

Heaven on the Half Shell—Oysters Across the South

Southern Living®

FEBRUARY 2005

Everyday Meals

\$5 Dinners for 4

plus

- Slow-Cooker Pot Roast
- Meaty Cheese Manicotti

Kitchens special section

- Remodel With Colorful Accents
- Tone-on-Tone Color Schemes
- Smart Solutions for Small Kitchens

Seasonal Delights

- Candy & Carnations For Valentine's
- Fabulous Forsythia Says Spring



weekend FLORIDA



above, left: Hemingway's Hideaway at The Inn at Oak Street is one of the property's six spacious rooms. above, right: Though the menu changes daily, any of the inn's delicious breakfast selections will complement your stay.

Jacksonville's Coastal Charm

Let this seaport city—chock-full of shopping, museums, and chic restaurants—wash away your weekend woes.



Though dubbed as the country's largest city in land mass, Jacksonville still boasts a tremendous amount of shoreline for beachcombers.

job of bringing worldwide classical paintings and artifacts to its patrons.

Squeeze in at least one more afternoon activity with a jaunt to the Jacksonville Zoo. They plan to open five new exhibits in the next five years. The first, "Range of the Jaguar," is a 4½-acre display that details the life of the jaguar in its natural habitats. Don't miss the elevated boardwalks, where guests look down on African wildlife.

Now it's time to answer those grumbling stomachs by heading over to San Marco to visit two of our favorite food stops. Duck in to Peterbrooke Chocolatier first, and pick up some of the best chocolate-covered popcorn on the planet.

Save your popcorn for the trip home, and end the day at Bistro AIX (pronounced "X"). Named for the French

town Aix-en-Provence, the bistro sits on stylish San Marco Boulevard, a strip that also houses many designer shops. An indulgence worth the time, Bistro AIX features Mediterranean-inspired cuisine. Even the decor, brooding and sophisticated like something out of a Gothic French cathedral, adds passion to your palate.

Don't miss their decadent Blood Orange Martini rimmed with sugar. Start with the Bruschetta Trio (\$9), which comes with three types of bread—one topped with white bean puree; another with tomatoes, garlic, and basil; and a third with peppers, onions, and goat cheese. For your entrée, try the grilled tuna over whipped potatoes with baby spinach, lemon-garlic butter, and chive oil (\$23).

Soothing Sunday

At The Inn at Oak Street, innkeeper Janice Husk serves divine waffles with fruit topping and whipped cream. Smoked maple bacon and fluffy eggs accompany the meal and set the tone for a merry morning.

On the way out of town, head over to Kids Kampus at Metropolitan Park downtown. Wee ones can ride bikes in a safe area, and you can perch in front of the St. Johns River for some reflection time. Jacksonville does a great job of balancing old Florida charm with its chic, contemporary side. The water just keeps it all afloat. **FARRAH AUSTIN**

At Oak Street, one fish and accompaniments. The breakfasts. The bistro is in the historic downtown. Comfort with bold prints and themes, the inn features a Musico and design detail. Hemingway's Hideaway opens to a balcony room done in greens. Audubon red brick; (904) 255-1100. [oakstreet.com](http://www.oakstreet.com). Though, head into downtown on St. Johns Boulevard. Beautiful specialty sandwiches are this hard. On sunny lunching on the water, which comes with a portion of prosciutto cheese. Within walking distance of upscale housing. Woodward Avenue for beautiful antique and antique shops. Jacksonville's town lies Éxito,

where you'll discover a variety of home furnishings, including trendy lamps and decorative pillows. The vibrant showcase in the store's display window will entice you inside in no time.

Ladies who crave fun apparel should take a peek inside Petal. It's a colorful clothing store filled with adorable tees, feminine blouses, and girly dresses.

For another set of shops that's altogether different, stop by the eclectic Five Points. Shoppers swoon over women's vintage stores such as Violet. Even if you don't have much to spend, Violet carries \$20 purchases that make you look like a million bucks. Delicate gloves, sassy shoes, and playful party dresses fill this store's vintage closet.

When it's time to dine, make the drive to Mandarin, a community 12 miles away and home to Clark's Fish Camp. Clark's encompasses all that

\$4.99US-\$6.50CAN



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