beans, signed artwork and collectibles, the store will offer exclusive Hogwarts house wands, interactive experiences and photo ops. With 20,000 square feet of Muggle-free merchandise, it promises to be the largest collection of Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts products in the world under one roof. Fingers crossed the rumoured fibreglass dragon isn't cancelled because of someone at City Hall reading *Men Who Love Dragons Too Much*. Opens summer. harrypotterstore.com



THE SOUTH

Nashville's toughest table reservation gets a sister restaurant

Chef Trevor Moran's globe-trotting career has taken him from his native Dublin to Tennessee, via Copenhagen, where he was sous chef and 'master forager' at Noma. His food at Nashville's The Catbird Seat, where guests dine on a multi-course tasting menu at a chef's table, prompted such a cacophony of praise it became one of the most elusive reservations in the USA. Moran is now launching Locust on Nashville's 12th Avenue South. Inspired by his travels to Japan and love of dumplings, it will focus on *kakigori* (shaved-ice dessert), dumplings (naturally) and other delights such as spicy tuna *onigiri*. Opens May. @locustnashville



Gaylord Opryland will keep kids happier than any honky-tonk

As a city, Nashville is booming – which means the hotels have to offer something significantly different to stand out. Step forward the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, an enormous near-3,000-room hotel that features a lavish spa, steakhouse and golf course. The masterstroke is SoundWaves, the onsite indoor/outdoor waterpark with 11 slides and a huge wave pool complete with a cinema-size LCD projector. So the question you should be asking for your next trip to Tennessee: can your hotel offer you both a rapid and a lazy river? Rooms from £240pn. gaylordopryland.com

No-lo in Nola!

Of all the things New Orleans is known for, moderation is not one of them. Yet, on the centenary of the start of Prohibition, even the Big Easy is ushering in low-abv and alcohol-free drinks. On Louis Armstrong Park, local favourite Bar Tonique (right) offers a long list of fruity 'temperance drinks' (tell staff you're the designated driver and drink for free). Elsewhere, Kingfish in the French Quarter prides itself on a killer mock-Ramos Gin Fizz, and Frenchmen Street's Three Muses serves a terrific blueberry limeade. Abstainers rejoice! bartonique.com; kingfishneworleans.com; 3musesnola.com



DESTINATION
AMERICAN BEAUTY

Charleston's culinary scene has never been better

In 1950, the Junior League of Charleston first published *Charleston Receipts*, a collection of retro recipes for local favourites ranging from hoboetee (curried beef pudding) right through to Faber's pilau (a chicken and rice dish). The fact it's still in print 70 years on – and has raised more than \$1m for community projects in the process – is a testament to South Carolina's enduring culinary power. What's most exciting is the fact that the range and diversity of Charleston's foodie offering has never been stronger. Take our advice: opt for a mixture of the traditional and contemporary by having lunch at Martha Lou Gadsden's soul-food spot (for fried pork chops and macaroni cheese) and then hit seafood specialist 167 Raw (for crispy oysters, bay scallops and homemade key lime pie). jllcharleston.org; marthalouskitchen.com; 167raw.com



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