

DESTINATION: AUSTIN, TEXAS

# FOREVER YOUNG

First-Ever Enclave Avenir  
tours Austin, Texas

Written by Janis Turk

Enclave Avenir photography by Roche Photo Collective

Lifestyle photography by Nick Berard



**Called the Music Capital of the World,** the Third Coast, Hippie Haven and the Velvet Crown, Austin, Texas, touts several nicknames and an eclectic identity. More bustling than bucolic, more hip than hippie, the town that made famous “outlaw country” artists with its unofficial “Keep Austin Weird” slogan hasn’t lost its avant-garde allure and progressive country charm.

Known for its laid-back bohemian vibe, this sprawling state capital has been riding high on a stallion of new growth in recent years, bringing dynamic gains in commerce and technology to an already exciting city. Today, high-rise condos stand at the rim of the Broken Spoke dancehall in Austin – a cowboy saloon that has seen scores of country music legends grace its stage for 54 years – and new development is stretching the city limits since big tech companies moved to town. Still, the skyscrapers and cranes along the city’s lakeside skyline haven’t snuffed out this Lone Star city’s mellow light.

With so much to offer, Austin stands as an ideal family vacation destination. And there’s no vehicle better suited for an Austin family getaway than the first-ever Enclave Avenir – the new standard of Buick luxury. ➔



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### VACATION IN STYLE

For a family vacationing in Austin, the chic "Mountain Modern" Airbnb.com rental serves as an ideal place to stay. This spacious contemporary-style house sleeps as many as 10 and features a rooftop deck, spa tub, fire pit, modern living space with high ceilings, streamlined furnishings, and subtle Texas touches to the decor.

Those who prefer to stay just steps from great nightlife can check out the South Congress Hotel, which sits at the center of "SoCo," Austin's most popular district for dining, shopping, and people-watching along a strip of South Congress Avenue, south of Lady Bird Lake. Here, you can slumber in style and enjoy the hotel's urban industrial decor and sleek '60s retro style. Rooms feature stark minimalist furnishings and plush beds with crisp linens, and its Lobby Bar seems like Austin's most inviting living room, featuring craft cocktails and local brews. The hotel houses four eateries, including Central Standard, Café No Se, Mañana, and an intimate Japanese omakase sushi bar, Otoko.

"SoCo is one of the few areas in Austin with a lot of foot traffic," says Casey Wilcox, executive chef of Central Standard at the South Congress Hotel, a bright American bar and grill featuring craft cocktails, a wine list of 100+ labels, a seafood bar and a bustling open kitchen. "With all its new growth, Austin has definitely become a car city – you'll need to drive to see it all – and, to me, SoCo is a part of Austin that really feels like someplace in a larger city."

The neighborhood is known for its interesting and eclectic shops – where you can meet friends at Guero's Taco Bar or enjoy brunch at spots like June's All Day Neighborhood Café and Wine Bar, a petite bistro with checkerboard floors inside and tiny tables out front. Its menu includes buckwheat crêpes piled with bacon, gruyere cheese, and a sunny-side-up egg; house-made pastries and coffees in the morning; and cocktails, wine, ciders and beer at night.

After dark in SoCo, it's a delight to >



### SoCo SCENE

Check in at the South Congress Hotel to experience Austin's SoCo district up-close (top and center). Enjoy an onion and poppy seed bialy at June's All Day Neighborhood Café and Wine Bar (right) or a gorgeous sunset at The Oasis at Lake Travis (far right).



## MEET THE FIRST-EVER ENCLAVE AVENIR

AS THE HIGHEST EXPRESSION OF BUICK LUXURY, the first-ever Enclave Avenir features beautifully sculpted styling and a quiet, spacious interior with three rows of luxury seating for up to seven passengers. The elegant SUV distinguishes itself through elevated craftsmanship and exclusive styling appointments, including:

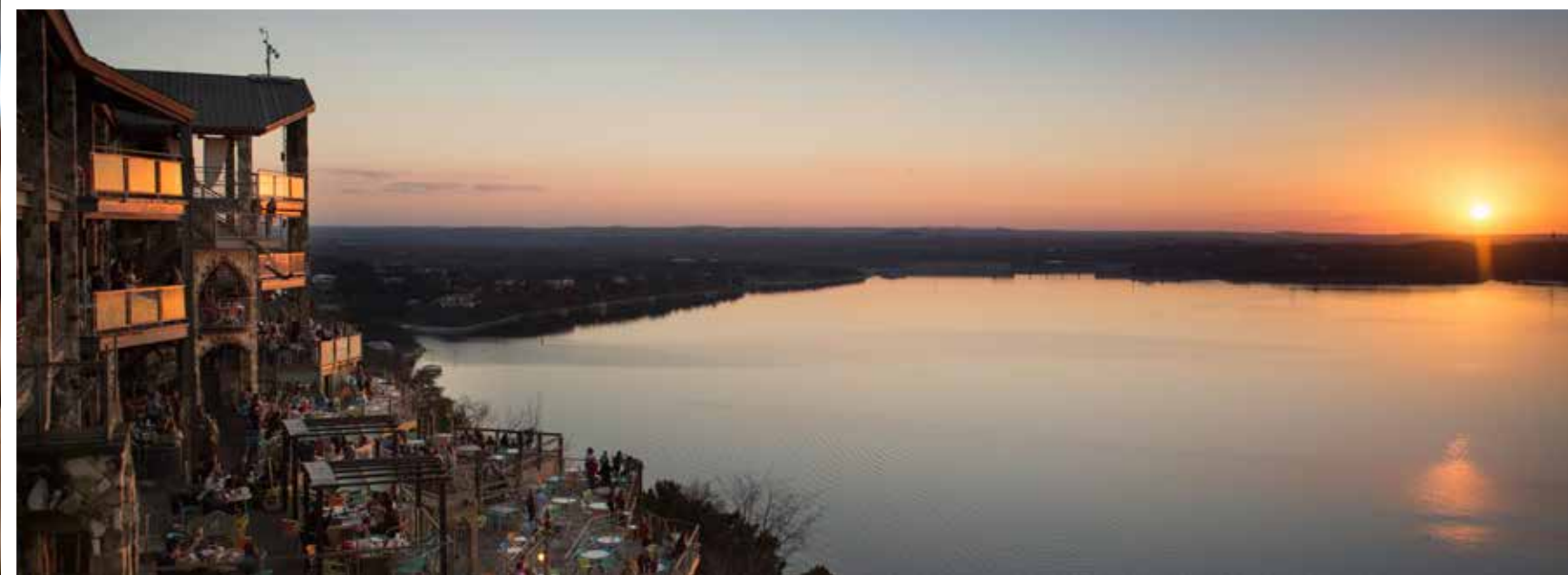
- Three-dimensional upper and lower mesh grilles
- 20-inch wheels with a Pearl Nickel finish
- Avenir scripting on the doors and sill plates

Inside, the Enclave Avenir comes outfitted with premium amenities, meticulously crafted wood-tone trim and an exclusive leather-appointed Chestnut interior with Ebony accents. Standard features include a heated steering wheel with real Mahogany accents,

a Wireless Charging Pad\*, and Surround Vision and a Rear Camera Mirror that provide a view of what's around you. (Safety or driver assistance features are no substitute for the driver's responsibility to operate the vehicle in a safe manner. The driver should remain attentive to traffic, surroundings and road conditions at all times. Visibility, weather, and road conditions may affect feature performance. Read the vehicle's owner's manual for more important feature limitations and information.) Available options include:

- Adaptive Cruise Control
- Forward Automatic Braking
- A Premium Suspension with Continuously Variable Real-time Damping

\*The system wirelessly charges one PMA- or Qi-compatible mobile device. Some devices require an adaptor or back cover. To check for phone or other device compatibility, visit [my.buick.com/learn](http://my.buick.com/learn) for details.





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dine under large oak trees lit by sparkling white lights outside Perla's, with its fresh market seafood, prime steaks, shrimp, oysters and generously sized salads. Or, sit inside the light-filled dining room by the big freshwater fish tank. Then duck across the street into The Continental Club, a longtime-favorite Austin music venue.

## OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Six Highland Lakes formed by dams along the Colorado River are cradled in the cedar-covered, limestone-lined valleys of the Texas Hill Country on the northwest edge of Austin. From there to Lady Bird Lake (also called Town Lake), Austin serves as an ideal fit for outdoor enthusiasts. Stroll the 10 miles of hiking and biking trails along Lady Bird Lake, rent a kayak or a stand-up paddleboard for water fun, or hike one of Austin's many glorious greenbelts.

For a scenic drive, head west on Ranch-to-Market Road 2222, snaking high into the hills along the shores of Lake Austin, leading up to Lake Travis. Once there, order a plate of nachos and applaud the sunset at The Oasis at Lake Travis, the "Sunset Capital of Texas," a 30,000-square-foot restaurant with high terraced decks, perfect for casual outdoor dining with views of the lake. On the way there, stop to enjoy scenic vistas from Mount Bonnell at Covert Park, where 106 man-made steps rise from a West Austin neighborhood to a promontory overlooking Lake Austin.

If you're lucky enough to be staying at Lake Austin Spa Resort – with indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a large full-service spa, water recreation vessels, reading rooms, and two restaurants – either drive your Enclave Avenir to its luxe lakeside lodgings or travel there via water taxi, with several pickup spots throughout the city.

Families enjoy Huck Finn-style fun at Hamilton Pool Preserve, 23 miles west of Austin in Dripping Springs, where a 50-foot waterfall cascades into a deep box canyon, creating an emerald swimming hole cradled by limestone cliffs. It's a ➤



### PRIME CATCH

Whether you're dining outdoors (above) or indoors (right), Perla's offers mouthwatering seafood, including Lobster Knuckles on the Grand Platter (center left).



## AN INSIDER'S VIEW

## OF THE AUSTIN FOOD SCENE

In our tour of Austin, Texas, Buick's *B* magazine sat down with Casey Wilcox, executive chef at Central Standard in the South Congress Hotel. Wilcox shared his thoughts on Austin, its restaurant scene and more.



**Buick's *B* magazine: Austin's food scene seems to have hit a fast-track lately. Wouldn't you agree?**

**Wilcox:** Oh, yes. When I first came to Austin 10 years ago, the only Austin restaurant that intrigued me was Uchi. Otherwise, it seemed like it was all just tacos, and a lot of mediocre ones at that. But the Austin food scene has [since] attracted national attention, and we chefs here have been challenged to step up our game and work hard to do something new. Now is a great time for the city's food scene.

**You've come a long way since starting at a chain restaurant when you were 17, and later cooking in some of Austin's favorite kitchens, like Justine's Brasserie, Second Kitchen, and Uchi. You also worked in popular restaurants in Vegas and Memphis. What did you learn along the way?**

I gained something from each chef I've met and in every kitchen I've worked in, and I found out that a good kitchen and a great restaurant is all about attitude and happiness, so I try to keep peace in the chaos and make it fun. The food must be excellent – that's a given – but I also want to make sure everyone who comes to Central Standard leaves excited and happy about the entire experience.

**How would you describe SoCo, and do you call it that, or is that nickname just a PR ploy?**

I usually call it South Congress, but I may say SoCo if I'm talking fast. It's one of Austin's best districts because it has kept its own kind of very Austin feel, and the South Congress Hotel and Central Standard both provide a place to relax at the heart of it all.

**Can you tell us what you thought of Austin when you first got here?**

From the moment I got here, I noticed its organic excitement and just how real it is. As an outsider, I immediately felt this was a place where I could put my own foot forward and make the city my own.

**If you had friends visiting Austin for the first time, where would you take them?**

I'd take them to the Barton Creek Greenbelt and maybe the Broken Spoke, which is so 'old Austin' with a special kind of history. Then I'd show them different music districts around the city. I'm always in the kitchen on a Saturday night; but if I weren't, I might go to the Yellow Jacket Social Club on East 5th, or Nickel City, a neighborhood bar on East 11th.

**What kind of car do you drive?**

Funny you should ask. I drive a 1966 Buick Electra. It's in great shape and is only semi-restored. I like its patina, so I'm not interested in bringing it back to mint condition because I drive it. It's not a piece of jewelry; it's just a great car.





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popular spot, so call (512-264-2740) for reservations (from March thru August) before making the drive west on Highway 71.

### NATURAL ATTRACTIONS

Austin's climate is mild almost all year long, so enjoy fun in the sun at its 350-acre Zilker Park, where kids love riding the Zilker Zephyr miniature railway. Nature lovers also enjoy Zilker's Barton Creek Greenbelt, Botanical Garden, and the Austin Nature and Science Center.

Arguably Austin's best-loved attraction is Barton Springs Pool (at Zilker Park) a popular swimming hole fed by four natural springs, which some say are the beating heart of Austin. Close by, on summer weekends, families spread blankets on the ground at the Zilker Hillside Theater to enjoy a free summer musical theatre production.

For an afternoon stroll, there's no more serene spot than the Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum, where bronze sculptures and works of American artist Charles Umlauf and others have been flawlessly integrated into a lush botanical setting.

### EAST SIDE REVISITED

Austin's east side is experiencing a revival, as food trucks that once lined empty lots have become popular brick-and-mortar restaurants there. Case in point: Franklin Barbecue on East 11th Street.

Owners Aaron and Stacy Franklin began with a tiny food trailer, but now own one of the most famous barbecue joints in the nation, and Aaron was named a James Beard award-winning Best Chef, Southwest, in 2015.

Barbecue aficionados line up early each morning outside the doors and wait for hours for a taste of Franklin's low-and-slow-cooked meats. Franklin often sells out of barbecue before 1 p.m., so get there early.

"East Austin has changed so much over the past 10 years," says Stacy Franklin. "We

enjoy being a part of the East 11th Street corridor and [knowing] that visitors get a chance to visit local shops and restaurants that they might not normally stumble into. It is a good mix of old and new."

One of Franklin Barbecue's closest neighbors is Hotel Eleven. Architect Mark Vornberg and wife Shelly Leibham have created a chic, contemporary 14-room boutique featuring a rooftop patio and carefully selected amenities that guests appreciate, all with a local flair. Across the street, Kenny Dorham's Backyard is filled with food trailers and music, making it a weekend hot-spot.

Great eats can be found all over town, including at Olive & June, just off West 35th Street. Try handmade pastas, like ricotta ravioli, or enjoy Italian-inspired small-plate dishes to share, like delectable pork meatballs, served inside a mid-century-style dining room or outside in the shade of a 200-year-old oak tree.

### MUSIC CAPITAL

Calling Austin the "Music Capital of the World" may seem like a bold boast, but it is home to 250+ music venues, including the famed blues club Antone's; the jazzy basement-level Elephant Room; and Austin's country music mecca, The Broken Spoke. Music lovers come from all over the world to the popular annual South-by-Southwest festival each spring (called "South-By" for short) and the Austin City Limits music festival (or "ACL") in the fall.

### WEIRD BUT WONDERFUL

Austin prides itself on being weirdly wonderful and celebrates its hippie heyday reputation left over from the 1970s, along with its revered Mexican, German, and Czech roots. A dynamic city, Austin is forever changing, but with 50,000+ University of Texas students calling it home, and new people and businesses flocking to town every day, the Lone Star State's capital city is sure to remain forever young. 🍷



### ACTIVE IN AUSTIN

(Clockwise from lower right) Visitors can enjoy the Contigo restaurant, beautiful Lake Travis, the James D. Pfluger Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge, or kayaking on Lady Bird Lake. At Franklin Barbecue, pork ribs, sausage, turkey, pulled pork, cole slaw and pinto beans highlight the BBQ Platter.

