**Oxford's Miscellanea Spirit House Earns MICHELIN Exceptional Cocktail Award and Bib Gourmand Distinction**

*Oxford's culinary scene shines in second year of MICHELIN Guide American South, with five local restaurants recognized for exceptional dining and cocktails*

**Oxford, Miss. (October 23, 2026)** – Visit Oxford MS celebrates the city's continued culinary excellence following the second annual MICHELIN Guide American South ceremony on October 21 in Nashville, Tenn., where Miscellanea Spirit House earned two prestigious distinctions. The restaurant received a coveted Bib Gourmand recognition, while its own Ally Bowen was honored with the MICHELIN Exceptional Cocktail Award for her creativity and innovation behind the bar. In addition to Miscellanea's achievements, four other Oxford-area restaurants retained MICHELIN recommendations, further cementing the destination's reputation as one of the South's premier culinary destinations.

"Oxford has long been a destination for exceptional food and Southern hospitality, and seeing Miscellanea Spirit House recognized with both a Bib Gourmand and the MICHELIN Exceptional Cocktail Award is an incredible moment for our culinary community," said Kinney Ferris, Executive Director of Visit Oxford MS. "These honors, alongside the continued recognition of our local restaurants, are a testament to the talented chefs, mixologists and hospitality professionals who make Oxford's dining scene so special. We're proud to see their creativity and passion celebrated on an international stage."

Oxford's restaurants and culinary professionals recognized by the 2026 MICHELIN Guide include:

**MICHELIN Exceptional Cocktail Award**
**Ally Bowen, Miscellanea Spirit House** - 306 S Lamar Blvd, Oxford, Mississippi 38655
At Miscellanea, Bowen oversees the development of a highly inventive cocktail program across the establishment's experiential rooms. Her work focuses on Prohibition-inspired classics, handmade infusions, and bespoke flavor combinations. This award celebrates her technical precision, creativity, and unique approach to flavor curation behind the bar.

**Bib Gourmand**
**Miscellanea Spirit House** – 306 S Lamar Blvd, Oxford, Mississippi 38655
Framed by global traditions and anchored in warm Southern hospitality, Miscellanea's evolving menu reads like a curated travel journal. Every bite and sip offers a familiar comfort with an adventurous twist, inviting guests to explore a world of flavors crafted to spark curiosity. Created with the ever-explorer in mind, their speakeasy invites guests beyond an unassuming storefront into a collection of three distinct cocktail rooms, each offering its own atmosphere, story, and sense of discovery. Every space is designed to encourage guests to linger, explore, and experience something unexpected.

**Recommended**

**Ajax Diner** – 118 Courthouse Sq., Oxford, Mississippi 38655
Located on Oxford's historic Courthouse Square, Ajax Diner is a beloved institution that serves up soulful comfort food prepared from scratch with generous portions. From fried catfish and country-fried steak to chicken and dumplings, every dish reflects the spirit of Mississippi's warm hospitality. It's the kind of place where the sweet tea never stops flowing and every meal feels like a southern Sunday supper.

**City Grocery** – 152 Courthouse Sq., Oxford, Mississippi 38655
Under the leadership of Chef John Currence and Chef de Cuisine Jon "JD" Davis, City Grocery stands as a cornerstone of Oxford's dining scene and a creative force in contemporary Southern cuisine. Housed in a historic brick building on the Square, the restaurant marries elevated technique with down-home warmth – think collard green dolmas, Mississippi minestrone, smoked duck, and other globally-inspired plates that honor Mississippi's flavors.

**Snackbar** – 721 N. Lamar Blvd., Oxford, Mississippi 38655
Part brasserie, part oyster bar, Snackbar captures Oxford's distinctive blend of literary charm and Southern ease. Chef Sebastian Markowitz continues the restaurant's tradition of marrying French technique with Mississippi soul. The menu celebrates the seasons through locally sourced ingredients, like pecan-crusted quail, butternut squash risotto, cider-glazed scallops, and a daily raw bar featuring Gulf oysters and marinated crab claws.

**Taylor Grocery** – 4A Depot St., Taylor, Mississippi 38673
Affectionately known as "that catfish place" since 1977, Taylor Grocery has been a beloved gathering spot for locals and visitors alike for generations. Its weathered charm, live music, and perfectly crispy fried catfish capture the essence of small-town Mississippi dining. The menu offers deep-fried oysters, chicken and shrimp gumbo, Cajun pork chops, and catfish prepared six different ways, alongside homemade desserts like pecan pie and peach cobbler – each dish steeped in Southern comfort and tradition.

For more information about the culinary offerings available in Oxford, visit visitoxfordms.com/what-to-eat. The full list of MICHELIN-starred restaurants in the American South can be found here, as well as the list for the Bib Gourmand winners.

High-resolution images of Oxford's MICHELIN Guide-recognized restaurants are available HERE.

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