

snapshots



Wearing Their Pride

The fleur de lis, that iconic French iris that has bloomed for years throughout New Orleans, has grown into a veritable gardenful of city pride. The elegant three-petaled flower has long been a city symbol, showing up most notably on the city flag and on the helmets of the New Orleans Saints. Since Katrina, however, the fleur de lis has become more than a pretty symbol; it's a reminder of New Orleanians' fierce devotion to their home.

Jeweler Mignon Faget has created fleur de lis-themed pieces since the 1980s. Her Louisiana Collection contains pendants, brooches, cuff links and bracelets with a fleur de lis motif. After Katrina, anything with a fleur de lis was a must-have item; New Orleanians' support for local businesses and artisans made

Faget's pieces even more precious.

"The popularity of the fleur de lis designs brought back my business one fleur de lis at a time," Faget says. "It has never been more meaningful to us."

The meaning can make a difference, too: Proceeds from sales of the lapel-size Rebirth Pin go to the Louisiana Cultural Economy Foundation (\$12-\$25, www.mignonfaget.com).

Take a walk through the city today and you're certain to see people sporting the fleur de lis on their lapels, t-shirts or pendants. Like the city itself, the fleur de lis motif is multi-faceted: Some versions are gracefully classic, others are modern and stylized, others are accented with tiny gems or mottos. "We wear them," says Faget, "as badges of honor."

Breakfast of Visitors

Sure, it's touristy, starting your day with an order of beignets and coffee at Café du Monde.

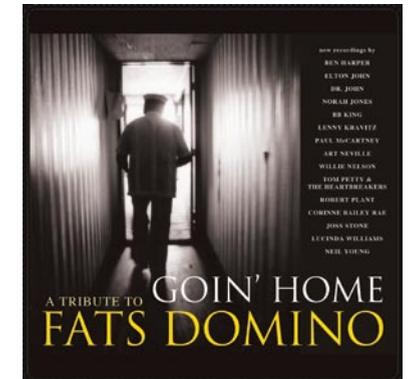
On the other hand, does anything signal to your body and soul that you're not in Kansas anymore quite so well as a balmy morning in the open air café, enjoying a fried treat that you wouldn't even consider ordering back home?

The draw, other than the leisurely, European atmosphere? The beignets, of course: fried puffs of dough liberally doused with powdered sugar. They come three to an order — go ahead, you can walk it off. And to wash them down, a café

au lait with du Monde's distinctive addition of chicory.

Bordering Jackson Square on the edge of the French Quarter, the original Café French Market location stays open 24 hours, seven days a week except Christmas.

French Market, 800 Decatur Street, www.cafedumonde.com



Classics for a cause

CD pays tribute to a legend and his city

Fifteen musical superstars — including Elton John, Bonnie Raitt, Robert Plant, Norah Jones and B.B. King — salute the genius of New Orleans' much-beloved R&B pianist on a recent double CD, *Goin' Home: A Tribute to Fats Domino*.

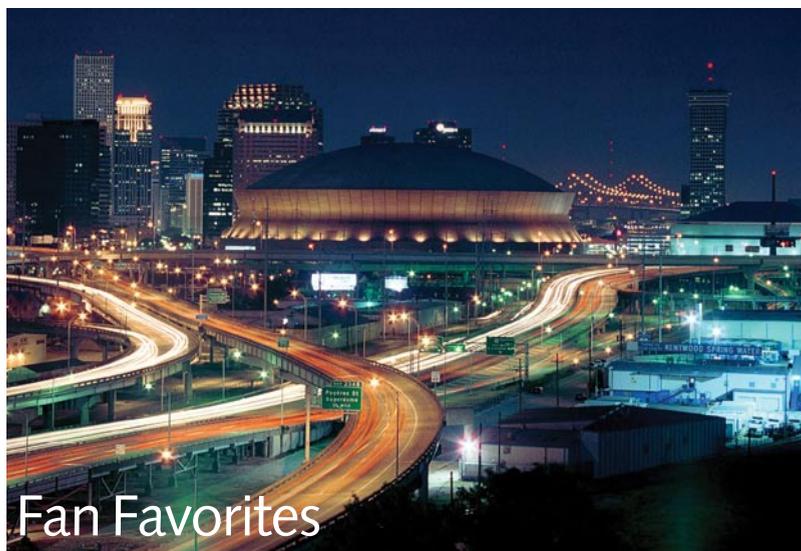
Tipitina's Foundation, an outgrowth of the legendary Crescent City music club of the same name, produced the CD to help "shine the spotlight on our city's unique music culture," says Bill Taylor, foundation director, and to thank Domino, who donated the sales of his most recent recording to the foundation. Proceeds from *Goin' Home* will help purchase instruments for New Orleans' public school children and fund other community projects in the Katrina-ravaged Lower Ninth Ward.

Visit www.tipitinas.com to order the \$20 CD set.



Emeril Lagasse for the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
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Fan Favorites

The Allstate Sugar Bowl, the country's second-oldest college football game, kicks off on New Year's Day at the Louisiana Superdome. The game's rich history includes the breaking of the color line by Pittsburgh fullback Bobby Grier in 1956 and the 1973 classic between Ara Parseghian's Notre Dame team and Bear Bryant's Crimson Tide.

New Orleans has hosted nine Super Bowls since the big game began. With

the January 7 BCS National College Football Championship, 20 national championship teams have concluded their seasons on New Orleans' gridiron.

February 15-17 brings the NBA's best to the New Orleans Arena for the All-Star Game and several days of festivities with the big guys.

In March, the Zurich Classic comes to TPC Louisiana, just south of New Orleans. Kyle Riefers set a course record in 2007 during the first round with an 8-under-par 64.

Quarter Gets Clean Sweep

If you're walking the streets of the French Quarter in the early morning, take a deep breath. Surprised to find the air fresh and clean instead of a stale reminder of last night's revelry? That lemon scent is the sweet smell of success for Sidney Torres IV, real estate developer and owner of SDT Waste and Debris Services.

Torres realized the importance of good garbage service after Katrina, when he had trouble getting trash removed from his French Quarter hotels. "There was no pickup service and when I tried to get it, it was too expensive," he told *New Orleans*

Magazine. "So I bought a truck [and] dumpsters and went into business." He won contracts to provide garbage service for the French Quarter, the Central Business District and his native St. Bernard Parish, east of New Orleans.

Early each morning, Torres' crews travel the streets, picking up discards. When streets and gutters need special cleaning, crews use a lemon-scented enzyme wash to loosen debris and kill bacteria. In a town that loves an excuse for a good time, the clean streets are a reason to celebrate and a key ingredient in letting the good times roll.

Insider Knowledge

- The **St. Charles streetcar** line is the oldest continually operating streetcar line in the world and a National Historic Landmark.
- The popular music club **Tipitina's** was named after the lady in Professor Longhair's song, "Tipitina." For good luck when you enter the club, rub the bronze head of the piano-playing "Fess" — people will think you're a local.
- More movies are made in New Orleans and across Louisiana than in any state except California and New York, thus the area has been dubbed **Hollywood South**.
- **Writers** finding inspiration here over the years include Tennessee Williams, William Faulkner, Truman Capote, Sherwood Anderson, William Sidney Porter (a.k.a. O. Henry) and Anne Rice. Samuel Clemens got his pen name "Mark Twain" while working on a riverboat here; Walt Whitman worked as a local reporter.
- The **Port of New Orleans** is the largest importer of rubber, coffee, plywood and steel in the U.S., with 460 million tons of cargo shipped annually via the Mississippi River.
- The Crescent City is home to **NASA's** largest manufacturing facility, the Michoud Assembly Facility, where vehicles for future space exploration—including Mars—are on the drawing board.
- Impressionist painter **Edgar Degas** was born in France, but his mother's family was Creole. Visiting New Orleans in 1872, he stayed with cousins in what's now known as the "Degas House," where the artist created at least 18 paintings.

WE ALLOW MORE THAN THREE OUNCES OF YOUR FAVORITE LIQUIDS.

Welcome to New Orleans, where you're invited to drink in the history of America's most unique, creative culture. And with Mardi Gras, French Quarter Fest and Jazz Fest quickly approaching, there's no better time to be here. Plan your visit at www.foreverneworleans.com or call us at 800.672.6124.

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