

Story Ideas & Reasons to Profile Chapel Hill and Orange County, NC



What's New in HOTELS

Coming - 97-room, four-story **TRU Hotel by Hilton**, plus potential for 100 more rooms in a second building coming to east side of Chapel Hill. 2019/2020 timeframe. A two-story, 136-space parking deck would be built behind the hotel.

123-room AC Hotel Chapel Hill Downtown by Marriott opened in downtown Chapel Hill in December 2017 and features fire pit, tapas bar and outdoor patio. <http://achotels.marriott.com/> **JANUARY 2018 ROUNDUP: THE HOTTEST NEW HOTELS INCLUDES AC HOTEL DOWNTOWN CHAPEL HILL (USA TODAY)**

UNC Chapel Hill Anniversary Celebrations in 2018 & 2019

Birthday Presents!, a celebration of Art given to Ackland's collection, is a special exhibition opening September 21, 2018 through January 6, 2019. This begins a yearlong celebration of Ackland Art Museum's 60th anniversary. What was then the William Hayes Ackland Memorial Art Center was dedicated on September 20, 1958. Also see the outdoor art installation a "stickwork" by Chapel Hill-based artist Patrick Dougherty entitled **Step Right Up**. The large-scale piece—comprised of five individual stickwork sculptures—was constructed entirely of tree saplings and is on view in front the Ackland Art Museum through August 2019. www.ackland.org

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill celebrates 225th anniversary in October 2018. University Day is October 12 and there will be activities October 11-13 including symphony performance, University Day Celebration, picnic, Late Night with Roy on October 12 and UNC Football game activities on October 13. The laying of the cornerstone of first building Old East, was in 1793. UNC-Chapel Hill is the oldest public university in the country www.unc.edu

Morehead Planetarium & Science Center on the UNC Chapel Hill campus will celebrate its 70th anniversary in 2019. Plans are proceeding in a \$5.2 million expansion, "**#TakeUpSpace**", building project to reimagine this North Carolina icon as a modern-day, technology-advanced science hub. This will be the first expansion since opening in 1949. The renovation includes a more extensive exhibit hall that will pay tribute to UNC's history as a pioneer of science exploration; an updated science demonstration stage, expanded exhibit galleries showcasing the advances researchers are making in science, health and technology and more. More than early 60 astronauts between 1959 and 1975 trained in celestial navigation at the Planetarium, including 11 of the 12 men who walked on the Moon! www.moreheadplanetarium.org

Don't Forget - Visit the recently renovated **Carolina Basketball Museum** on the UNC campus and see a performance in **CURRENT** in Carolina Square, the new ArtSpace +Studio off of West Franklin Street.

What's New in Food – New Food Market Comes to Downtown Chapel Hill

Blue Dogwood Public Market (new public Food Market/Hall) <http://www.bluedogwood.com/>

This new indoor market currently features 7 permanent food vendors (with more added all the time), prepared food to go, retail vendors, and pop-up vendors. Browse through the diverse market, and dine on choices including Persian dishes, empanadas, vegan wraps, Italian baked goods, vegan soul food, butcher with charcuterie, tea, coffee, fresh juices, beer chocolate and more. On site chocolate demonstrations. Phase 2 includes an outdoor beer garden and Blue Dogwood Beer. **Downtown Chapel Hill, 306 West Franklin Street. Opened in June 2018. Open Wed – Sun.**

Food Accolades in 2018

TripAdvisor says Chapel Hill's **Al's Burgershack** serves the best burger in America, noting his *Bobo Chili Cheeseburger*. **Gabe Barker, of the Pizzeria Mercato** in Carrboro, for the second year in a row was a semi-finalist for the James Beard Rising Star Chef Award. **Eater** named Barker a Young Gun 2018 - recognizing talented up-and-comers in the restaurant industry.

Brew, Spirits and Wine Scene

Orange County has 8 breweries, with number 9 coming in 2019. New small batch nano-brewery and bottle shop, **Craftboro Brewing Depot** is opening in summer 2019. This onsite craft brewery will also carry a select assortment of craft beer from NC and beyond. It is coming to the new 40,000 square foot multi-building, retail center in Carrboro, South Green that will be located just off Highway 54, serving as the "gateway" to the southern entry of Carrboro. <http://southgreencarrboro.com/>

Orange County is home to Dingo Dog Brewing Company (2016), North Carolina's first "non-profit" brewery. Located in an up-fitted horse barn on PlowGirl Farm, Dingo Dog strives to craft locally-conscious beers in its "zero waste" facility that features Orange County, NC produce, much of which is grown right outside our doors on the farm. Dingo Dog will funnel all of its profits into providing capital and operational grants to independent, "no-kill" animal sanctuaries and rescue organizations in North Carolina. **Taproom** in Carrboro, NC opening in 2019.

ORANGE COUNTY'S FIRST WINERY - Botanist and Barrel Winery in Cedar Grove, NC in northern Orange County, Dry Fruit Wines, Farmhouse Ciders & Spirituous Barrels. Botanist and Barrel and the B&B tasting room are beautifully situated on Cedar Grove Blueberry Farm just north of Hillsborough, NC. They craft a variety of barrel aged and stainless steel dry wines, ciders and sours, using only the finest fruits, blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, peaches and apples. Open on **Saturdays and Sundays from 2pm to 6pm**. Tours available for groups at other times. <https://www.botanistandbarrel.com/>

More tours offered at Chapel Hill's Award-winning TOPO Organic Spirits, the first organic distillery in the deep south. The base of all of their spirits—except the Rum—comes from locally grown (within 100 miles) organic soft red winter wheat. The rum comes from organic cane from the only organic cane field in the US near West Palm Beach, FL. Products organic vodka, Moonshine Carolina Whiskey, Piedmont Gin, Eight Oak Carolina Whiskey, Reserve Carolina Straight Whiskey and Spiced Rum. NEW - Monday-Friday 9am-5pm hours for Walk-in abbreviated tours are \$5 pp. Previous available scheduled tours with one of the owners or distillers are \$20 pp and last around an hour. Visit [Tours Page](#) for sign-ups. <http://www.topodistillery.com/>

Food Events

The Popular 9th annual **TerraVita Food & Drink Festival** returns Oct 17-20, 2018 <http://www.terravitafest.com/index.php>
This multi-day event was named one of the "**10 Southern Food Festivals You Need to Taste**" by *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and "**4 Can't Miss Southern Food Festivals**" by PeterGreenberg.com. Far more than a chance to indulge, TerraVita has earned its reputation as a premier culinary event in the Southeast because of its commitment to **spreading the gospel of sustainable food and drink**. This event brings together top chefs, food artisans, sommeliers, baristas, brewers, educators, distillers, farmers, cookbook authors and industry luminaries. Features dinners, tastings, educational classes, and much more. **Celebrity chef Carla Hall** will headline this year. Hall, known for her Southern-inspired cooking and buoyant personality, rose to fame on the cooking competition "Top Chef" and became a co-host of "The Chew" daytime talk show. Her cookbook is "Carla Hall's Soul Food: Everyday and Celebration."

Check out Hillsborough, NC www.visithillsboroughnc.com

Historic Hillsborough in 2015 was a top three Coolest Small Town in America. Home to **Mystery Brewery Company** and the **ultra popular Riverwalk in downtown Hillsborough**, an accessible, asphalt, wooden bridges, urban greenway that stretches about 1.8 miles along the Eno River corridor between Gold Park in western Hillsborough and trails east of town. This trail for walking, jogging and cycling is part of the N.C. Mountains-to-Sea Trail. See the reconstruction of the **Occaneechi Indian Village** along with Eno River in downtown Hillsborough. **The Burwell School's** Elizabeth Keckly Bicentennial Events throughout 2018. Keckly a slave at Burwell School in Hillsborough, later went on to become Mary Todd Lincoln's dressmaker.

NEW EVENT CELEBRATES ORANGE COUNTY - [Orange County LocalFest](#) is a diverse, family-friendly festival that celebrates and promotes local food, local music, the local economy, and the county's heritage and culture. LocalFest is sponsored by Orange County Government and admission is free. This new event at Blackwood Farm Park is **September 29, 10 am - 6 pm**.

Media Contact: Patty Griffin, Communications Director, Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau,

501 W. Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27516; 919.245.4321

pggriffin@visit Chapel Hill.org, [@PattyGriffinNC](https://www.visit Chapel Hill.org), www.visit Chapel Hill.org [@visit Chapel Hill](https://www.visit Chapel Hill.org)

September 10, 2018