

10 world-class hotels to bookend your cruise vacation

Relax in comfort & explore the port cities during your getaway

Patti Pietschmann
November 16, 2015



Some 300 pieces of original works and a rotating international art exhibit line the walls of The Vendue in Charleston.

10. The Vendue, Charleston, South Carolina

10More and more ships are going to this charming port city, which I have now been to about three times on different Crystal Cruises. The ships arrive right in town, and you can walk everywhere. For a real Southern style treat, book a day room or a few days at The Vendue, an adorable boutique hotel housed in two rows of upscale repurposed warehouses dating back to the 1780s. The Vendue sits in the heart of downtown Charleston, a short three blocks from the cruise port where the hotel concierge can arrange convenient drop-off or pick-up between the dock and the hotel.

A treasure trove of art, The Vendue has 300 pieces of original works along with a rotating international art exhibit curated by one of Charleston's premier fine arts galleries. The hotel also has a full-time art docent who conducts tours of the artwork, as well as a dedicated art studio in which the hotel's full-time artist in residence, Belgian painter Fred Jamar, paints his canvasses. Because of its historic nature, no two rooms are alike: They're tastefully appointed and decorated while retaining old world charm, through exposed brick walls, fireplaces, high ceilings and wide heart pine floors.