

Streetwise EAST MARKET STREET,

This bourbon-sipping strip in the good-time NuLu neighbourhood is the South's new hipster

WORDS ZACH EVERSON. ILLUSTRATION JONNY HANNAH



ANTIQUES

Joe Ley Antiques, 615

The eponymous owner has saturated his restored 1890 schoolhouse with more than two acres of collectables, including vintage Kentucky Derby memorabilia, quilts and taxidermy. It is one of East Market's oldest shops (though often regarded as a museum), and its eclectic, somewhat creepy interior has been the setting for movies and music videos. Johnny Cash was a customer. +1 502 583 4014; www.jooley.com



CONFECTIONERY

Muth's Candies, 630

At this 92-year-old shop, third-generation confectioner Martha Vories hand-dips delicious chocolates, including bourbon balls made with 100-proof Very Old Barton. +1 502 585 2952; www.muthscandy.com



CONTEMPORARY ART

Garner Narrative, 642

Owner Joyce Garner and her daughter, gallery director Angie Reed Garner, have created a contemporary gallery that 'celebrates art with generative messiness and personal-political content' – so check your expectations of genteel Kentucky at the door. Since 2011 it has shown artists from throughout America's South, mostly focusing on large-scale paintings but with mixed-media and photography exhibitions too. +1 502 641 8086; www.garnernarrative.com



BAR & PIZZERIA

Garage Bar, 700

Wood-fired brick-oven pizzas, seasonal cocktails, craft beers, more than 30 bourbons and ryes, and a large outdoor area with table tennis make this one-time auto-repair shop one of the city's coolest nightspots. Not in the mood for pizza? Try a tasting platter from the ham bar (all from farms in Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee), or go for brunch. +1 502 749 7100; www.garageonmarket.com

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

enclave, with arty, foodie hangouts sprouting up all over the place

GIFTS

WHY Louisville, 806

With locally themed T-shirts ('Louisville: The 168th Biggest City on Earth'), table-top Derby games and posters of local hero Muhammad Ali, this kitsch gift shop is the best spot to find a unique keepsake, even if it's just a photo of yourself with a wax statue of KFC founder Colonel Sanders. +1 502 290 7778; www.whylouisville.com



RESTAURANT

Mayan Café, 813

From the outside it looks inauspicious compared to newer openings, but chef Bruce Ucan's reproductions of ancient Mayan recipes using local ingredients made this restaurant a go-to spot when the neighbourhood wasn't. *Tok-sel lima* (roasted lima beans cooked in sesame oil with green onions, lime juice and pumpkin seeds) is among the most craved dishes in a city that loves to eat out. +1 502 566 0651; www.themayancafe.com



SPECIALITY BEERS

Louisville Beer Store, 746

Beer comes a close second to bourbon in Louisville's alcohol hierarchy (buy a barrel-aged beer and you can taste both). Opened by Lori Beck and Tyler Trotter in 2009, this is the city's only store dedicated to speciality craft beer, with eight rotating drafts and more than 400 varieties in bottles. Come for a tasting, or to pick up refreshments for your hotel room. +1 502 569 2337; www.louisvillebeerstore.com

COFFEE & RECORDS

Please & Thank You, 800

Part coffee shop, with some of the most delicious baking in town (try the unbelievably juicy pumpkin bread), part smartly curated record shop (all vinyl), this place became the hip hub of the hood almost as soon as it opened in 2011. A stop here is a daily ritual for many artisans and creative types; if the main room is packed, there's extra seating out the back. www.pleaseandthankyoulouisville.com

RESTAURANT

Decca, 812

Although chef Annie Pettry hails from San Francisco, the focus of this New American restaurant is emphatically local: carefully sourced ingredients from small producers go into dishes such as hay-braised pork cheeks with couscous, almond and plums. The bourbon-based Waysider cocktail is a modern take on the Mint Julep, best enjoyed, when the weather is good, on the 19th-century building's great terrace. +1 502 749 8128; www.deccarestaurant.com

