



{ GEAR }

Eco-Canoeing

{ BY ETHAN ROUEN }

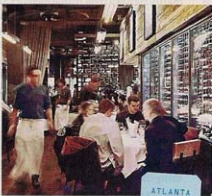
Paddling a canoe on a placid lake deep in the woods is a sure way to restore your soul and rest your mind. But now, paddlers can also soothe their green side with a line of environmentally friendly **MERRIMACK CANOES** that use sustainable woods to reinforce their state-of-the-art hulls. Based in Crossville, Tenn., Merrimack has been building canoes to order for three generations, averaging two boats a week. Randy Pew, grandson of company founder L.H. Beach, and his longtime friend Scott Hale offer six models for everyone from the lounging sunbather to

the grizzly woodsman. The hulls of the boats are built by hand from carbon fiber, Kevlar and fiberglass, and then reinforced with wood ribs, creating a strong, stable, lightweight masterpiece that looks as beautiful hanging on a wall as it does carving through placid waters. Starting at \$3,100, the new models, available in sustainably harvested purpleheart, teak, zebra wood and yellowheart, will help ensure that quiet forests will still be there when your grandchildren are borrowing the canoes for their own adventures. www.merrimackcanoes.com

{ NIGHTLIFE }

Spanish Nights

Already a culinary and drink hot spot, Atlanta's Inman Park neighborhood is now sizzling with the opening of **BARCELONA WINE BAR**, which offers a burst of Spanish culture in the Big Peach. Patrons pour into the industrial-chic setting — and on warm evenings, onto a spacious wraparound patio — to snack on tapas and enjoy sippers from an extensive wine collection. The drink menu emphasizes selections from Spain and South America and features more than 40 wines by the glass. 240 N. Highland Ave., (404) 589-1010, www.barcelonawinebar.com —L.K.



ATLANTA

{ DRINK }

Wine, Delivered

{ BY LAURA KINIRY }

Looking to try new wines but don't know where to begin? Start at your mailbox.

CLUB W is a wine-subscription service that helps select (and then delivers) bottles directly to your door, keeping costs affordable by eliminating the middlemen. Similar in style to Netflix's movie recommendations, the company's curators select wines that suit your palate profile, which is based on your answers to questions like "How do you feel about salt?" and "How do you prefer your coffee?" You can take their suggestions or make your own choices from the dozen or so offerings — mostly lesser-known boutique wines — monthly. Each bottle features its own QR code, which links to online details about the wine's signature scent and body, along with quirky tidbits such as the wine's idea of a perfect date. (A recent 2008 Alcanta Syrah was said to enjoy a vigorous hike in the woods.) *Subscriptions (aka "Experiences") start at \$39 for three bottles, www.clubw.com*