

JANUARY 2009

# Southern Living®

Warm Up With  
**Our Coziest  
Comfort  
Food**

+ **34** QUICK & TASTY  
RECIPES

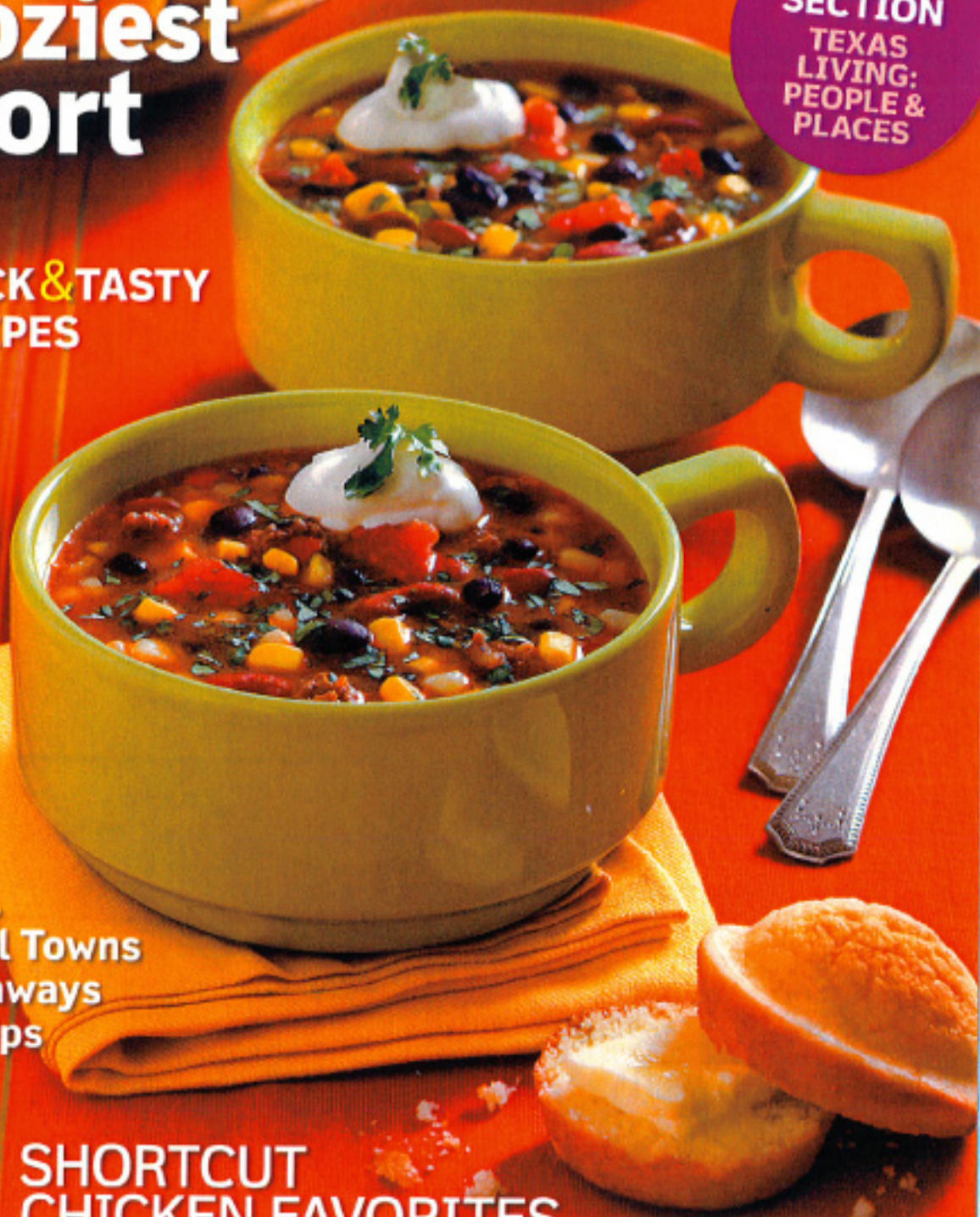
**Easy  
Ideas**  
*to relax  
your rooms*

**OUR  
READERS'  
CHOICE  
AWARDS**

*The Best...*

- \* Hotels & Small Towns
- \* Weekend Getaways
- \* Fun Family Trips

**BONUS  
SECTION**  
TEXAS  
LIVING:  
PEOPLE &  
PLACES



**SHORTCUT  
CHICKEN FAVORITES**



## The Soul of a Southern City

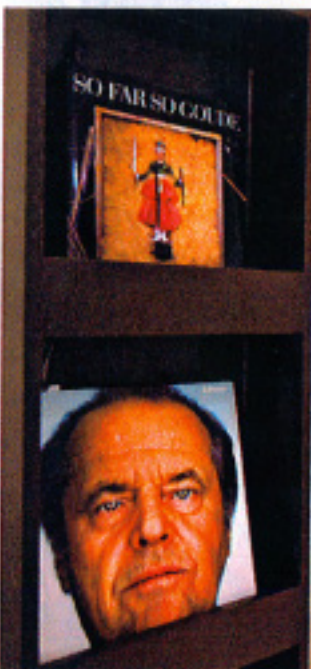
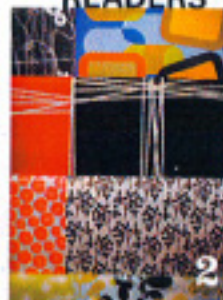
Pass someone on a Southern street and 9 times out of 10, they'll meet your gaze with a smile. There's something intangible that speaks to the soul of the South, whether you're in Atlanta or Savannah, Austin or New Orleans. Each city has its own charms and, by contrast, its own foibles: They are by no means carbon copies of each other. In each great Southern city, there's an undercurrent of gentility—a subtle charm—that puts visitors at ease and reinforces the notion of Southern hospitality. From the New Orleans taxi driver to the Dallas art gallery curator to the bartender in an Asheville pub, these locals know how to roll out the welcome mat.

Of course, there are other ways to tell you're in Dixie. Maryln Schwartz, author of *New Times in the Old South*, says all it takes is a trip to a "home-cooking" restaurant: "If the menu lists macaroni-and-cheese as a vegetable—you know you're in the South."

But it's not all cream of mushroom soup casseroles and syrupy-thick greetings. The New South city is a force to be reckoned with. Neighborhood revitalizations are drawing folks back to city centers from the suburbs. Just visit Atlanta, where historic Inman Park is in the throes of a renaissance: New boutiques, restaurants, and loft apartments anchor the area's urban renewal. In Charleston, innovative young chefs are gaining national recognition as they push the boundaries of Lowcountry cuisine. Nashville, a longtime cradle of singer/songwriters, is a veritable incubator of new talent, drawing crossover artists such as Jon Bon Jovi, Jewel, and Darius Rucker.

So what makes a city Southern? You might not be able to put your finger on it. But when you're there, you somehow just know.

PHOTOGRAPHS: ART MERIPOL



**Chic in Charleston**  
**1** A rocking horse at English Rose Antiques & Gifts **2** Designer wrapping paper at Lesesne **3** The Upper King Design District **4** Lesesne on Upper King **5** Stylish urban gear at B'ZAR



## Best Neighborhood for Shopping

1. Buckhead, Atlanta, Georgia
- ▲ 2. King Street, Charleston, South Carolina
3. Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana
4. Virginia Highland, Atlanta, Georgia
5. French Quarter, New Orleans, Louisiana
6. Homewood, Birmingham, Alabama
7. Green Hills, Nashville, Tennessee
8. The Woodlands, Texas
9. Carytown, Richmond, Virginia
10. Georgetown, Washington, D.C.