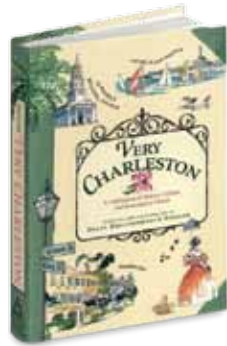
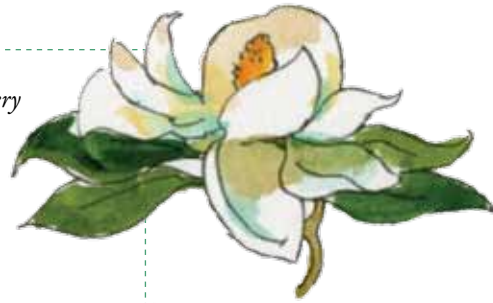


A City Set in a Garden

Charleston, South Carolina



WHENEVER I SPEAK to audiences about *Very Charleston*, the book I wrote and illustrated about one of the South's most revered cities, I suggest that the reason everyone loves Charleston is because Charleston loves itself. Under the guidance of long-term mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr., and supported by the community's palpable pride, Charleston is growing even more beautiful with age—beautiful because the city accepts the changes that age brings and seamlessly weaves them into its historic fabric. Recently, I returned to Charleston to discover some of those changes, and to weave them into the latest edition of *Very Charleston*.



GARDEN WALKS

Besides the Houses & Gardens Tour, there are several self-guided walks visitors may take on their own. In addition to my original illustration of Gateway Walk, I've added a page on the newly created Heritage Rose Trail which showcases the sweet but almost forgotten Noisette roses of Charleston. It was a chance for me to paint roses—which I love to do—and to learn about the Noisette's unique history. Thanks to local efforts and the Charleston Horticultural Society, visitors can follow a map and ramble like the roses throughout historic Charleston, including the Gateway Walk and Hampton Park.



TO REDUCE TRAFFIC AND PARKING PROBLEMS, MAYOR RILEY—who boasts 36 years in office—ANNOUNCED THAT THE TROLLEYS ARE NOW FREE AND FREQUENT!

ANNUAL SPRING FESTIVAL OF HOUSES & GARDENS TOUR

One of my favorite parts of the book, *Secret Gardens*, was created after roaming in and out of private places during the Houses & Gardens Tour several years ago. The residents' common talent for turning gardens into cozy little rooms made many of us want to go home and give our gardens a little Charleston touch. The tour has now grown into a full calendar of events that spans from March 17 through April 16, 2011 and includes the Charleston International Antiques Show, March 18 to 20.



THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING OLD AND NEW AT THE CHARLESTON INTERNATIONAL ANTIQUES SHOW.



HIGHER EDUCATION

As you wander around Charleston, you may discover a castle. It's actually the Old City Jail that has been ingeniously re-purposed as the American College of Building Arts where students can learn some of the lost arts of architecture. Although it's not open to visitors during the day, Bull Dog Tours offers a haunted jail tour by night.

When Johnson & Wales College of Culinary Arts decided to pack up their pots and leave Charleston, this foodie town was fortunate that the Culinary Institute of Charleston at Palmer Campus stepped into the kitchen to take its culinary place.



TIP: WHEN CLASSES ARE IN SESSION, STUDENTS COOK AND SERVE A \$15 PRIX FIXE GOURMET LUNCH FOR THE PUBLIC AT 181 PALMER (IT'S THE CLASSROOM NUMBER).



WHEN DAY-TRIPPING, BE SURE TO STOP AT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (1726). BUILT BY THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND FOR SETTLERS FAR FROM THE CITY, THIS "CHAPEL OF EASE" WAS ONE OF 10 SUCH PLACES OF WORSHIP CONSTRUCTED IN THE "WILDERNESS."



DISCOVER MORE ABOUT OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS AT THECENTERFORBIRDSOPREY.ORG.

NEHI ON ICE SITS BY THE CREAKY SCREEN DOOR AT SEEWEE RESTAURANT.



VISIT SNEE FARM TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LIFE AND TIMES OF CHARLES PINCKNEY.

A LOWCOUNTRY DAY TRIP

A friend's passion for a cause led me to the new 150-acre Center for Birds of Prey about a half-hour outside Charleston in the Francis Marion National Forest. Injured birds of prey are treated at the center, and those that cannot be released become residents. Touring the exhibits—the owls were my favorite—we learned each bird's personal story of how they came to live here. We made sure to time our morning visit to catch the free-flight demonstrations where we watched in awe as hawks, falcons, and owls swooped so close we heard the sounds of flight. Bring your camera! For hours of operation, visit thecenterforbirdsofprey.org.

Turning back onto US Highway 17 North, we stopped for lunch at the Seewee Restaurant, a ramshackle, been-there-forever place with floors that shake, an outdoor restroom, and a waitress who is everyone's best friend. It's a local hangout where they keep the "Southern-fried tradition alive," and their She Crab soup with sherry is legendary.

Along the route back to Charleston, there are several plantations you can ogle. The elegant Boone Hall Plantation, with its quintessential live oak-lined entrance, is still agriculturally active with "u-pick" fields and groves. By contrast, the 1754 Snee Farm is a simple farmhouse. Although once a 700-acre cattle and indigo plantation belonging to Charles Pinckney, it's now only a few acres but it is steeped in fascinating Pinckney family history.



Boone Hall Plantation

BE SURE TO STOP ALONG HIGHWAY 17 FOR SOME FRESH PRODUCE FROM THE U-PICK GROVES AND FIELDS—STRAWBERRIES, PEACHES, AND MORE!



DO THE HISTORIC KING STREET STROLL!

Upper King neighborhood visitors to Charleston will find that King Street has reinvented itself as the “Soho of the South” with the Historic Antique District on Lower King, the Fashion District at Middle King, and the Design and Dining District on Upper King where *all* the joints are jumping day and night!

Thankfully for all of us who love this city, the more Charleston relishes innovative progress, the more some things remain the cherished same. For no matter what changes blow in with the stirring Atlantic breezes, residents and visitors alike can rest assured that Charleston will continue to be their beloved city set in a garden.



BLUE BICYCLE BOOKS UNIQUE SIGNAGE ON UPPER KING STREET IS A DAILY PHOTO OP.



TIP: YOU MAY WANT TO PLAN YOUR CHARLESTON VISIT AROUND SOME INNOVATIVE KING STREET EVENTS HELD EACH MONTH:

“LET’S DO LUNCH” IS SO POPULAR YOU NEED TO ORDER TICKETS EARLY. FOR ABOUT \$20, YOU GET A FABULOUS LUNCH AT A CHARLESTON RESTAURANT, FREE PARKING, AND DOOR PRIZES FROM KING STREET MERCHANTS, PLUS YOU ARE SUPPORTING A LOCAL NON-PROFIT. WHAT A GREAT IDEA!

“SECOND SUNDAY ON KING STREET” MEANS THE STREET IS CLOSED TO TRAFFIC IN THE AFTERNOON. AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE, STROLLING PEDESTRIANS—AND SOME “GREAT-LOOKING DOGS”—ENJOY A STREET FESTIVAL OF MUSICIANS, SHOPKEEPERS’ SIDEWALK DISPLAYS, ALFRESCO DINING ON THE STREET, AND TWO HOURS OF FREE PARKING.



FOR INFORMATION, VISIT SUSANLUCAS.TYPEPAD.COM/KINGSTREETMARKETINGGROUP.

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