



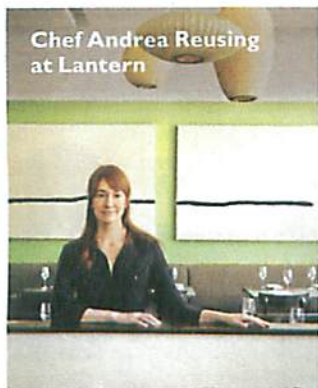
Franklin Street in downtown Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC

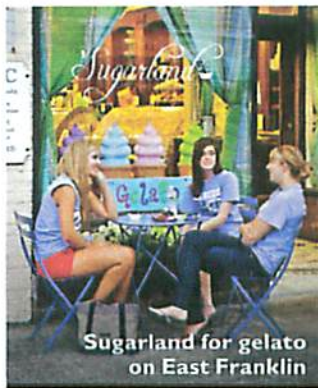
A food lover's paradise that's delightfully all-American

CHAPEL HILL 101 From crowded outdoor cafes and public art murals to former colonial residences fronted with flower baskets and fluttering Stars and Stripes, the University of North Carolina's hometown, composed of a late-1700s historic district, is classic Americana.

WHY IT MADE OUR LIST Think of this city as one big food festival where farmers, chefs, and diners all come together in the name of local, seasonal ingredients and creative Southern cuisine. Culinary events take over downtown streets, farms open up for weekend tours, and James Beard Foundation Award-winning chefs like Andrea Reusing think "local" like it's a religion. At her Zen-like, 65-seat Lantern restaurant on West Franklin Street



Chef Andrea Reusing at Lantern



Sugarland for gelato on East Franklin

(lanternrestaurant.com), Andrea serves up Asian-inspired dishes such as succulent roasted chicken brined in honey and soy and cold-smoked in lychee tea leaves. Or try plump, North Carolina shrimp coated with salt and pepper and fried in their shells, making them particularly juicy.

DON'T MISS The Pig (thepigrestaurant.com), a whole-hog barbecue joint owned by former Reusing-staffer Sam Suchoff, whose thick pork belly and homemade frankfurters (Kim Chi dog, anyone?) are a fresh, urban take on what might as well be the official state food.

EXTRA CREDIT Satisfy your sweet tooth with a scoop of gelato—24 flavors, such as caramel fleur de sel and pear-mascarpone, made with cane sugar and whole milk—at the cheerful co-ed favorite Sugarland (sugarlandchapelhill.com).

SURE BEATS THE DORM A stay at the 185-room The Carolina Inn (carolinainn.com; from \$189), modeled after Mount Vernon, is like a night at a museum. Hand-painted French wallpaper depicting scenes of U.S. history adorns some first-floor walls; a painting of the property by three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist and UNC alum Jeff MacNelly hangs in the opulent lobby.

IF YOU DO GO FOR A GAME Before kickoff, watch Tar Heel players and cheerleaders parade down Franklin Street, past the campus' 1897 Old Well (where students take a sip of water on their first day of class to ensure straight A's) and into the stadium.

COACH'S REPORT "The Top of the Hill Restaurant & Brewery (topofthehillrestaurant.com) is the place to pregame or celebrate a big win. It overlooks the main business district and has great upscale food." —Former Coach Butch Davis, Carolina Tar Heels

