



**Pioneering:** Louisville makes soy sauce, baseball bats, and Maya-inspired fare.

GO NOW

## Louisville's Sweet Spots

What to do beyond the Kentucky Derby. | *By* JANELLE NANOS

**L**ouisville dominates the sporting calendar for two minutes in May, but there's more to this Kentucky city than mint juleps, big hats, and purebred horses. Fun-loving Louisville is angling to become another Austin with a burgeoning arts scene, the new KFC Yum! Center sports arena, and a clutch of farm-to-table restaurants.

**PARTY AT THE TRACK** > After almost 140 years of horse racing history, the legendary **Churchill Downs** racetrack began hosting the "Downs After Dark" program of night races in 2009. With live music and drink specials, the events attract a new fan base with theme nights that encourage disco costumes instead of broad-brimmed hats.

**TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT** > If you're unfamiliar with the city's historic role in baseball, the 120-foot-tall bat, the world's largest (*above right*), on West Main Street, will clue you in. Since 1884, Hillerich & Bradsby Co. has crafted Louisville Slugger bats for some of the game's most famous players. Step into the batting cages at the **Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory** and take a swing at re-creating the game-winning runs of Babe Ruth and Derek Jeter. On the Ohio River waterfront, the **Muhammad Ali Center** traces the life of the boxer and Louisville native through the civil rights movement and beyond. Shadowbox against Ali, see his trophies and artwork, and watch films of 15 of his classic fights, including the "Rumble in the Jungle."

**WALK BUTCHERS' BLOCKS** > In the former meatpacking section of the city, foodies head to the **Blind Pig**, the snout-to-tail gastropub that has been getting accolades for its house-made sausages and bacon-infused cocktails. The **Butchertown Market** is a reclaimed factory that now houses **Canoe** (Central Asian textiles), **Moss Hill** (mint julep soaps and lotions), and **Bourbon Barrel Foods**, which produces the country's only micro-brewed soy sauce from Kentucky-grown soybeans fermented in castoff bourbon barrels.

**MEET NULU** > Hop the free trolley from downtown to the eastern edge of town to explore the East Market District. Locals have nicknamed the area New Louisville, or "NuLu." Browse **Scout's** eclectic mix of modern furniture and locally made jewelry and **Hudson Home's** sustainable housewares. Choose from over 400 brews at **Louisville Beer Store**, try the *salbutes*—Yucatán tortillas—at **Mayan Café**, or pick up a banana truffle cupcake from organic bakery **Cake Flour**.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: REBECCA HALE/INGIS; HILLERICH & BRADSBY CO.; JENNIFER CHATTI/EXPANSION-REAR/REDUX; KRIECH-HIBDON PHOTOGRAPHY