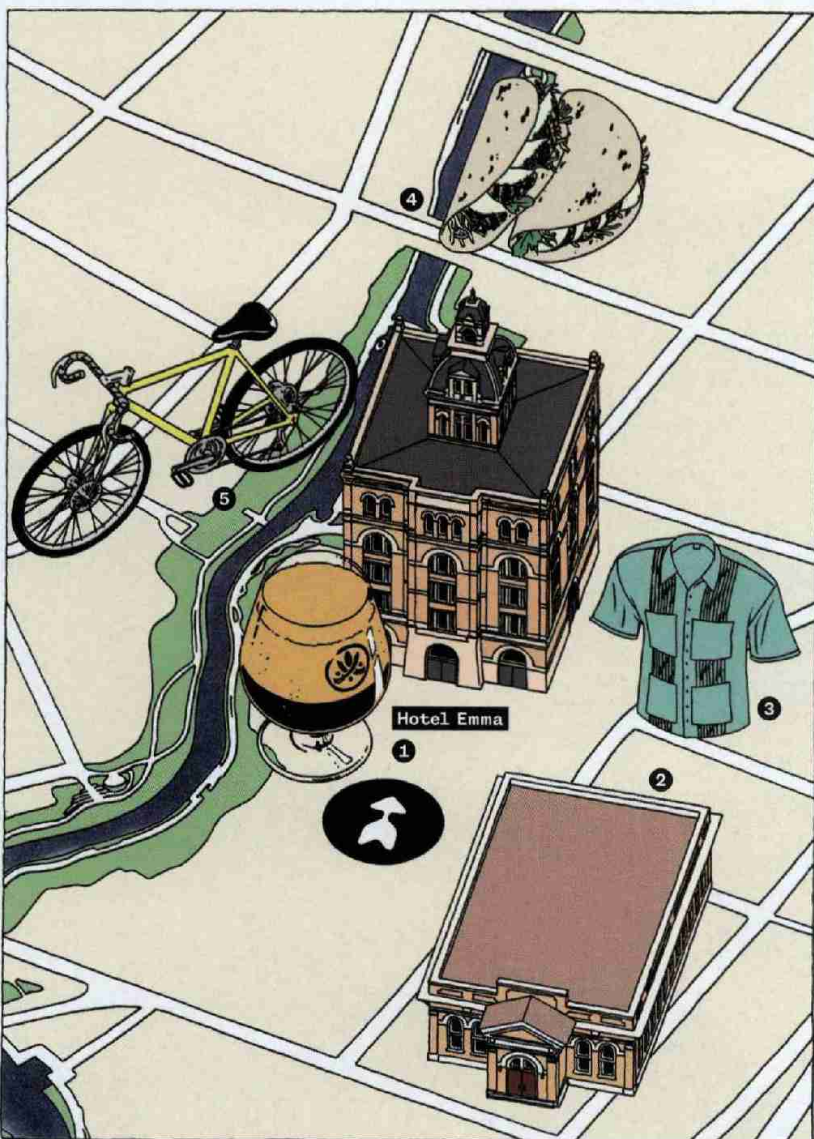


Remade in Texas

San Antonio's fledgling Pearl District has the idealistic vibe of a college campus, but with bike-sharing and well-dressed thirtysomethings instead of Ultimate Frisbee and lounging co-eds. Makes sense: The pedestrian-friendly redevelopment project, landscaped with indigenous plants requiring little water, spans 16 city blocks and once housed the sprawling Pearl Brewery, which closed in 2001. Since then, billionaire Christopher Goldsbury has transformed this tree-lined pocket into a hip neighborhood where the Culinary Institute of America and a handful of intimate restaurants sit on the banks of the San Antonio River. This month, the crush of cool kids who aren't flocking to Austin will have yet another place to gather: the Hotel Emma, a steampunk meets golden age charmer designed by Roman and Williams. Though you can see the Pearl District from the Emma's rooftop pool, you'll want to get outside on foot—or bike—for the best tacos in Texas.



1 Southerleigh

At this taproom connected to the Hotel Emma, brewmaster Les Locke has the enviable job of creating the first beers to come out of the brewery in more than a decade. Drink a German-style lager, a chocolate-and-coffee stout, or a bourbon barrel-aged ale with chef Jeff Balfour's Gulf Coast-inspired dishes, including San Antonio's snack of the moment: deep-fried snapper "throats" served with sweet pepper rémoulade (southerleigh.com).

2 Cured

Set inside the brewery's century-old Administration Building, this open-kitchen restaurant has a chophouse meets Wild West feel and one of the city's most interesting menus, including chicken-fried chicken livers and blood sausage Monte Cristo sandwiches from Steve McHugh, who previously worked at John Besh's Lúke San Antonio (curedatpearl.com).

3 Dos Carolinas

Texan guayabera maker Caroline Matthews offers hand-sewn shirting in two basic styles: classic (four pockets in tan linen) and more modern (two pockets in red seersucker). Off-the-rack options are available, and made-to-measure shirts take about four weeks (from \$170 to \$300). And at the Hotel Emma, rooms come with her lightweight

guayabera-style robes, which you can take home with you for \$110 (doscarolinas.com).

4 La Gloria/ Viva Tacoland

Twin taco temples on opposite sides of the Grayson Street Bridge bookend the northern edge of the Pearl—and yes, you should try both. At La Gloria, chef Johnny Hernandez promises "you don't have to die to go to heaven," delivering salvation in the form of *tacos al pastor*, ceviches, *tlayudas* (a sort of elaborate open-faced taco), and Yucatecan street-food specialties (chefjohnnyhernandez.com/lagloria). At Viva Tacoland, pair the locally made beers (Busted Sandal Slippery Rock IPA on draft; Pearl in cans) with fajitas and tacos served out of a food truck that pulls up alongside the spacious river-view courtyard (vivatacoland.com).

5 Museum Reach

This isn't the downtown River Walk you remember: An ever-expanding paved promenade along the banks of the San Antonio River, which connects the Pearl to points north (the Witte Museum, the San Antonio Zoo) and south of the city (the Alamo and four other Spanish missions), it is best navigated on two wheels. Try the city's easy-to-use bike-share program (\$10 for 24 hours) or a rental from Bike World, the Pearl neighborhood's top-flight cycle shop. —PAUL BRADY