

# TEXAS

L I F E S T Y L E ★ M A G A Z I N E

Fall/Holiday 2017

## The Travel Issue

### Tilman's Latest: Post Oak

Ireland: The Emerald Isle p. 58  
The Greatest Dirt on Earth p. 40  
Stowe, Vermont p. 44  
Climb On in Telluride p. 42  
Plus... Holiday Gifting Made Easy

Belize | Cabo | Grand Cayman



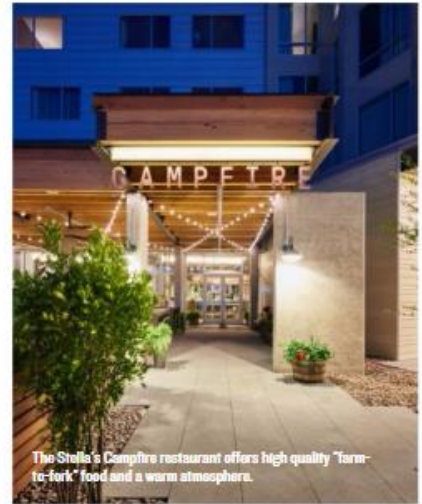


# COLLEGE STATION



## MORE THAN JUST A COLLEGE TOWN

By Samantha Cook (Texas A&M Class of '97) and  
Kate Ferris (Texas A&M Class of 2018)



The Stella's Campfire restaurant offers high quality "farm-to-fork" food and a warm atmosphere.

Home to Texas A&M University, College Station is one of the fastest growing cities in Texas. In 2016, U.S. Census Bureau population estimates showed that the city was the 18th fastest-growing in the country. Whether you're looking for the new hip spots or the classics, we've got you covered.

A few decades ago, when there was a big weekend at A&M, it was tough for families to find a hotel room. In the past year, several new hotels have popped up in College Station.

The new boutique **Stella Hotel** opened its doors in April 2017, just down the road from University Avenue, past Research Park and adjacent to Easterwood Airport. With its sophisticated style and luxurious amenities, the hotel is more upscale than the typical college student would need but it's ideal for parents. The lobby is full of eclectic art, with the lit STELLA sign the highlight. As Aggies, we also love their maroon wooden bathroom doors.

The Stella's restaurant, **Campfire**, specializes in top-notch farm-to-table food, buying the majority of their produce and meats from within a 60-mile radius. It's a great option for breakfast, due to convenience and selection. They have a typical breakfast menu from pancakes and French toast to eggs Benedict.

You'll also find craft cocktails at **Hershel's** (uber cool setting with shabby chic interior), brews and munchies at **P.O.V.** (near the front door to the hotel) or at **The Watershed** - The Stella's pool bar. And, across the front parking lot, you can enjoy **Atlas Park** with its small lake and nighttime colored water fountains.

[THESTELLAHOTEL.COM](http://THESTELLAHOTEL.COM)

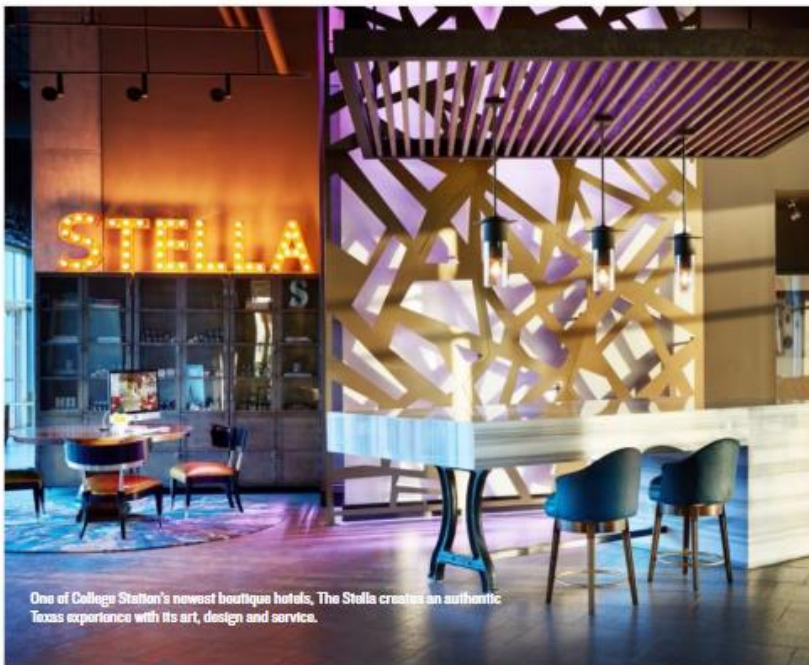


Enjoy private cabanas at the Stella's pool bar, the Watershed.





Stylish guest rooms at the Stella have gorgeous College Station views and cozy Frette linens.



One of College Station's newest boutique hotels, The Stella creates an authentic Texas experience with its art, design and service.

### FOOD FIX

One foodie fave not far from campus is **Mad Taco**, where you'll find trendy tacos and Mexican pizza. Owner Peter Madden (who attended Texas A&M) has a brilliant mind that is always at work. Since 2015, Mad Taco has truly made a name for itself with Aggies. (A sign above the cash register reads: "Taco Up, Agg!")

Madden grew up in the Rio Grande Valley and served as a chef at Cafe Eccell (the nicest place to dine in the '90s in College Station when I was a student). He opened Madden's in Bryan in 2004, which he later sold. He's opening a second Mad Taco in College Station and plans to expand around Texas.

The tacos are mouth-watering (the fried shrimp, their #1 seller, and the beef short rib are my faves) and priced to fit into a college student's budget. But don't miss the CQ appetizer, a hearty queso with a "truffle" of guacamole in the center (served with chips) or the corn and avocado pizza.

It's not just about the food, 'tho. Mad Taco rotates local charities each month. (They recently donated \$50,000 to Habitat for Humanity.) We also love their creative marketing, like the "black wall" and that they drop off gift cards at local businesses to "pay it forward." Obviously, we're MAD about Mad Taco!

If you're looking for homestyle Italian, stop in at **Cenare**, just down University Drive from campus. Family-owned, this is a great spot for some fried mozzarella sticks, caprese salad drizzled in balsamic, followed by pastas like pesto gnocchi and paired with a bold cabernet.

Cenare has been in business for over 35 years in the same location. Italian-owned, the food is authentic. Their top selling dishes are the classics such as lasagna, chicken parmigiana and veal piccata and Marsala.

"We cook with love," says owner Houda Cerone. "Everything is homemade, from the bread to the sauces to the desserts." *Cibo delizioso!*

