

## TRAVEL | CITY NOTEBOOK



**Nashville** | The city is synonymous with country music, but this is no one-note town. Its musical culture harmonizes with the growing performing and visual arts scene, boom of residential high-rises, and distinct dining and shopping to create a one-of-a-kind destination. Designer **Mary Spalding**, architect **Bobby McAlpine**, event planner **Elizabeth James**, and floral designer **Joe Smith** share with us their top picks in town



**MARY SPALDING**  
at Petit Château



**BOBBY MCALPINE**  
at Cumberland Gallery



**ELIZABETH JAMES**  
at Margot Café & Bar



**JOE SMITH**  
at Cheekwood

## LIVABILITY

**NASHVILLE ROCKS.** Perhaps because of the city's good manners, arts scene, or entrepreneurial spirit, more people are discovering this Tennessee town. Architect Bobby McAlpine searched the world over for places to live, but "where I felt the most invitation to was Nashville," he says, "because of the emotion of the landscape and the people."

**Belle Meade**

The land in this exclusive suburb was once part of Belle Meade Plantation, a 19th-century horse farm. "Some of the most exemplary houses hover around this area," says McAlpine.

**The Gulch**

"As in many cities," he says, "there is a thrust now for mid-rise and high-rise developments." Much of that is happening in The Gulch, centered around the intersection of 11th Avenue North and 12th Avenue North. Developers are capitalizing on the area's convenient location, creating a hip urban neighborhood that appeals to young professionals.

**East Nashville**

"East Nashville is booming," says McAlpine of the neighborhood that survived a devastating fire in the early 1900s and an unforgiving tornado in 1998. "Many of the city's best restaurants are showing up here. It's one of the hottest tickets in town, especially if you're young and up-and-coming."

## LEGEND

- 1. East Nashville** Across the Cumberland River from downtown, this area is undergoing a renaissance and has an energetic vibe.
- 2. The Hermitage Hotel** Check out the lobby's original hand-cast plasterwork, stained-glass ceiling, and Tennessee-quarried marble. 231 Sixth Ave. N, 888/888-9414, [www.thehermitagehotel.com](http://www.thehermitagehotel.com).
- 3. Frist Center for the Visual Arts** The museum, housed in the city's historic former post office, brings

premier traveling exhibitions to the region. 919 Broadway, 615/244-3340, [www.fristcenter.org](http://www.fristcenter.org).

**4. Broadway** Honky-tonks line this thoroughfare, and their crowds and tunes spill onto the sidewalks.

**5. Schermerhorn Symphony Center** "There's not a bad seat in the house," says Mary Spalding. 1 Symphony Place, 615/687-6500, [www.nashvillesymphony.org](http://www.nashvillesymphony.org).

**6. The Parthenon** "This architectural masterpiece in Centennial Park houses a 42-

foot-tall statue of the goddess Athena," says Elizabeth James. 2600 West End Ave., 615/862-8431, [www.nashville.gov/parthenon](http://www.nashville.gov/parthenon).

**7. Vanderbilt University** The parklike campus of this private research university is a national arboretum. 2201 West End Ave., 615/322-7311, [www.vanderbilt.edu](http://www.vanderbilt.edu).

**8. The Gulch** Once the city's rail center. Top restaurants, including Radius10, have moved in.

**9. Belle Meade** Rolling hills and large lots define this exclusive suburb.

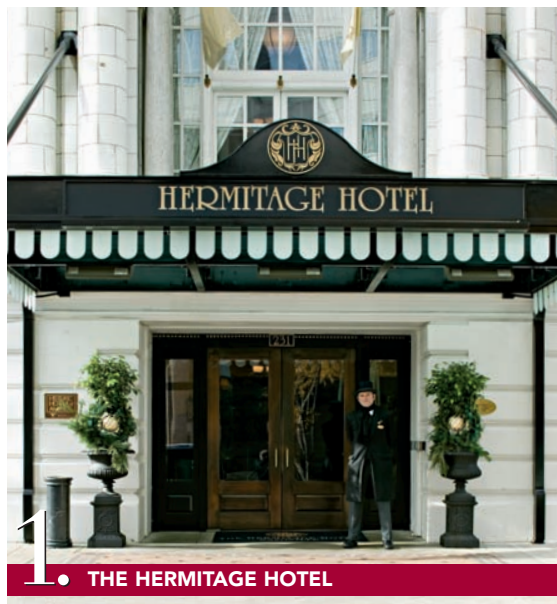


“We are the birthplace of country music and proud of it, but there is so much more that the city has to offer. My friends who visit are always pleasantly surprised to learn there is another side of Nashville—a sophisticated community rooted in philanthropy.” —Elizabeth James



## TRAVEL | CITY NOTEBOOK

### RESTAURANTS RUN THE GAMUT FROM ITALIAN TO SOUTHERN TO SLOW FOOD



1. **THE HERMITAGE HOTEL**



2. **EASTLAND CAFE**



3. **RADIUS10**

#### WHERE TO STAY

##### 1. The Hermitage Hotel

"A lovely hotel because it's so historic," says Joe Smith. "Ask for a view of the capitol." 231 Sixth Ave. N, 888/888-9414, [www.thehermitagehotel.com](http://www.thehermitagehotel.com).

##### Loews Vanderbilt Hotel

Conveniently located across from Vanderbilt University. 2100 West End Ave., 615/320-1700, [www.loewshotels.com](http://www.loewshotels.com).

**Union Station Hotel** This boutique hotel is housed in Nashville's turn-of-the-century Romanesque train station. 1001 Broadway, 615/726-1001, [www.unionstationhotel.com](http://www.unionstationhotel.com).

#### WHERE TO EAT

**The Bluebird Café** A tiny club and restaurant where singer/songwriters entertain. 4104 Hillsboro Rd., 615/383-1461, [www.bluebirdcafe.com](http://www.bluebirdcafe.com).

**Bread & Company** "Try the Steeplechase sandwich with apples and turkey," suggests Spalding. 4105 Hillsboro Pike, 615/292-7323, [www.breadandcompany.com](http://www.breadandcompany.com).

**Caffe Nonna** "A tiny Italian place that my husband and I sometimes just crave," says

Spalding. 4427 Murphy Rd., 615/463-0133, [www.caffeonna.com](http://www.caffeonna.com).

**Capitol Grille** "It's the place to go for a special dinner," says Spalding. 231 Sixth Ave. N, 615/345-7116, [www.thehermitagehotel.com](http://www.thehermitagehotel.com).

**Corrieri's Formaggeria** This market is a good spot for lunch. Order the seafood bisque. 1110 Caruthers Ave., 615/385-9272, [www.cfcheese.com](http://www.cfcheese.com).

**Dessert Designs** "They make a caramel cake to lie down and die over," says Smith. 850 Hillwood Blvd., 615/354-9555, [www.dessertdesignsbyleland.com](http://www.dessertdesignsbyleland.com).

2. **Eastland Cafe** "I love the neighborhood atmosphere," says James. 97 Chapel Ave., 615/627-1088, [www.eastlandcafe.com](http://www.eastlandcafe.com).

**F. Scott's Restaurant and Jazz Bar** "The best wines in town," says Spalding. 2210 Crestmoor Rd., 615/269-5861, [www.fscotts.com](http://www.fscotts.com).

“Gorgeous writing, poetry, and music are all produced here. You can't visit Nashville without trying your best to get into The Bluebird Café.”

—Bobby McAlpine

**Lime** "A Latin-fusion restaurant that's new, beautiful, and edgy," says McAlpine. 1904 Broadway, 615/340-0762.

**Loveless Cafe** "A Nashville tradition, with its famous fried chicken, country ham, biscuits, and preserves," says James. 8400 Hwy. 100, 615/646-9700, [www.lovelesscafe.com](http://www.lovelesscafe.com).

**Marché Artisan Foods** "The best brunch," says McAlpine. 1000 Main St., 615/262-1111, [www.marcheartisanfoods.com](http://www.marcheartisanfoods.com).

**Margot Café & Bar** "Chef Margot McCormack's menu is influenced by rustic French and Italian cuisines," says James. 1017 Woodland St., 615/227-4668, [www.margotcafe.com](http://www.margotcafe.com).

**Martha's at the Plantation** "The Green BLT can't be beat," says James. "It's made with bacon, fried green tomato, and basil." 5025 Harding Road, 615/353-2828, [www.marthasattheplantation.com](http://www.marthasattheplantation.com).

**Midtown Café** "One of my favorite spots for dinner," says Smith. Try the crab cakes. 102 19th Ave. S, 615/320-7176, [www.midtowncafe.com](http://www.midtowncafe.com).

**Park Cafe** McAlpine recommends eating at the bar at this restaurant where artists and musicians dine. 4403 Murphy Rd., 615/383-4409, [www.parkcafenashville.com](http://www.parkcafenashville.com).

**PM** "It has a really terrific vibe," says McAlpine of this contemporary Asian restaurant. 2017 Belmont Blvd., 615/297-2070, [www.pmnashville.com](http://www.pmnashville.com).

**Provence Breads & Café** "An authentic French bakery with the best breads in town," says James. 1705 21st Ave. S, 615/386-0363. Other locations: [www.provencebreads.com](http://www.provencebreads.com).

3. **Radius10** "Chic cuisine and great martinis," says Smith. 1103 McGavock St., 615/259-5105, [www.radius10.com](http://www.radius10.com).

**Sunset Grill** "A great neighborhood restaurant that's consistently good," says Smith. 2001 Belcourt Ave., 615/386-3663, [www.sunsetgrill.com](http://www.sunsetgrill.com).

**Watermark Restaurant** "Their lamb is the best I've ever had," says Smith. 507 12th Ave. S, 615/254-2000, [www.watermark-restaurant.com](http://www.watermark-restaurant.com).

“Nashville is a very friendly place. It’s easy to get around in. It’s large enough to have big city amenities and small enough to feel like a small town.”

—Mary Spalding

THE BEST SHOPPING IS SOUTHWEST OF THE CITY



4. THE DOTTED LINE



5. PETIT CHÂTEAU

WHERE TO SHOP

**American Artisan** Open for nearly 40 years under the ownership of art enthusiast Nancy Saturn. “It’s the place to find contemporary handcrafted collector’s items from all over the country,” says James. 4231 Harding Rd., 615/298-4691, [www.american-artisan.com](http://www.american-artisan.com).

**Artifacts** Antique lighting and architectural and garden antiques. 224 White Bridge Pike, 615/354-1267, [www.artifactsantiquesonline.com](http://www.artifactsantiquesonline.com).

**The Arts Company** “This downtown gallery off the beaten path displays an array of works,” says Spalding. 215 Fifth Ave. N, 877/694-2040, [www.theartscompany.com](http://www.theartscompany.com).

**AshBlue** “Exquisite, handcrafted goods, from South African mango wood tables to antique silver to maharaja party tents,” says James. 2170 Bandywood Dr., 615/383-4882, [www.ashblue.com](http://www.ashblue.com).

**At Home Nashville** “The hippest little furniture store in Nashville,” says McAlpine. 2104 Crestmoor Rd., 615/463-8865, [www.athome-nashville.com](http://www.athome-nashville.com).

**Bella Linea** McAlpine suggests this spot for exemplary linens. 2210 Crestmoor Rd., 615/352-4041, [www.bellalinea.com](http://www.bellalinea.com).

**Bennett Gallery** Features contemporary artists. Beyond the paintings and sculpture, the gallery also boasts jewelry and gifts. 2104 Crestmoor Rd., 615/297-3201, [www.bennettgalleriesnashville.com](http://www.bennettgalleriesnashville.com).

**Corzine & Co.** Long known for its china, crystal, and silver. 4003 Hillsboro Rd., 615/385-0140, [www.corzineco.com](http://www.corzineco.com).

**Cumberland Gallery** “My favorite artists there are photographer Jack Spencer and Kurt Meer, who does beautiful, ethereal landscapes,” says McAlpine. 4107 Hillsboro Cir., 615/297-0296, [www.cumberlandgallery.com](http://www.cumberlandgallery.com).

**Davis Cookware and Cutlery Shop** “A dizzying array of kitchen necessities for the serious cook,” suggests James. 1717 21st Ave. S, 615/298-4728.

## TRAVEL

**The Dickerson Group** Donia Dickerson will help you find the best art in Nashville, says Smith. By appointment. 4505 Harding Rd., 615/298-4812.

**4. The Dotted Line** "They have unique cards, stationery, and wrapping papers, but it's the candy that people love," says Spalding. 2209 Bandywood Dr., 615/385-0101, [www.the-dotted-line.com](http://www.the-dotted-line.com).

**Elder's Bookstore** "It houses upwards of 40,000 volumes and specializes in 20th-century Southern literature and rare, out-of-print books," says James. 2115 Elliston Pl., 615/327-1867, [www.eldersbookstore.com](http://www.eldersbookstore.com).

**Gallery One** Focusing on contemporary American artists. 5133 Harding Rd., 615/352-3006, [www.galleryone.biz](http://www.galleryone.biz).

“I love the fact that there are so many young people here. When my child was in college, everybody went off to New York or Atlanta. Now people are coming to live in Nashville, and those graduating from Vanderbilt don't want to leave.”  
—Joe Smith

**Garden Park Antiques** Architectural and garden antiques, as well as custom furniture made from ironwork, architectural, and industrial items by Keith Merry ("an excellent engineer with a terrific aesthetic eye," says McAlpine). 7121 Cockrill Bend Blvd., 615/350-6655, [www.gardenpark.com](http://www.gardenpark.com).

**Garden Variety** "Eclectic garden antiques and accessories unified by their soft worn patinas," says James. 5133 Harding Rd., 615/356-3313.

**Grimey's New & Preloved Music** "The last real, old professional record store," says McAlpine. 1604 Eighth Ave. S, 615/254-4801, [www.grimeys.com](http://www.grimeys.com).

**H. Audrey** "Owned by singer/songwriter Holly Williams, this edgy boutique is filled with clothes that are sophisticated and urban, as well as stylish accessories," says James. 4027 Hillsboro Pike, Ste. 703; 615/760-5701; [www.haudrey.com](http://www.haudrey.com).

**Habit** "Great lingerie and sleepwear—cute and really wearable," says Spalding. 2209 Bandywood Dr., 615/292-9399.

**Hatch Show Print** The country's oldest continually operating letterpress print shop. 316 Broadway, 615/256-2805, [www.countrymusichalloffame.com/site/experience-hatch.aspx](http://www.countrymusichalloffame.com/site/experience-hatch.aspx).

**Ilex** "Joe is a genius as a floral designer and event planner," says McAlpine. This season, stop in to see Smith's take on holiday tablescapes. 4548 Harding Rd., 615/385-2800, [www.hwadsl.plus.com](http://www.hwadsl.plus.com).

**Jamie** "The place to shop for fashion and accessories," says James. "It is a jewel box of hard-to-find designer labels." 4317 Harding Rd., 615/292-4188, [www.jamie-nashville.com](http://www.jamie-nashville.com).

**Landy Gardner Interiors** "This designer's studio is where I find my best accessories when I'm finishing up a job," says Spalding. 2212 Bandywood Dr., 615/383-1880.

**Levy's** "Beautiful men's clothing from around the world," says McAlpine. Lines include Zegna, Armani, and Etro. 3900



6. THE PERFECT PAIR

Hillsboro Rd., 615/383-2800, [www.levysclothes.com](http://www.levysclothes.com).

**Lumen** The place for great lamps. 280 White Bridge Pike, 615/356-9596, [www.lumenlamps.com](http://www.lumenlamps.com).

**Old Hillsboro Antiques** "A stylish range," says McAlpine, "from Continental antiques to midcentury modern." 4145 Old Hillsboro Rd., Leipers Fork; 615/599-6935.

**6. The Perfect Pair** Cute bags, cool jewelry, and stylish

shoes. 2209 Bandywood Dr.; 615/385-7247; [www.theperfectpairnashville.com](http://www.theperfectpairnashville.com).

**5. Petit Château** "New upholstery and antiques in little vignettes," says Spalding. 6608 Hwy. 100, 615/354-1460, [www.petitchateauantiques.com](http://www.petitchateauantiques.com).

**Razz Kirk Shoes** Shoes by Bernardo, Delman, French Sole, Marc Jacobs, and other top designers. 6031 Hwy. 100, 615/353-0891, [www.razzkirk.com](http://www.razzkirk.com).

**Snap Kids** "Just about the cutest children's store I've ever seen," says Spalding. 4027 Hillsboro Rd., 615/460-7627, [www.snapkids.net](http://www.snapkids.net).

**Stanford Fine Art** Late 19th- and early 20th-century American and European fine art. 6608 Hwy. 100, 615/352-5050, [www.stanfordfineart.com](http://www.stanfordfineart.com).

**The Tulip Tree** "Reminiscent of a French floral boutique," says James. In addition to flowers, they offer books, containers, lamps, frames, and statuary. 95 White Bridge Pike; 615/352-1466; [www.thetuliptreeinc.com](http://www.thetuliptreeinc.com).

**The Wine Shoppe** "I love to give music, books, and wine," says McAlpine. This spot is for the real connoisseur. 2109 Abbott Martin Rd., 615/297-5220, [www.getfinewine.com](http://www.getfinewine.com).

**Zeitgeist** Cutting-edge art. 1819 21st Ave. S, 615/256-4805, [www.zeitgeist-art.com](http://www.zeitgeist-art.com). ♦