

THE QUINTESSENTIAL CHARLOTTE LUXURY MAGAZINE

QC
EXCLUSIVE

THE TRAVEL ISSUE

NOTHING COULD BE FINER

McClellanville's pride and joy, the cherished Deerhead Oak and its swing,
along with 50 more Carolina destinations you have to visit in 2019.

Plus! The 24th Annual Queen's Cup Steeplechase

THE **ZIMMERMAN** AGENCY
(continued)

UTAH CHARM

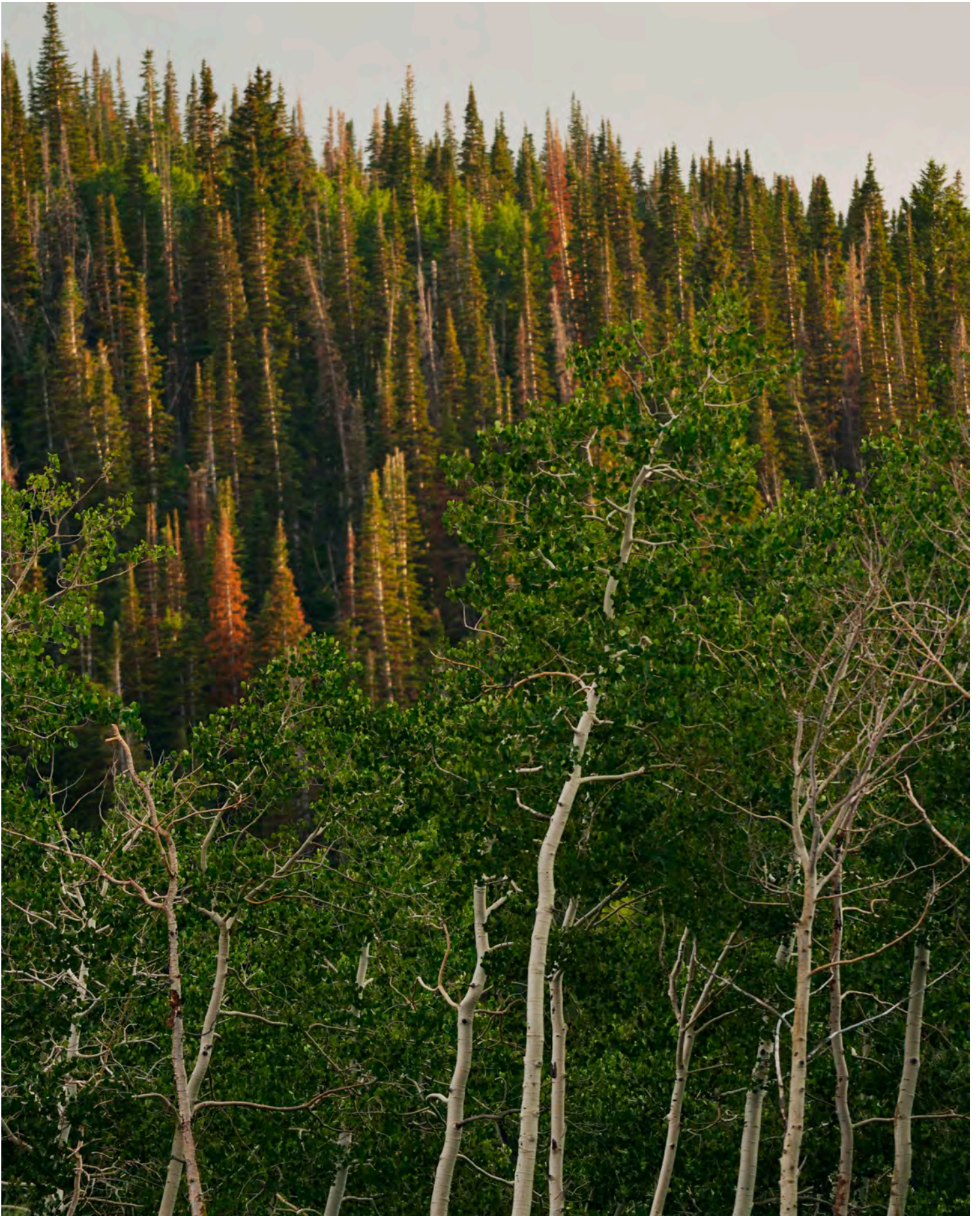
Experience the warm hospitality and stunning beauty of Park City.

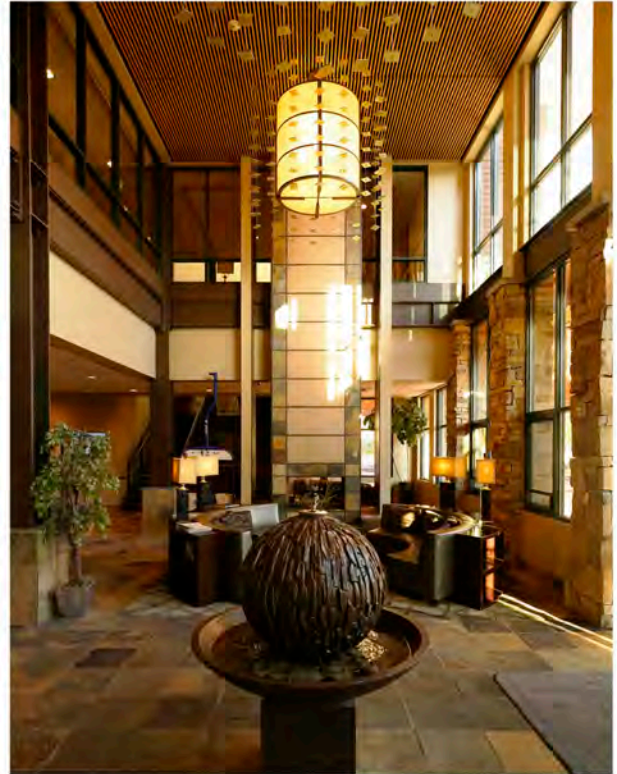
BY MID-SUMMER OF 2018, I COULDN'T IGNORE THE ITCH TO HEAD WEST ANY LONGER. I HAD BEEN TO some of the surrounding areas, places I couldn't get out of my head for their vastness and beauty, but never Utah itself. It remained a bucket list item to cross off, so I made the plans and hastily packed my bags. However, without having experienced the state, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect as I boarded the plane out of Charlotte-Douglas to Park City.

A short plane ride later, and I could already begin to see just how unique this area was: Our flight path took us directly over Salt Lake with the ridges of the Wasatch Range in the distance. The layers of the mountains on the horizon were breathtaking, and I began to get extremely excited to finally be in Utah.

I disembarked from the plane, headed to baggage claim, eagerly grabbed my bags, and then heard someone call out my name. Although we had never met, my Park City host Dan Howard recognized me immediately. How's that for hospitality?

words and photos JP GRICE





WITH ALL MY THINGS IN TOW, WE HEADED OUT OF THE AIRPORT and to his car — a convertible with the top rolled invitingly down. It was warmer than expected, and what better way to soak in a new scene. As we drove the short 45 minutes to Park City, talking and taking in the views, I was impressed, to say the least, with the wide open spaces in high summer time.

Upon arrival, I checked into my home base for the next few nights, the Newpark Resort. It's a beautiful new boutique hotel in the up-and-coming Newpark area, sitting on the fringe of Park City and poised at the edge of the scenic 1,200-acre Swaner Nature Preserve and Ecocenter.

Newpark Resort is a blend of luxury and hominess, with stunning large suites that feature hot tubs, heated floors, full kitchens, and gorgeous balconies overlooking the preserve. The room was rustic, with an appropriately mountain-y vibe. The hotel boasts all the amenities, including an indoor-to-outdoor modern pool and full gym, all with their sustainable/eco-friendly philosophy.

From the moment I touched down, the Park City team had a full itinerary planned for us; our group of travelers congregated to find out what was in store. The plans for the next few days were split into two main categories: activities and eating and drinking. Here are some of my very favorite experiences and eats, and the ones that I'd highly recommend to any Park City traveler.

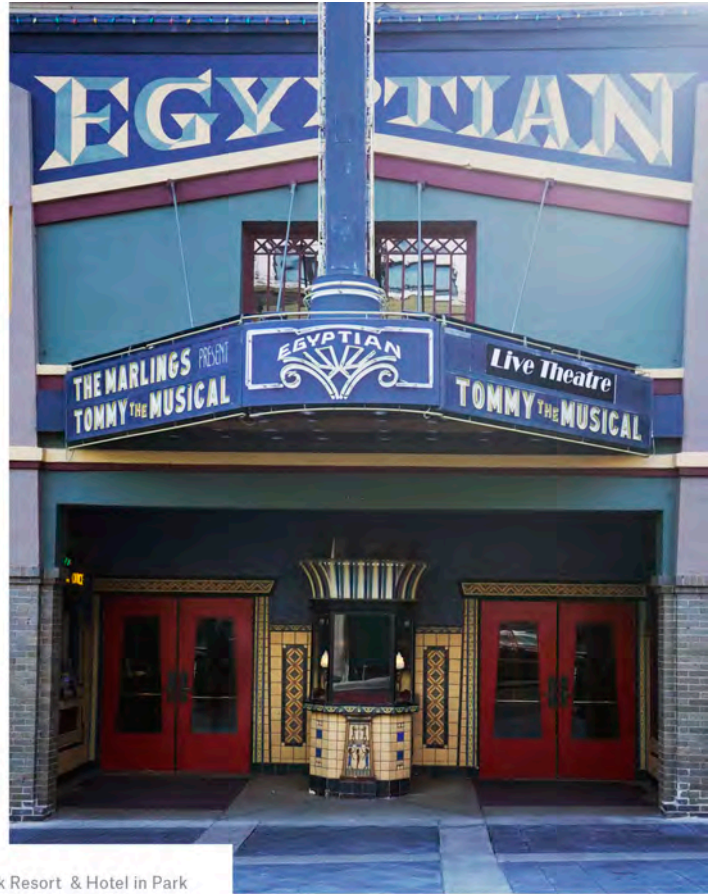
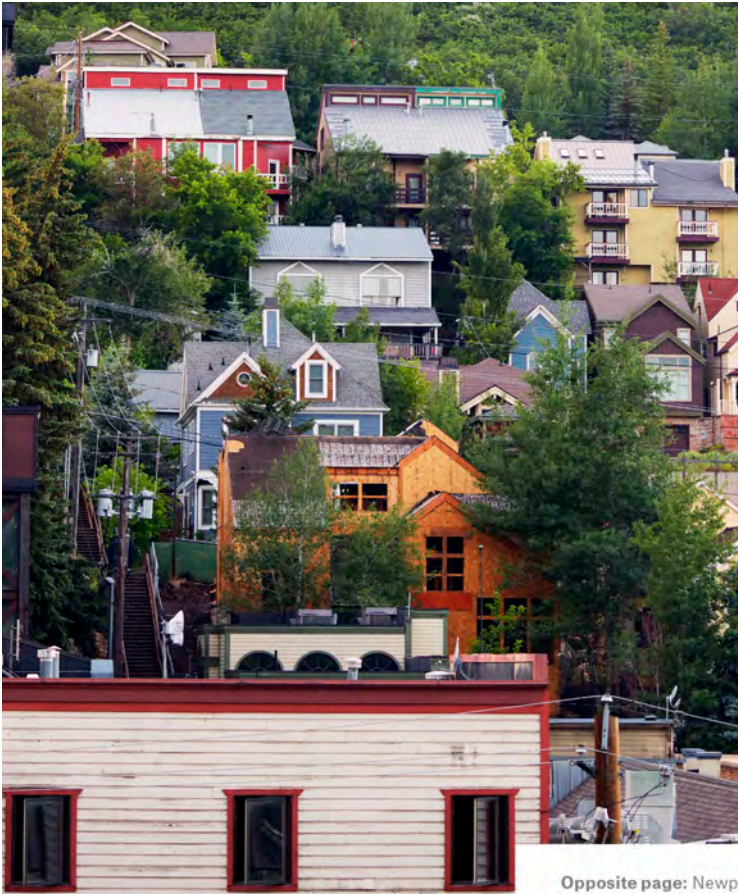
WHAT TO DO IN PARK CITY IN THE SUMMERTIME

OUTDOOR SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

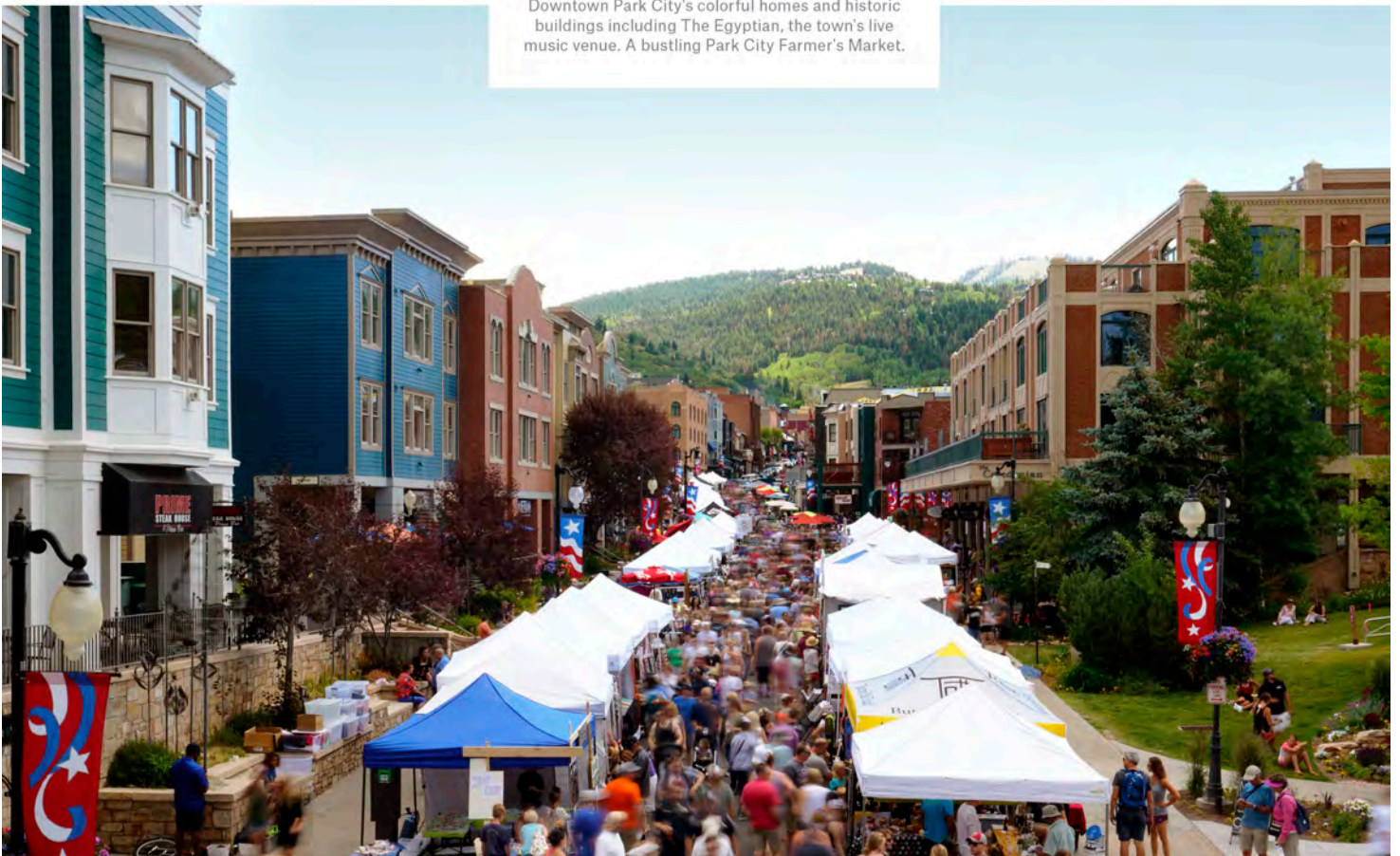
We made our way to Deer Valley Resort around sunset to see the exceptional show, *Disney in Concert*, performed by the Utah Symphony. We parked, and walked towards the venue with a giant cooler full of food and wine in tow. Our seats overlooked the amphitheatre and the mountain range beyond. While two big screens played classic cartoon scenes and the talented musicians performed the soundtracks live, our group uncorked the wine, cracked the beers, and enjoyed a picnic supper under the stars. I would highly recommend getting tickets for this. It's family friendly and easy to attend, making it an entertaining way to spend a laid-back summer evening outdoors.

THE DEJORIA CENTER

This beautiful event venue and conference center in the Uinta foothills hosts some of the best concerts in the area. We were there to try out the Park City Horse Experience's horse meditation. This was truly one of the most unique things I've ever done: Seated in a circle, together we practiced our breathing and meditation with the horses. The renowned Alejandra Lara led the session, making us feel completely comfortable around these big animals and in tune with the nature surrounding us.



Opposite page: Newport Resort & Hotel in Park City, Utah and Swaner Nature Preserve. **This page:** Downtown Park City's colorful homes and historic buildings including The Egyptian, the town's live music venue. A bustling Park City Farmer's Market.





PROVO RIVER FLY FISHING

This was an opportunity to catch some truly stunning trout on a world-renowned stream. Wading and searching for rainbows in beautiful riffles of the middle section of the Provo, with the expanse of foothills and mountains in the distance, was an unforgettable way to see the nature of this state. Everyone in our group was able to catch a beautiful, native Utah trout, and that made the experience even better.

THE OAKLEY RODEO

This is a Western experience you practically *have* to take advantage of: Oakley is a small town rodeo packed with attendees. Set against a beautiful sunset, we took in some crazy-fun, authentic bull and horse riding, shared hot dogs and nachos (with that iconic, yellowy-orange nacho cheese drizzled all over), and met some very friendly, unique people. It's a nail-biter of an evening, but so worth it. You walk away from this one thinking about how skilled, determined, and committed these riders are.

PARK CITY FARMERS MARKET

This was one of the most unexpected treats of my trip: The downtown market is huge, filled with people shopping, eating, and catching up. You can get the freshest

fruits and vegetables to bring home, or eat lunch at one of the many food trucks and vendors. I was personally blown away by the amount of locals that attended. The streets were shut down and absolutely packed with people enjoying the weather and the delicious food and ingredients.

MINES AND WINES

Learn about the history of Park City while you explore the various mines in the area and sample some of the best wines available in Park City. With wonderful, knowledgeable hosts — Miss Fox and her assistant Hannah — leading the tour this is a truly unique but great way to spend an afternoon in the town. You will walk away from this with a little buzz and a whole bunch of knowledge about the area, how it came to be, its connection to the mining industry, and so much more.

PARK CITY MOUNTAIN CHAIR LIFTS

You can't leave town without seeing the views from the top of Park City Mountain. Buy your lift ticket and ride the chair lift up through the Aspen trees to the top of the mountain, watching mountain bikers whizz by you below.

Horse meditation at the DeJoria Center with Park City Horse Experience. Buckin' broncos at the Oakley rodeo. An orange sky at sunset over the Uinta foothills.





WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK IN PARK CITY

HIGH WEST DISTILLERY

Just a short drive from Park City to Wanship, Utah, and you arrive at the High West Distillery & Tasting Room. Set high on the hillside, this world-class distillery is absolutely beautiful. We were able to tour their facility to learn about how their product and whiskey is made, what all their equipment does, and so much more. Then we headed over to the tasting room to imbibe in their bourbon, rye, and whiskey sampling.

THE SPUR BAR & GRILL

The Spur's food, like their classic "Spur Burger" and their beloved brick oven pizza is really good. While you eat, The Spur serves up live music from rock to folk and more. What I really liked about my experience though was my first shotski. Don't know what a shotski is? It's exactly what it sounds like — a handful of shot glasses are attached to a ski. The bartender fills all the shot glasses with your favorite libation, and then together as a group, you flip the ski and drink the shots together.

BRIDGE CAFE & GRILL

The Bridge Cafe & Grill serves American food with a Brazilian flair. Located directly at the bottom of the Town Lift on Main Street, it has one of Park City's best patios for spectacular outdoor dining. I ate breakfast there and can attest that it is both fresh and rather tasty.

NO NAME SALOON

One of Park City's most popular bars, No Name Saloon, is decked out with an amalgamation of themed decor from old snowmobiles and motorcycles hanging from the ceiling to taxidermied moose heads on the walls. It is an overload for the senses and a great place to enjoy a beer or cocktail and their world-famous buffalo burger.

WOODLAND BISCUIT COMPANY

Located in the old Woodland Cash Store building in a town with 350 or so residents, this roadside eatery is in the sticks between Park City and Heber City, Utah is the go-to spot for breakfast. Woodland dishes up delicious takes on the classic Southern biscuit including the salty goodness that is biscuits and gravy. It's a quirky, homey little spot, and the waitress who graciously brought us our food was, no lie, named "Chicken."

In the quaint mountain town of Park City I was greeted with open arms and smiles at nearly every turn. It was a trip that allowed for a lot: We were able to enjoy the great outdoors and the warm weather while eating biscuits and gravy, going to the farmer's market, sipping on bourbon, fishing for trout, and so much more. Park City, you might be far from the South, but y'all know how to make someone feel right at home.

info

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Opposite page: High West Distillery whiskey, bourbon, and rye sampling as well as the production facility. **This page Clockwise From Top Left:** High West Distillery and whiskey barrels. Aspen trees from Bald Eagle Mountain above Park City. Swaner Nature Preserve. Park City Mountain Chair Lifts.

