

"Out & About in Atlanta"
85 South Out & About

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This shopping season, why not take a break from the crowds and drop by some of Atlanta's smaller shops and boutiques. If you are looking for fun and unique gifts (for others and also for you), they are easily found at these **Three Best Shopping Spots in Atlanta**. We also bring you two nearby restaurant choices for a well-deserved after shopping meal.

Cool Gifts That don't Break the Bank

Heliotrope is an entertaining store in Decatur that offers "good things for good people." A quick walk through the aisles reveals one of a kind holiday gifts like a Candy Cane Tea Infuser (\$10), an Indoor Snowball Fight Kit (\$10) and Pantone Christmas Ball Ornaments (\$14) and lots of other memorable items. 248 W. Ponce de Leon Avenue, Decatur, GA.

\$\$ Less than 300 feet west of Heliotrope is the casual eatery, **Leon's Full Service**. This former gas station has great personality with roll-up garage doors, a wonderful bar and a bocce court out back. Snack offerings include bacon in a glass, peppadews stuffed with goat cheese and pub frites with more than a dozen sauces to choose from. Main dishes include steak, chicken, shrimp and clams – all for about \$20. 131 East Ponce De Leon Avenue, Decatur.

\$\$\$ **Café Alsace** presents a few typical dishes of the Alsace region (the eastern region of France on the border of Germany and Switzerland. You find a strong Germanic influence in Alsatian food (Sauerkraut and pork dishes, spaetzle, onion pie). They also offer classic French fare including Cassoulet, Bouillabaise, Boeuf Bourguignon, Coq au Vin and other dishes. 121 East Ponce De Leon Avenue, Decatur. cafealsace.net

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Unique Style for You ... and for Them!

Looking for the perfect dress for the New Year's Eve Party? Need a great sweater or accessory as a gift? Look no further than **Fab'rik** in midtown. Though there are several locations, midtown is their flagship store, located near some incredible restaurants for an after shopping respite. Fab'rik delivers high style without attitude, and the best part is that all items are priced under \$100 (except for their denim collection.) As with most boutiques, there is a limited quantity of each item – which means you'll likely be the only one wearing that sparkly dress to the party. 1114 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta.

\$\$\$ The Oceanaire at 1100 Peachtree Street NE, has been voted one of the best seafood restaurants in the country. Sleek and sophisticated, provides the perfect setting to enjoy the freshest seafood flown in daily from around the world. theoceanaire.com

\$\$ South City Kitchen , at 1144 Crescent Avenue Northeast, offers contemporary southern cuisine set in a 1920s bungalow. A favorite for ginger mint juleps, fried green tomatoes, fried chicken, shrimp and grits, banana pudding and corn bread. southcitykitchen.com.

Buy Two and Get a Third Free!

Honey Butter at 1037 N. Highland Avenue, is a great (and affordable) boutique in Virginia Highlands that offers the cutest clothes for women of all ages. They also offer great gifts like handbags, scarves, scented candles and note cards, photo albums and picture frames, jewelry boxes, and bath and beauty items. They also have a huge variety of jewelry including fashion, sterling silver and semi-precious – and it comes with a great deal! Honey Butter's jewelry is always buy two, get a third piece free! honeybutterboutique.com

\$\$ You've heard me rave about **Murphy's Restaurant** before, and there is a good reason it's one of my favorite eateries in Virginia Highlands. One of the best Atlanta restaurants, Murphy's offers brunch (my favorite), lunch, dinner in a cozy setting with friendly service. Perfect for a big meal or small bite. 997 Virginia Avenue Northeast, Atlanta. murphys-atlanta-restaurant.com.

\$\$\$ La Tavola brings you real Italian cooking with an intimate, cosmopolitan atmosphere. Menu selections include a salumi board with fresh meats and cheeses, authentic pastas (ravioli, manicotti, linguini, gnocchi), chicken, duck, steak and fish. Ideal for that post-shopping dinner date! 992 Virginia Avenue Northeast, Atlanta. latavolatrattoria.com.