

COLLEGE TOWNS • AUBREY PLAZA • QUEBEC

Hemispheres

AUGUST 2022



THIS MAGAZINE
HAS BEEN
TREATED WITH AN
ANTIMICROBIAL
PROCESS

Where you can
get in an Empire
State of mind
at Summit One
Vanderbilt

Three
Perfect
Days

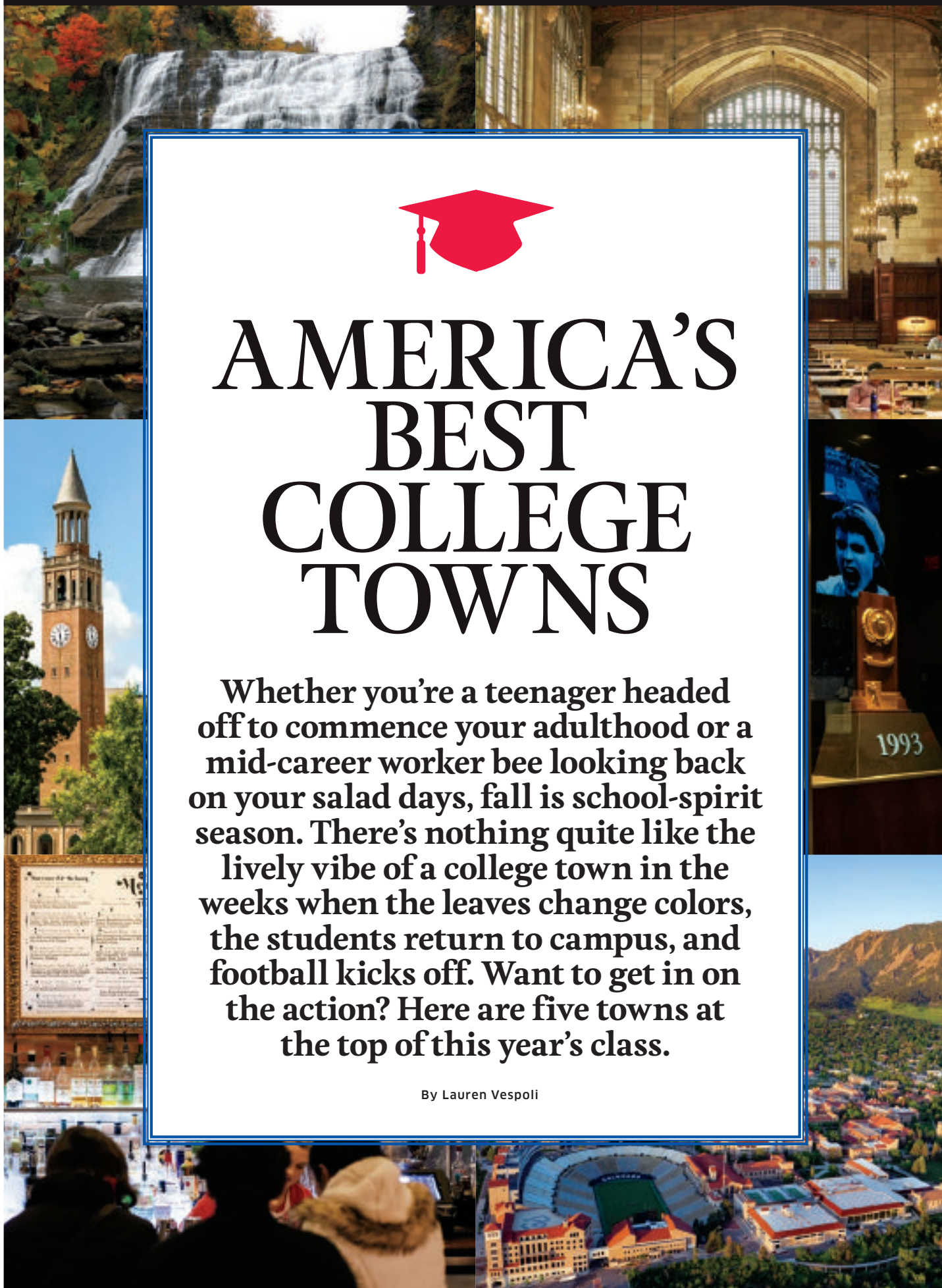
New York City



AMERICA'S BEST COLLEGE TOWNS

Whether you're a teenager headed off to commence your adulthood or a mid-career worker bee looking back on your salad days, fall is school-spirit season. There's nothing quite like the lively vibe of a college town in the weeks when the leaves change colors, the students return to campus, and football kicks off. Want to get in on the action? Here are five towns at the top of this year's class.

By Lauren Vespoli



Chapel Hill, North Carolina

SOUTH



Since 1793, when the University of North Carolina's Board of Trustees founded Chapel Hill as the home for their new institution, the town and the school have been synonymous. Today, whether you're a hoops head who wants to see where Air Jordan took off, a foodie drawn to the renowned restaurant scene, or a history buff curious about America's oldest public university, you might agree with UNC alum Thomas Wolfe's description of Chapel Hill: "As close to magic as I've ever been." The town is also a perfect jumping-off point for exploring the Raleigh-Durham Research Triangle, which is anchored by UNC, Duke University, and North Carolina State University.

— Stay —

Stay right on campus at the **The Carolina Inn**, a Southern Colonial building that's listed on the National Register of Historic Places for good reason: The hotel, which began welcoming guests in 1924, is located on the site of the 1752 chapel that gives the city its name. *From \$399, destinationhotels.com*

— Eat & Drink —

For down-home classics like fried chicken and country ham, head to



Clockwise from top left: Chapel Hill; UNC hoops fans; the Carolina Basketball Museum; Morehead Planetarium; a drink at The Crunkleton

Mama Dip's Kitchen, where the descendants of original owner Mildred Council carry on her tasty legacy. At **Lantern**, James Beard Award-winning chef Andrea Reusing showcases local ingredients through a range of Asian-influenced preparations (think wild catfish with red curry and Thai basil). While Franklin Street cocktail den **The Crunkleton** is technically members-only—you can "apply" at the door—it's the kind of place where you'll feel equally at home ordering a pre-Prohibition whiskey or a Miller High Life. From there, a short walk takes you to **He's Not Here**, a student hangout since 1972 that serves beers in a signature 32-ounce Carolina blue cup.

— Do —

Learn to read the night sky or catch a kid-friendly STEM program at **Morehead Planetarium**, which in 1949 became the first planetarium to open on

a U.S. college campus and trained astronauts during the 1960s and '70s. Or do a deep dive into Tar Heels hoops at the **Carolina Basketball Museum**, which pays tribute to UNC legends, including Michael Jordan, who as a freshman hit the game-winning shot in the 1982 National Championship Game.

By the Numbers

\$300,000

Cost of the city's first Carolina blue fire truck, purchased in 1996

1969

Year the city became the first majority-white municipality in the South to elect an African American mayor, Howard Lee

3

Length, in miles, of Franklin Street, which UNC students traditionally rush after their basketball team beats Duke



Courtesy Town of Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill); Cal Sport Media/Alamy Stock Photo (fans); Anthony Sorbellini (museum); courtesy of The Splinter Group/Alex Caterison (drink); UNC Research (planetarium)