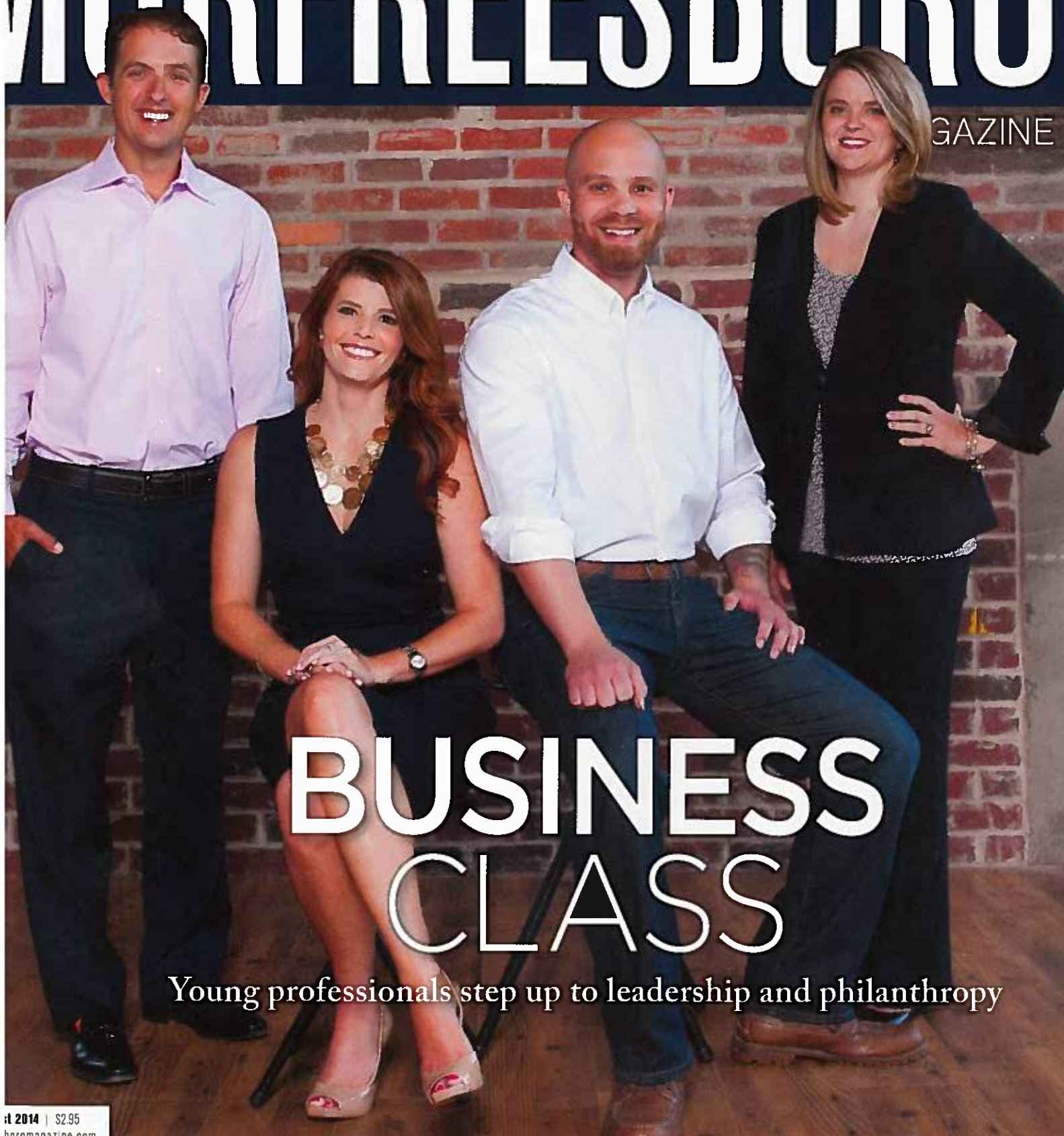


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TOP PROPERTIES

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Guide to local races this fall

Boasting rich history, well-preserved architecture, and fabulous dining experiences, South Carolina's most beloved beach escape also plays host to myriad kid-friendly attractions. Whether you're planning a romantic getaway, a girls' weekend, or a family excursion, visiting the South's "Holy City" is nothing short of extraordinary.

STAY

Inspired by the vast number of churches that line its downtown skyline, Charleston's "Holy City" nickname is immediately evident. Take in the vistas from your screened porch at The Cottages on Charleston Harbor. The property offers 10 individual cottages only a few yards away from the harbor, where you can enjoy views of Fort Sumter, downtown, and ships from all over the world—right from the comfort of your own Adirondack chair.

The cottages each offer a master and second bedroom, separated by a beautifully decorated, spacious living area and fully equipped kitchen, both perfect for conversations with friends or spending time with family. Each cottage boasts a private screened porch with a hammock, ideal for a morning coffee break or an afternoon snooze. The property also houses a cozy clubhouse where you can enjoy complimentary breakfast each morning, and both an outdoor pool deck and hot tub, with lovely views of the harbor.

DINE

Just a short 15-minute drive across the breathtaking Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge, you'll find Downtown Charleston offers some of the country's finest, and most unique, dining experiences. Across from the famous Historic Charleston City Market, you'll stumble upon Hyman's Seafood, a local institution. Wait times begin before the restaurant opens and can be as long as 90 minutes, but if you go early, you're much more likely to walk right in. Arrive at lunchtime and opt for an upstairs table overlooking the street and shoppers below. You can't go wrong with the traditional Lowcountry boil or the "Salmon 4 Ways," featuring broiled, sautéed, Caribbean jerk, and Cajun varieties.

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For dinner, visit one of the city's newest restaurants, Vincent Chicco's. Its surroundings provide for an amazing atmosphere that is steeped in rich history. While pasta reigns supreme, you'll also find interesting vegetarian and steak selections on the menu. There isn't a set children's menu, but the staff is very accommodating and will cook to order for the little ones.

If you want to stay closer to your cottage one evening, and not venture "across the bridge," just down the street you'll find the quaint Shem Creek area, flourishing with fun, family-friendly restaurants and shopping. Page's Okra Grill offers a casual, laid-back atmosphere serving up delicious Southern fare like pickled okra, turnip greens, and sweet potato casserole (although you'll also find the most amazing crab cakes and burgers here, too).

PLAY

A favorite way to explore Charleston is by boat. The Charleston Water Taxi offers an all-day pass for just \$10 and picks up at Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina, adjacent to the cottages. If you're on a family trip, take the kids to the South Carolina Aquarium. The Charleston Children's Museum of the Low Country should also be on your list, and offers an educational opportu-

nity to cool down after walking around the city.

Another great way to get from place to place is the Charleston Rickshaw pedal cab, less expensive than paying to park and unique to the city.

For a full day of seeing the sights, start at The Battery, located at the city's southernmost tip, and work your way northward along the waterfront. You'll pass the famous Rainbow Row houses, and be sure to let the kids stop for a little play at Hazel Parker Park, before heading to Waterfront Park. Here you'll find a fun interactive fountain, as well as oversized swings big enough for the whole family to enjoy the harbor view. From Waterfront Park, head toward the Historic City Market where you'll find a whole host of trinkets and souvenirs, including Charleston's famous hand-woven baskets. Take a short walk through some high-end shopping inside Behnond Charleston Place Hotel before exiting onto King Street, where you'll find the city's primary shopping district, including several blocks of unique boutiques and eateries.

For more information or to plan your stay, visit the Charleston Convention and Visitors' Bureau online at explorecharleston.com.