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CHARLOTTESVILLE & ALBEMARLE COUNTY OFFERS UP SEVERAL FOODIE-THEMED EVENTS THIS WINTER

The Charlottesville area is a wonderful choice for food and drink enthusiasts, with fine dining options and festivals that have achieved national and global recognition

Charlottesville, Va. (January 9, 2018) – The Charlottesville Albemarle Convention and Visitors Bureau (CACVB) invites everyone to consider the Charlottesville, Virginia area for several foodie-themed events set to take place during the winter months. Recently named the "locavore capital of the world" by Forbes and home to Thomas Jefferson, our nation's "Founding Foodie," the destination has a wide array of culinary assets and festivals for visitors and locals alike to enjoy throughout the winter season.

Foodies far and wide will be impressed by the Charlottesville area's vast array of farm-to-table restaurants and eateries during Charlottesville Restaurant Week. This week-long event is a celebration of the region's obsession with all things food and runs from January 19 – January 28, 2018. Eager eaters can take their pick from nearly 40 participating restaurants which will be offering fixed-price menus consisting of three delicious courses. Restaurants fill up quickly during this popular week, so reservations are recommended. This is a great opportunity to sample cuisine from restaurants located on the historic pedestrian Downtown Mall, the up-and-coming Midtown area, plus multiple options located throughout Albemarle County. One thing is for certain – you will not leave hungry!

Craft beer lovers are sure to enjoy the Know Good Beer SiBEERian Express, taking place at the IX Art Park on January 27, 2018. Throw on your coat and get ready to sample from a selection of dozens of craft beers served from a variety of breweries. Bourbon samples will also be available for tasting at this fun winter festival. In addition to great craft beer and bourbon, participants will enjoy live music and a variety of culinary options from local mobile food vendors. Designated driver tickets are available and children are allowed at this festival.

Barbeque lovers will have found their paradise at this year's upcoming Porkapolooza event, set to take place at the Barbeque Exchange on February 17-18, 2018. Located a short and scenic drive to the northeast of downtown Charlottesville, this event is self-described as the "greatest porkfest on Earth." In addition to all the pork you can eat, prepared by the expert pit masters, there will also be live music, face painting, magic tricks, balloon art, and even some yummy treats from local donut legend Carpe Donut. Pork served up at Porkapolooza comes from locally-sourced farms, staying in line with the destination's commitment to serving up only the freshest ingredients possible.

When visiting Charlottesville & Albemarle County for your foodie getaway, be sure to check out the tremendous assortment of specialty food shops like <u>Feast</u>, located in the Main Street Market, or one of the area's award-winning bakeries like <u>MarieBette Café & Bakery</u>, which has received accolades for its "Brioche Feuilletee" also known as a "Bronut." This cross between brioche, a croissant, and a donut has gotten recognition from *Thrillist*, *Foodbeast*,

and *Business Insider*. Continue satisfying your sweet tooth with a trip to <u>Gearhearts Fine</u> <u>Chocolates</u> for truffles and chocolate creations that you will remember for a lifetime.

Additionally, the Charlottesville area is home to a plethora of wineries, craft breweries, artisanal cideries, and even a few distilleries. The region has received several prestigious distinctions for its wines, including being named one of the "top wine destinations in the world" by Wine Enthusiast. Several local transportation companies offer tour options so visitors can safely sample a selection of the destination's leisure beverages. The winter season tends to have a slower pace, which means you can enjoy your tour without all of the crowds often found at busier times of the year. You may even be able to strike up a conversation with the winemaker! For more information about all the destination's culinary and leisure beverage assets, head to www.visitcharlottesville.org.

About the Charlottesville Albemarle Convention & Visitors Bureau (CACVB):

In addition to serving as the global resource for marketing the tourism assets of Charlottesville and Albemarle County, Virginia, through www.visitcharlottesville.org, the CACVB assists tour operators, meeting planners, reunions and other groups in planning visits to the destination. CACVB's mission is "to enhance the economic prosperity of City and County by promoting, selling and marketing the City of Charlottesville and County of Albemarle, as a destination, in pursuit of the meetings and tourism markets." CACVB operates the Downtown Visitor Center (610 E Main St) which is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and a second visitor center, the Albemarle Tourism and Adventure Center in downtown Crozet (5791 Three Notch'd Rd) at the historic train depot; it is open Wednesday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sunday Noon - 5:00 p.m. The CACVB also provides a touch-screen kiosk at Monticello's Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center. The official website of the CACVB is www.visitcharlottesville.org. In addition, the organization manages powerful social media channels; ExperienceCharlottesville on Facebook, @ VisitCVille on Twitter, CVilleVA on Pinterest, and @ CharlottesvilleVA on Instagram and Vimeo.

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