

# SKY

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// TY BURRELL & THE GRAND CANYON

// PANAMA CITY: 1 CITY 5 WAYS

// YO YO MA ON CHICAGO'S MICHIGAN AVENUE



# One Rare Bird

Actor, writer, musician, art collector, tweeter—**Steve Martin** has plenty to crow about.

From backyard hobbyists to global jet-setters, **birders** are spreading their wings.

A New Chapter for New Orleans

# SOUTHERN Revival

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No American city has seen such tragedy and devastation of late as **New Orleans**—from the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina to more recent man-made calamities.

But in true N’awlins “*laissez les bons temps rouler*” style, the city has bounced back in a **big, bold** way, dusting off its heritage, airing its post-tempest travails on HBO and attracting expats from both coasts jazzed with ideas and innovation.

Sky global lifestyle editor *Jason Oliver Nixon* spent time with six New Orleans notables to get their take on the Crescent City’s **dynamic neighborhoods**. Photographs by *Joshua Paul*

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## My French Quarter

Nadine Blake,  
Boutique Owner/Interior Designer

While the French Quarter, the traditional heart of New Orleans, might be stereotyped as party central thanks to the honky-tonk bars and neon signs

that line Bourbon Street, the neighborhood overflows with incredible history, stunning architecture and hidden gems.

Trained as an interior designer, Nola native Nadine Blake spent several years in Los Angeles and New York before returning home to open Nadine Blake Interior Decoration & Lifestyle on Royal Street in the heart of the Quarter. "I adored living on the two coasts, but I always appreciated coming home," says the chic, gracious Blake. "In time, it became harder and harder to leave. I came back to New Orleans, and then the storm hit a year later. Katrina gave me even more passion for the city. This culture just had to survive. I'm so proud to be part of the city's comeback."

Begin your visit to this masterful mosaic in myrtle-shaded Jackson Square. Stop for a powdered sugar-sprinkled beignet and an iced café au lait at the famed, *al fresco* Café du Monde, then set out and explore. Walk past Brad and Angelina's home on Governor Nicholls Street and visit the Beauregard-Keyes House with its boxwood-knotted garden. Get to know a native for Friday lunch downstairs at Galatoire's (try the soufflé potatoes with béarnaise). Explore the eclectic Pharmacy Museum and sprawling M.S. Rau Antiques (Herbert Hoover's lawn balls, anyone?) before stopping for a Pimm's cup at the sublime Napoleon House. And pop into the just-opened outpost of historic Hové Parfumeur on Chartres Street for soaps, lotions and powders. Finish

**"I love the mix of the French Quarter's European and Caribbean influences. I find the neighborhood beautiful and truly unique."**

—NADINE BLAKE

off your tour with dinner at newcomer Sylvain, a bustling, dimly lit gastropub: Pair a potent Sazerac cocktail with the crispy duck confit. Come nightfall, unwind at the Hotel Monteleone's just-renovated, revolving Carousel Bar or enjoy jazz at Preservation Hall or Fritzel's.

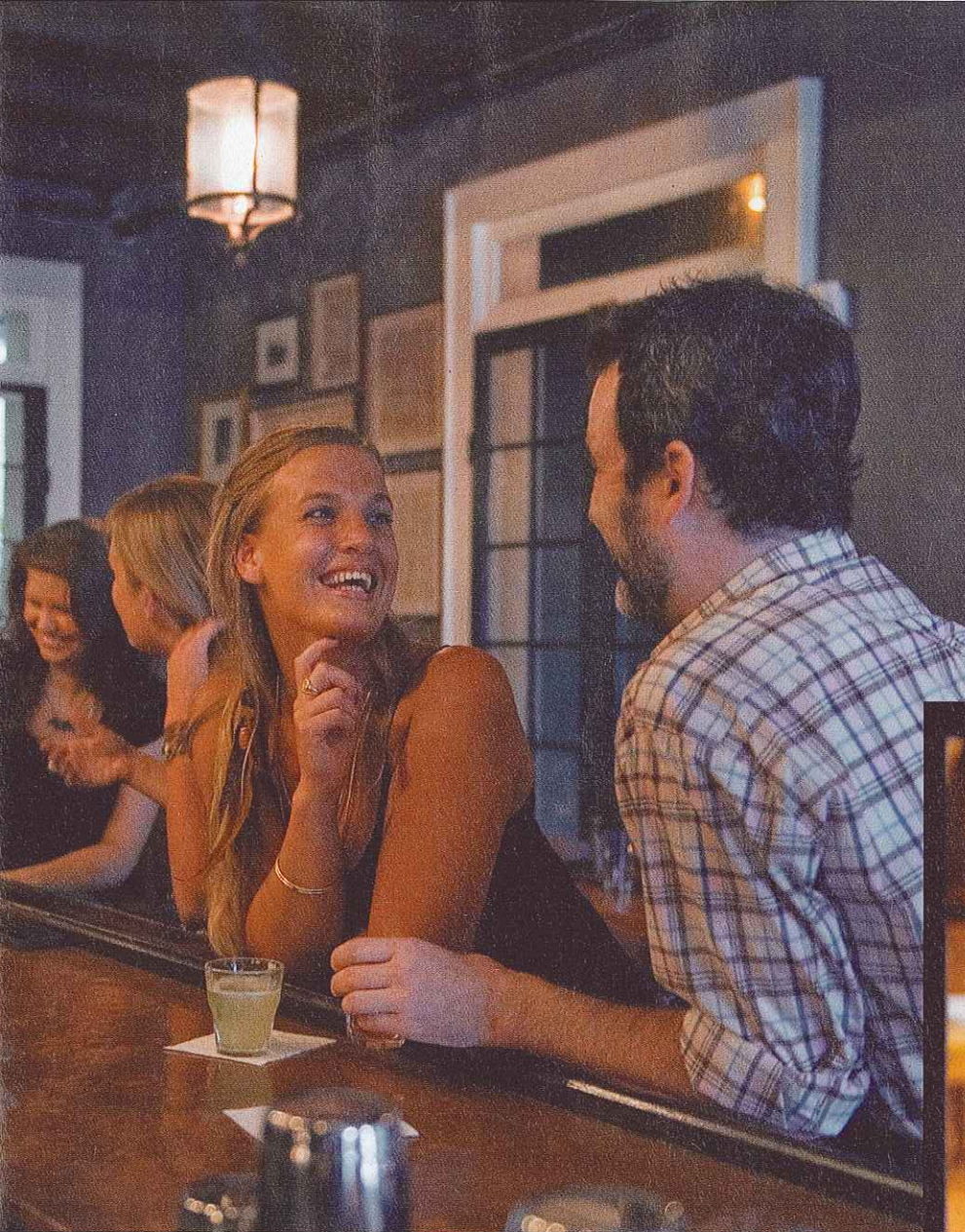
### Blake's Picks:

- 1 "Café Amelie offers wonderful cooking in a charming 19th-century courtyard and carriage house. I dream of their orange-pepper-glazed Gulf shrimp." [cafeamelie.com](http://cafeamelie.com)
- 2 "I have an affinity for proper, brick-and-mortar bookstores. One visit to the charming Faulkner House Books, and you'll see why." [faulknerhouse.net](http://faulknerhouse.net)
- 3 "The Louisiana Music Factory record store carries an extensive selection of Louisiana and New Orleans music, as well as offering live in-store performances on Saturday afternoons." [louisianamusicfactory.com](http://louisianamusicfactory.com)
- 4 "Lucullus is an exquisite culinary antiques shop that is so well-curated, it's like a petite museum. Owner Patrick Dunne and his staff are incredibly knowledgeable, not only about the antiques, but also about their sociological history." [lucullus.com](http://lucullus.com)
- 5 "Meauxbar Bistro is a vibrant neighborhood bistro that consistently delivers great food. I like the *poisson en papillote* when I'm in a healthy mood and the spaghetti Bolognese when feeling indulgent." [meauxbar.com](http://meauxbar.com)

## My Downtown/Warehouse District

Emeril Lagasse,  
Chef/Restaurateur/Television  
Personality

Superstar chef Emeril Lagasse owns three restaurants in New Orleans, including his flagship eatery, Emeril's, in the heart of the Downtown/Warehouse District. "It's 'go' time around here," he says. "The spirit of everyone who has been to visit post-Katrina has been just awesome for this town." Lagasse has taken a very active role in rebuilding Nola post-Katrina: Through his Emeril Lagasse Foundation, the chef gives back to his adopted city, aiding with programs such as Edible Schoolyard Nola, Second Harvest Food Bank and Kids Rethink N.O. Schools. When he isn't traveling the country to



*Clockwise from left: The bar scene at Sylvain in the French Quarter; Elegant seared tuna at Mesón 923; The incomparable Emeril Lagasse.*



check on his other half-dozen culinary outposts—or taping shows for ABC’s *Good Morning America* or *Emeril’s Table* on the Hallmark Channel—Lagasse can be found in his Nola kitchens, overseeing his empire at the Emeril’s Homebase offices in the Downtown/Warehouse District and working with his foundation.

Start your tour with breakfast at the always-jammed Mother’s, then hit the cultural scene, from the galleries on Julia Street to institutions such as the National World War II Museum, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art and the Louisiana Children’s Museum. Lunch on crawfish bisque at the

throwback Bon Ton Cafe and shop for a homburg or planter at Meyer the Hatter. Try your hand at the slots at Harrah’s before sipping mixologist Lu Brow’s bloody mary at the jumping Swizzle Stick Bar. Finish off your day with dinner at industrial-chic Mesón 923, where chef Baruch Rabasa crafts a stellar grilled gulf fish with couscous, almonds and kumquat. And before you leave, a meal at the sleek new Restaurant Ste. Marie is also a must. Says Robert LeBlanc, the restaurant’s dashing co-owner: “It is amazing to see the post-Katrina revitalization of this neighborhood, one of the city’s oldest.”

*Itagasse’s Picks:*

- 1** “Go for the charbroiled Gulf oysters at **Drago’s**. It’s always a crowd pleaser.” [dragosrestaurant.com](http://dragosrestaurant.com)
- 2** “I love the **Contemporary Arts Center** and galleries along Julia Street. What were once neglected warehouses now house renovated lofts and some of the best studios, galleries and boutiques in the city.” [cacno.org](http://cacno.org)
- 3** “**Cochon Butcher** is not your traditional meat market or deli counter. The assortment of handmade sausages, chops and meats is some of the very best in the city.” [cochonbutcher.com](http://cochonbutcher.com)
- 4** “Louisiana artist George Rodrigue’s Blue Dog is a pop-culture icon. His new arts education center for kids, **George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts Education Center**, is sure to inspire the next generation of artists.” [georgerodriguefoundation.org](http://georgerodriguefoundation.org)
- 5** “The **Grand Isle Restaurant** has the look of a high-end Louisiana fish camp with fresh seafood and cold beer. Grab a seat at the marble-topped oyster bar and start a conversation with the skilled oyster shuckers.” [grandislerestaurant.com](http://grandislerestaurant.com)