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February 11, 2016

*Below:* From the olde country, bright minds required, winter mood booster, beauty and the boards, history comes alive, boomers not alike, sweets for my sweet, precious pooches, the perfect pairing.

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**Take a Road Trip**

Imagine traveling south from Charlotte, NC to Columbia, SC.

Interstate 77 is the most direct route from one big city to the other and you can make the trip by car in less than 90 minutes, but why rush? Positioned on either side of the Interstate, The Olde English District encompasses seven counties in the geographical center of SC. You can fly into Columbia or Charlotte, or simply make a 36-hour driving detour on your way to the Grand Strand, or the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The Olde English District is named for its abundance of English settlers and towns with English names (York, Lancaster, Chester, Chesterfield, etc.), and the number of battles fought here during the Revolutionary War.

History and military enthusiasts love the area. Antiques lovers are equally enthralled. And for outdoor recreation, it's a thrill for all ages.

For all those reasons and many more which can be found in their 116 page visitors' guide, the team at CarolinaLiving.com is offering a few tantalizing reasons why you should consider a 36-hour getaway in the Olde English District of South Carolina. [More.](#)

*Olde English District photos: Top, paddling through Cheraw State Park; bottom, living history program at Andrew Jackson State Park.*

**Where in the Carolina World is This?**

## Hallowed Halls

Join these students on campus and you feel the intellectual energy.

Rigorous admission standards accompanied by a reverence for learning, guarantee graduates who are ready to change the world.

World-class programs in medicine and the humanities, among others. Plus, one very amazing basketball team.

Where are you?

## Carolina Home Grown

## Winter Magic

*By Dr. Robert Polomski*

Paperbush (*Edgeworthia chrysantha*) is one of my winter-blooming favorites. This uncommon deciduous shrub from China is in the same family as winter daphne. It sports an interesting growth habit with flexible, almost rubbery stems that emerge from its crown. Expect a height and spread of 6 to 12 ft. Ideally suited for a well-drained location that receives afternoon shade, paperbush bears lush, tropical-looking, plumeria-like leaves during the growing season. Occasional watering may be necessary during hot, dry spells in the summer.

When fall arrives, the leaves are shed to reveal a number of plump, silvery flower buds. At first glance it appears as if these “buds” are fully opened flowers, but that’s not true. It’s only an illusion created by the silky-white hairs that enclose the buds.

Wait until early February to enjoy the real floral display. After years of wintertime rain, sleet, snow or ice, paperbush always delivers. Each one is comprised of yellow tubular flowers on the inside surrounded by white on the outside. A paperbush in bloom in mid-winter never fails to take me to my “happy place.” Perhaps it’ll do the same for you.

*Learn more about Carolina gardening from Dr. Polomski’s new book, [Carolinas Month by Month Gardening](#). Available wherever books are sold.*

## A Gentle Chill

Hello Tony,

We’re sharing Carolinas’ best for the month of February. Winter-friendly getaways for all tastes, including history, culture, year-round outdoor

fun, and that's just for starters!

Bookmark recommended restaurants, inns, shops, special events and historic homes to amuse and enlighten.

Now's the perfect time to make plans, because affordable travel beckons and we're out having fun. The festivals are already rolling and the glorious Carolinas weather entices us all to spend more time outdoors.

Yes to tax incentives, real estate bonanzas -- they sweeten the idea that maybe, with job listings abundant, it's your time to relocate, retire or acquire that Carolina vacation investment deal. Click here for links to [Retirement Living](#) & [Real Estate Tips](#), but don't leave without checking out 47 Carolina Road Trips, and 77 Carolina Adventures.

Then, there's always CarolinaLiving.com showcasing [93 town profiles](#) & [Tax Facts](#) ... all guaranteed to guide you straight.

Wishing you happy travels and just maybe, a new Carolina slice of heaven to call your own in 2016!

[Leyla & Patrick Mason](#)

Co-Founders

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PS: [Register here](#) for the new and free CarolinaLiving.com Guide!

## Boomers Revisited

A large survey taken less than two years ago by Better Homes and

*Photo Credit: Bob Polomski*

## Let It Be Spring!

### Charleston Festival of Houses and Gardens March 16-April 24, 2016, Charleston, SC

Set in Charleston's Old & Historic District, this 69th festival offers tours and educational events.

Ancient architecture framed by magnificent gardens with blooms of red, purple, white and seductive fountains unveil an era of elegance.

The tours provide a rare opportunity for guests to go inside the private homes and gardens of some of America's most beautiful historic residences. Tours and events vary by day, but here are a few possibilities that will have you clicking for more information.

- House & Garden Tours
- Food for Thought Luncheon Lectures
- Musical Concerts
- Antiques Show & Festival Combo
- Garden Tours
- Harbor of History Boat Cruise
- Morning History Walks

[Festival of Houses and Gardens](#)

*Photo Credit: Historic Charleston Foundation*

## History Comes to Life

Gardens Real Estate popped up on my radar this week.

When asked which type of community Baby Boomers would most likely move to, 39 percent responded in favor of a rural community, such as a farm or small town. Twenty-seven percent want the traditional retirement community such as a 55+ exclusive neighborhood. A close third (26%) explained their desire to live in the city – an urban environment. The last 8% cover everything else.

Good choices, all. Overlay those findings with CarolinaLiving.com's Lifestyle Survey and we find folks seeking more areas to walk, shop, swim, ride their bikes, garden, and visit museums and other historical venues.

Our take? Personal preferences all over the place (we boomers are an independent bunch), but strong goals in common. Live in the country, but stay close to shopping and health care.

Opt for the city and walk everywhere. Choose 55+ and know you'll find new friends and activities with ease. What tickles your fancy? Saluda or Asheville? Columbia or Newberry?

Raleigh or Cary? Charleston or Summerville? Give this topic some thought to narrow down your research. Good times are ahead.

[More on Retirement.](#)

*Photo courtesy Kiawah Island Golf Resort*

## The New Guide is here!

[Click here](#) for the official hold-in-your-hand Guide to Carolina lifestyle fun and adventure trips, plus real estate tips, tax & cost-of-living advantages, retirement opportunities and town profiles.

## ***“By Way of the Back Door”***

McConnells, SC: In honor of Black History month, “By Way of the Back Door” presents special guided tours at 11am and 2pm each Saturday during the month of February focusing on three generations of slavery from 1780-1865. Reflecting on the lives of the enslaved from the American Revolution through and beyond the Civil War, the tours include stops at Colonel Bratton's house, the slave cabins, the Brick Kitchen and the Homestead.

Historic Brattonsville offers ongoing activities, including 18th century cooking and blacksmithing, in addition to the special tours. The area features more than thirty colonial and antebellum structures, including two house museums. The plantation spreads over eight hundred acres and includes farmed land with heritage breed animals, a Revolutionary War battlefield site, and a nature preserve with miles of walking trails.

Seasonal events, reenactments, and living history programs interpret Carolina backcountry life from the 1760s to the late 19th century. Historic Brattonsville is part of the Culture and Heritage Museums of York County, SC.

Admission:

Adult, \$6; Senior, \$5; Youth ages 4-17, \$3;

CHM members and children 3 and under are admitted FREE.

Historic Brattonsville is located at 1444 Brattonsville Road, McConnells, SC 29726. 803.684.2327. For more information go to [www.chmuseums.org](http://www.chmuseums.org)

## **Pino Vino VIII- Calling All Dogs!**

### **It's Happening Now**

Sales of Raffaldini Vineyards' Pino Vino I - VII helped benefit animals in need through donations to local animal rescue agencies.

If you have a living rescue dog that you want to be considered for the Pino Vino VIII label, please send Raffaldini a photo and back story in 50 words or less. Deadline is April 28, 2016. An



Just share your dream goals and we'll help lead you to smart Carolina life and times.

### ***We hear it over and over.***

Folks visit (and move) to the Carolinas for the four-season climate and the ability to be outdoors most of the year.

How do you get your thrills? Biking? Birdwatching? Hang gliding or Parasailing? What about zip lines? No thanks – no problem.

Get your jollies from a slow day fishing beside a mountain stream, or waiting for the perfect outdoor nature image to come into view.

See how we do it, at [carolinalive.com/outdoor-thrills](http://carolinalive.com/outdoor-thrills)

### **Facebook**

#### **Will You Be My Valentine?**

It's that time of year  
when you show others  
just how much you care,  
so share the love and let  
us know you "like" us by

joining the CarolinaLiving Fan Page on Facebook! In return we're sharing pictures, festivals and other fun events across our two great states. Let's get the conversation [started](#) (candy hearts optional).

### **Heading your way**

- **Let's Take a Road Trip!**
- **Carolina Famous Faces**
- **Insider Attractions**
- [eNewsletter Archives](#)

independent panel of judges will view all entries and then select a winner. The chosen dog will represent all animals in need as the new Pino Vino ambassador featured on the label of Raffaldini's Pino Vino VIII red wine.

The winner will be revealed on the label of Pino Vino VIII at a grand unveiling ceremony on June 18, 2016.

*Publishers' note: For our palate, the Raffaldini vintners stand at the very top of high quality Chianti producers in the Carolinas.*

Entrants can send their digital photos to [pinovino@raffaldini.com](mailto:pinovino@raffaldini.com). Please include your name and contact information, your dog's name and a brief story about your dog in 50 words or less.

### **Sweets for your Sweetie**

#### **Hurry!**

February is chocolate month, for oh-so-many reasons. May we suggest three North Carolina award-winning chocolatiers?

*From Good Food Awards:*

Escazu Artisan Chocolates  
consider the chipotle chili and vanilla bar  
[www.escazuchocolates.com](http://www.escazuchocolates.com)

Black Mountain Chocolate  
try the Dark Milk Chocolate Bar made with tangy goat milk.  
[www.blackmountainchocolate.com](http://www.blackmountainchocolate.com)

French Broad Chocolates – the  
Aphrodisiac Collection, enough said.  
[www.frenchbroadchocolates.com](http://www.frenchbroadchocolates.com)

### **Carolina Cuisine**

## Southern Staple

Did you know there are cookbooks devoted to shrimp and grits?

Many southern restaurants have a favored recipe, and home cooks have tweaked to put their individual stamp on them as well.

And although folks from elsewhere have to be convinced about the value of grits, after they've tried a recipe which incorporates cheese and cream, plus pork, even the most dubious of them agrees that it can be one heavenly dish. For sure, insist on Carolina-caught wild shrimp. They are simply the best.

We heard the Buzz about Circa 1800, in Fayetteville, NC and decided to investigate. Award-winning chef, Steve Romain has one fabulous menu and folks are making a special effort to seek out this charming restaurant.

Thanks, chef, for sharing a super recipe for [Shrimp and Grits](#).

[www.carolinalive.com](http://www.carolinalive.com)    phone 803.782.7466  
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*Compiled by Katherine O. Pettit • Designed by Ann Dolin*

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