



Southern Traveler

YOUR LOCAL'S GUIDE TO ALL POINTS SOUTH

The Inn at
Willow Grove

BEST OF THE SOUTH

Inn Style

Forget doilies, chintz, and potpourri. These next-generation B&Bs give the bed-and-breakfast routine a welcome upgrade

AT YOUR SERVICE

Morning beignets, delivered daily by butlers at The Inn at Willow Grove



The Inn at Willow Grove

Orange, Virginia

Central Virginia's wistful countryside, where piled rocks and white picket fences frame horse-dotted farms, could pass for Downton Abbey. That is, until the all-American antebellum Inn at Willow Grove geo-positions you.

IN THE ROOMS: The Piedmont-style mansion was first built in 1778. Present owners Charlene and David Scibal balance the 40-acres' historic bones—including a weaver's cottage and a schoolhouse—with a purposefully modern and plush aesthetic in the inn rooms. "It's urban meets plantation," says David, describing beds with Anichini linens and

bathrooms with heated marble floors.

ON THE MENU: Days start when personal butlers deliver freshly pressed coffee and hot beignets that some quietly say rival Café du Monde's in New Orleans. Later for brunch, Willow Grove's gastro-pub, Vintage, serves French toast topped with mascarpone cheese and blackberries, and a fried chicken sandwich with garden-fresh herb aioli. Afterward, get a massage at the new Smokehouse Spa. Or work off the pub-house pounds while horseback riding or walking through nearby vineyards.

BOOK IT: Rates from \$265; innatwillowgrove.com or 540/317-1206 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

**GRACIOUS WELCOME**

A veranda at Zero George in Charleston.
BELOW: The inn's grilled shrimp

Zero George

Charleston, South Carolina

While the Holy City is packed with antiques-filled B&Bs, few properties have been able to give the obligatory nod to Charleston's rich history without losing their sense of self. Zero George, named for the inn's Peninsula address, achieves this beautifully.

IN THE ROOMS: Owner Dean Andrews, a veteran of the luxury hospitality company Orient Express, meticulously preserved the inn's buildings—three ivory Charleston singles and two brick carriage houses—and

**THE KEY**

- 🔥 IN-ROOM FIREPLACES
- 🍷 GREAT BAR
- 📍 EXCURSIONS
- 🍷 ON-SITE SPA
- 🚶 NEARBY HIKES

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**OUR
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**POUND CAKE
CUPCAKES**
with cookie-cutter
hydrangeas
PAGE 130

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**DECORATING WITH
BLUE & WHITE**

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landscaped the connecting grounds with lush native palmettos and azaleas. The 18 bedrooms and suites feature contemporary Ethan Allen designs that touch on Southern history. Trade Rooms, for example, have interior shutters, mahogany bed frames, and blue-and-white china lamps evocative of turn-of-the-century plantation homes in Barbados and Jamaica.

ON THE MENU: Every morning, a self-serve, European-style breakfast is set up in a separate 1804 kitchen house, with original brick and stucco walls and working fireplaces. Over plates loaded with Lowcountry-sourced foodstuffs (thick bacon and seasonal fruit from nearby Thackeray and Legare Farms), guests can plan out their Lowcountry holiday.

BOOK IT: Rates from \$299; zerogeorge.com or 843/817-7900 🍷 📍

WIDE-OPEN SPACES
A lounge area at the Rancho Loma Restaurant + Rest in Central Texas



Rancho Loma

Talpa, Texas

Laurie and Robert Williamson call their prairie ranch in Central Texas a “Restaurant + Rest.” After tiring of city slicker life (they were in commercial film production in Dallas), the

pair purchased these 300 acres, studded with live oaks and white-tailed deer and anchored by a 135-year-old farmhouse, which they converted into a restaurant.

IN THE ROOMS: The five stand-alone cottages, built just last year, are modern and minimalist, with polished concrete floors, southern-exposure sliding glass doors, and Frette

linens. Equally important is what you won’t find: Rooms don’t have TVs, and most cell phone services are blissfully on the fritz.

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THREE MORE THAT RAISE THE B&B BAR

No. 1

THE INN AT MOUNT VERNON FARM Sperryville, Virginia

The most important distinction for this six-room 1827 manse is that it’s an 840-acre working farmstead. Daily breakfasts showcase the farm’s yields, such as eggs from resident layers and jam made with blackberries from an on-property briar patch. *Rates from \$249; theinnatmountvernonfarm.com*

No. 2

THE CRASH PAD Chattanooga, Tennessee

Run by a pair of thirtysomething climbers, this LEED Platinum-certified hostel is a showroom of all things local: soaps and candles from Everyday Eclectic, Greyfriar’s coffee... even custom woodworking by Matt Sears of Haskel Sears Design. *Private rooms from \$70; crashpadchattanooga.com*

No. 3

THE PRAIRIE Round Top, Texas

At this 46-acre property owned by Shabby Chic designer Rachel Ashwell, the five restored cottages are done up with one-of-a-kind finds (animal busts crowned in flowers hang in the entryway, copper pots over a kitchen island) from Round Top’s biannual antiques fair. *Rates from \$230; theprairiebyrachelaashwell.com*