



SOUTHERN COMFORT Clockwise from left: Modern fashion from the spring 2010 collection at Marc by Marc Jacobs boutique; the swoon-worthy river view from Rocks on the Roof bar at The Bohemian Hotel; poolside at the Avia Hotel.



Low Country Luxe

Two new designer hotels that lean more Bauhaus than B&B, trendy toques, and a Marc Jacobs boutique add the modern to Savannah's moonlight-and-magnolia formula | *By Nancy Staab* |

SLEEP HERE: The go-for-Baroque glitz of four-diamond **The Mansion on Forsyth Park** will always be a fave. But now Kessler Collection has a new gem. Housed in a handsome brick structure resembling an old cotton warehouse and set on the historic riverfront, the **Bohemian Hotel** blends carpetbagger luxe (velvet headboards, fur throws, driftwood chandeliers) with 21st-century perks like free Wi-Fi and LCD flat screens. Added bonus: Guests can enjoy posh perks like Poseidon Spa treatments from sister hotel The Mansion. 102 W. Bay St., 877.486.9575, bohemianhotelsavannah.com. If the Bohemian Hotel is like boho-glam Diane von Furstenberg, **Avia Hotel** is a modern, coolly minimal Jil

Sander. Neutral rooms with just a splash of color come fully loaded with Dean & DeLuca snacks, MP3 docking stations and rain showers. Sip cocktails amid sexy pool cabanas or nosh on wild mushroom risotto balls from the small-plates menu. Located on Ellis Square, just blocks from the river, Avia is a hip refuge for low-key luxe. 14 Barnard St., 866.644.2842, aviahotels.com

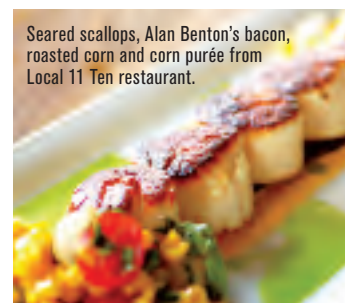
SHOP HERE: When SCAD bestowed an award upon Marc Jacobs, the quintessential NYC designer took a shine to Savannah's Southern, artsy vibe. The result: a **Marc by Marc Jacobs** boutique smack dab on bespoke Broughton Street. Skip the Madonna bunny ears, but slip into color-drenched sundresses from

the spring 2010 collection. 322 W. Broughton St., 912.234.2800, marcjacobs.com. Francophiles will adore **The Paris Market's** quirky assemblage of *brocante* from old-fashioned absinthe fountains to French script pillows. An elegantly spare aesthetic keeps the store très modern. 36 W. Broughton St., 912.232.1500, theparismarket.com

GROOVE HERE: Highlights of the **Savannah Music Festival** (March 18-April 3) include: rock-star classical pianist **Lang Lang**; indie actress Zoëy Deschanel's folk-rock duo **She & Him**; and **Wynton Marsalis** raising the roof with Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. 912.525.5050, savannahmusicfestival.org

Eat Here!

It's located in an old bank, but **Local 11 Ten** personifies modern chic right down to its cork-lined walls, chocolate brown palette and original bank vault restored as a dining nook. Feast on refined Southern dishes with French/Italian influences such as: plantation farm quail with braised collard greens, Benton bacon, Bing cherries and apple butter; house-made squid ink pasta with calamari and chorizo; and sublime yellowfin tuna Oscar with saffron beurre blanc. *Dinner only.* 1110 Bull St., 912.790.9000, local11ten.com



Seared scallops, Alan Benton's bacon, roasted corn and corn purée from Local 11 Ten restaurant.

"Organic, sustainable, delectable" is the motto of **Cha Bella** restaurant, and this farm-to-table eatery, with a cult cooking blog and restaurant-owned farm, certainly practices what it preaches. To wit, voluptuous veggies like grilled local eggplant with oven-warmed plum tomatoes and basil. Carnivores will gladly sink their teeth into slow-roasted pork belly with Carolina Gold mushroom risotto and wilted baby mustard greens. *Dinner only.* 102 E. Broad St., 912.790.7888, cha-bella.com

700 Drayton at The Mansion on Forsyth Park: This grown-up dining room boasts dripping-with-glamour crystal chandeliers, curtained seating and contemporary pops of neon orange. And brand new toque, Michael Semancik (previously of tony Cliff House Resort & Spa in Maine, and before that, Atlanta's Piedmont Driving Club and Rathbun's), matches the décor with equally decadent dishes—butter-milk blue cheese filet mignon; pan-seared sea bass with cilantro-truffle oil; and white chocolate banana bread pudding. 700 Drayton St., 912.721.5002, 700drayton@mansionforsythpark.com