

Nashville Lifestyles 2013 Hot List

FOOD AND DRINK

1. Gray's on Main

- Set in a ca. 1876, three-story building in Historic Downtown Franklin, Gray's has long been an established landmark on one of the country's most celebrated Main Streets.

Eclectic, yet traditional, the Gray's menu reflects the best of Southern cuisine with a big-city flair, and has a focus on locally sourced ingredients. The second floor bar and music hall features handcrafted cocktails that celebrate the brandy culture of the late 19th century, along with live performances from the best Music City has to offer. The private, third story area holds a casual yet elegant space for supper club members.

At the core of Gray's mission lies a desire to honor the heritage of Tennessee's culture, through its spirits, flavors and sounds. The restaurant and venue opened in July 2013. www.graysonmain.com.

2. Gray's on Main: bar program

- The Gray's on Main bar program applauds vintage epicurean spirits and a cocktail menu that closely coincides with the kitchen's seasonal pairings.

Part of the Gray's taste-making team, Jon and Lindsay Yeager of PourTaste created a handcrafted menu that reflects Gray's original roots, and the drink culture in the late 19th century. Influenced by "The Golden Age of the American Cocktail," the pair inspired a bar program at Gray's that followed the marks of this period in time: one full of creation, experimentation, and vigor, with a focus on brandy-inspired libations.

In Tennessee, social hour revolves around our food and our drink. The Gray's menu concept encourages guests to carry on this tradition by passing the plate—or the pitcher—through shared dishes and spirits.
www.graysonmain.com

3. Puckett's Boat House shrimp 'n' grits hushpuppies

Part of the Puckett's family of restaurants, Puckett's Boat House is a grill and oyster bar in downtown Franklin that offers by-the-shore dishes reminiscent of the Gulf coast and the Big Easy, plus Southern staples that draw from the Marshall family's Mississippi Delta and Memphis roots.

The Boat House offers Puckett's trademark Southern fare, but with a Boat House twist: for example, the eatery (which celebrated its one-year anniversary in mid-June 2013) created the shrimp 'n' grits hushpuppies. It blends Puckett's own mix of cheese grits (a real Southern staple!) and fresh Gulf shrimp with the Boat House hushpuppy recipe—and tops 'em off with the Boat House pepper sauce. It's an innovative dish that can't be found elsewhere. www.facebook.com/puckettsboathouse.

4. Puckett's Boat House blues night

Staying true to the Puckett's family of restaurants reputation for providing quality, live music, Puckett's Bot House in downtown Franklin, Tenn. recently launched a free blues night each Thursday evening.

Billy Block—who has hosted one of Nashville's longest-running live radio shows and concert series, and performed with the likes of Freddy Fender—spearheads the weekly, live performance.

The show also features lead singer and guitarist Derek St. Holmes, a musician best known for his vocal and rhythm guitar work with Ted Nugent. Also in the group is bass player David Kiswiney, vice president of Buddy Lee Attractions, Inc., and keyboardist Paul Brown, who recently produced Bobby Rush's latest release. The best part? It's free. No cover, no minimum food cost—just rockin' blues from some of Nashville's best. www.puckettsboathouse.com

FASHION

1. aDARable

- In Spring 2013, the “Designing for a Cause” class at O'More College of Design in downtown Franklin, Tenn. partnered with local non-profit organization WEareDAR to produce a Spring 2014 children's clothing line that will give hope to Haitian women in extreme need. The resulting “aDARable” Spring 2014 children's label, designed by seven fashion design students, premiered during the 15th Annual Eloise Student Fashion Show on May 10, 2013.

In Summer 2013, 10 Haitian women will be responsible for the complete production of the line. Once constructed, WEareDAR Founder Martha Montiel-Lewis will market the clothing items to boutiques throughout Tennessee and in targeted online marketplaces. Proceeds will aid the Haitian women involved and their families. Montiel-Lewis said that while there may have been other concepts similar to the “aDARable” line, she believes this will be the first of its kind.

Watch the “aDARable” video here: www.omorecollege.edu/adarable.

CULTURE

1. O’More Designer Show House

- In April 2013, O’More College of Design and *Traditional Home* magazine presented the inaugural O’More Show House in downtown Franklin, Tenn. Seventeen leading interior designers—all award-winning O’More alumni, spanning four decades — participated in the project at Berry Cottage.

The 4,000 square-foot, transitional Shingle style home is a model for sensitive infill development in a historic neighborhood, located on the quiet cul-de-sac of Berry’s Circle just outside the Lewisburg Avenue Historic District, and adjacent to the O’More College campus. The July/August 2013 *Traditional Home* edition featured a 15-page spread on the event, and its living room was featured on the cover of the issue.

www.omorecollege.edu/showhouse.

2. Women Like Whiskey Too

- In Summer 2013, Collier and McKeel Handcrafted Tennessee Whiskey launched a social community for women who enjoy drinking whiskey.

The first-ever “Women Like Whiskey Too” event was held at Cabana on June 13, and celebrated the industry’s new tastemakers through a spirit tasting and a cocktail demonstration. The get-togethers act as both an educational vehicle and a bonding experience for a demographic that has long been overlooked in the industry.

The group has plans to hold several more gatherings in 2013, and to offer additional tastings, distillery visits, and more “girls’ night out” options. For more information on the organization, go to www.facebook.com/WomenLikeWhiskeyToo.

3. Franklin on Foot corporate outings

- Franklin-based tour company Franklin on Foot recently launched a corporate outing offering for businesses looking to establish stronger internal work relationships.

The guided tour company hosts a Southern-style food tour for interested parties, a lively option in downtown Franklin that explores Southern staples

at six downtown restaurants.

Participants learn a bit of background behind each tasting, and the five-block walking tour also comes with Franklin history along the way. Franklin on Foot Owner Margie Thessin promises lots of laughs and a fully satisfied palate. www.franklinonfoot.com.