

## Awards, Achievements & Accolades

**#8, The South's Best Small Towns**  
*Southern Living Magazine, April 2019*

**#1 "Safest City" in South Carolina**  
*The Home Security Advisor, 2019*

**#2 "Safest City" In South Carolina**  
*National Council For Home Safety & Security, April 2019*

**#4 "Safest City" in South Carolina**  
*HomeSnacks, 2019*

**#1 "Safest City" in South Carolina**  
*Homesnacks, 2018*

**#6 Best City to Raise a Family in South Carolina**  
*Wallethub, 2018*

**"High-Performance Government Award"**  
*Cartegraph, June 2018*

**#5 "Happiest Seaside Town in America"**  
*Coastal Living Magazine, June 2018*

**#5 "Safest City" in South Carolina**  
*Safehome.org, November 2017, March 2018*

**#1 "Most Enterprise-Friendly City" in South Carolina**  
*Palmetto Promise Institute, April 2017*

**"Best Cities to Live in USA 2017"**  
*Gallup-Healthways' Community Well-Being Index, March 2017*

**#10, Safest City in South Carolina**  
*SafeWise, 2017*

**Achievement Award, 10,001-20,000 Population Category**  
**"Bluffton's Old Town Master Plan & Implementation"**  
*Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC), 2016*

**“Best Places to Retire in 2016”**

*Forbes Magazine, April 2016*

**#1 “10 Up & Coming Cities in South Carolina Ready to Explode”**

*Only in Your State, May 2016*

**#4 “Friendliest Places to Retire” in Top 10 List**

*Topretirements.com website, 2016*

**“Top Waterfront Retirement Destination” & “Top 20 Places to Retire”**

*Forbes Magazine, June 2015*

**“Southern Dream Town”**

*Garden & Gun Magazine, June/July 2015*

**#3 “Safest and Most Beautiful Places to Live in South Carolina”**

*Only in Your State, 2015*

**Best Places/Safest Towns in South Carolina**

*Niche.com, 2015*

**#3 Best Towns to Raise a Family in South Carolina**

*Niche.com, 2015*

**#10 Rose Hill Mansion & #14 Palmetto Bluff, “The 18 Wedding Venues in SC Which Are Perfect in Every Way”**

*Only in Your State, 2015*

**#10 Rose Hill Mansion & #14 Palmetto Bluff, “The 18 Wedding Venues in SC Which Are Perfect in Every Way”**

*Only in Your State, 2015*

**Top 25 U.S. Cities for Retirement**

*Forbes Magazine, 2014*

***Southern Living Magazine Idea House/Bluffton, 2014***

**#1 “Ten Amazing Non-Beach Alternatives for a Summer Getaway”**

*The Huffington Post, 2014*

**“Cities on The Rise in South Carolina”**

*NerdWallet, a consumer advisory company, 2014*

**“Top Cities for Homeownership in South Carolina”**

*NerdWallet, 2014*

**“Safest Places in South Carolina”**

*Movoto, a real estate web-based service, 2014*

**#1 in South Carolina in (5) Categories: People's Choice, Focus on Farmer, Healthy Food for All, Pillar of the Community and Champion for the Environment, Bluffton's Farmers Market**

*American Farmland Trust, 2016*

**Top 20 in USA, Bluffton's Farmers Market**

*American Farmland Trust, 2016, 2015, 2013*

**"Most Celebrated Farmers Market in South Carolina," Bluffton's Farmers Market**

*American Farmland Trust, 2015, 2013 & 2012*

**"South Carolina Scenic Byway," Bluffton's Highway 46**

*South Carolina Department of Transportation, 2012*

**Don Ryan Center for Innovation/Clemson Technology Village, Bluffton**

*First non-metropolitan town in South Carolina to partner with Clemson University to form a private-public Technology Village (i.e. business incubator).*

### **Planning, Growth Management and Urban Design:**

**Best Community Revitalization Award, Wharf Street Redevelopment Project**

*Southern Living Magazine, August 2014*

**Achievement Award, 10,001-20,000 Population Category**

**"Wharf Street Redevelopment Project"**

*Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC), 2013*

**Palmetto Forum Affordable Housing Achievement Award**

*Wharf Street Redevelopment Project, 2012*

**Achievement Award, 1,000-5,000 Population Category**

**"Bluffton Small Home Series"**

*Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC), 2003*

### **Natural Resources, Environmental Protection and Beautification:**

**Top Project 2017, New Riverside Pond Floating Wetlands Project**

*Stormwater Solutions Magazine, December 2017*

**"Bluffton is an Innovator in Using Development Rights Transfer Program to Reduce Sprawl"**

*Charleston's Post & Courier Article, August 2014*

**Tree City USA Designation**

*Arbor Day Foundation, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011*

**Inaugural Sustainable Communities Building Block Program Participant Environmental**

*Protection Agency, 2010*

## Law Enforcement/Bluffton Police Department:

### **Hope and Opportunity Award of Excellence**

*Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry, 2016*

### **Achievement Award/Fundraise \$50,000 to install AEDs in each patrol vehicle & Bluffton Police Department**

*Arrhythmia Alliance, 2016*

### **National Night Out, National Town Watch Associates (2015).**

### **Accreditation with Excellence (Highest level of recognition of the reaccreditation process)**

*Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), 2015*

### **South Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation (SCLEA), 2013.**

### **Re-Accreditation for the Bluffton Police Department**

*Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), 2012*

### **Accreditation for the Bluffton Police Department**

*Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), 2009*

## Financial Management:

### **AA+ Municipal Bond Rating**

*Standard's & Poor, 2014*

### **Aa2 Municipal Bond Rating**

*Moody's, 2010*

### **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award**

*Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada, 2017, 2016 2015, 2014,  
2013, 2012 and 2011*

### **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)**

*Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada, 2017, 2016 2015, 2014,  
2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008*

### **Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR)**

*Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada, 2017, 2016, 2015 2014,  
2013, 2012, 2011*

## Historic Awards & Designations:

### **2018 Preserving Our Places in History Award, The Garvin-Garvey House Rehabilitation & Exhibit Plan**

*South Carolina African American Heritage Commission, April 2019*

**2018 Historic Preservation Honor Award, The Garvin-Garvey House Rehabilitation Project**  
*Preservation South Carolina, July 2018*

**2018 Municipal Achievement Award, 10,001- 20,000 Population Category**  
**“Historic Rehabilitation Enhances Tourism & Economic Development/Garvin-Garvey Project”**

*Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC), July 2018*

**Preserve America Community Designation for the Bluffton Historic District**  
*Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 2005*

**National Register of Historic Places Designation for the Bluffton Historic District**  
*National Park Service, 1996*



**PALMETTO BLUFF**

**Palmetto Bluff:**

Bluffton is also home to Palmetto Bluff, a 19,217 acre world-renowned residential community and resort, which consistently receives top awards and accolades. Palmetto Bluff celebrated its grand debut of Montage Palmetto Bluff in August 2016. Montage Palmetto Bluff is AAA 5-diamond resort with 200 rooms, six dining locations, 13,000 square foot spa, and many other resort amenities. Below is a list of awards and accolades for this award-winning resort:

**Most Luxurious Accommodations North America**

*AAA Five-Diamond Awards, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012*

**Best Golf Resorts in The Carolinas**

*Golf Digest, Editors' Choice Best Resorts | The Americas, 2017*

**The Best New Hotels in the World**

*Travel & Leisure, World's Best Awards, 2017*

**#11 Top Resorts in the American South**

*Condé Nast Traveler, Readers' Choice Awards, 2016*

**#9 Best Hotels in the South**

*Travel + Leisure, World's Best Awards, 2016*

**#1 Hotel in South Carolina**

*U.S. News & World Report, Best Hotels in the USA, 2016*

**#6 Top 10 Hotels in the USA**

*U.S. News & World Report, Best Hotels in the USA, 2016*

**#1 Top U.S. Hotel for Family Travel**

*Travel + Leisure, World's Best Awards, 2015*

**#14 Hotel in the World**

*Travel + Leisure, World's Best Awards, 2015*

**#2 Resort in the Continental U.S. (40 rooms +)**

*Travel + Leisure, World's Best Awards, 2015*

**#1 Best For Families**

*Jetsetter, Best of the Best Award Winners, 2015*

**#13 World's Most Romantic Hotel**

*Travel + Leisure, World's Best Awards, 2015*

**#1 Hotel in South Carolina**

*U.S. News & World Report, Best Hotels in the USA, 2015*

**#3 Top 10 Hotels in the USA**

*U.S. News & World Report, Best Hotels in the USA, 2015*

**#46 Top 50 Hotels Overall**

*Travel + Leisure, World's Best Awards, 2014*

**#5 Resort in the Continental U.S.**

*Travel + Leisure, World's Best Awards, 2014*

**#2 Spa in the U.S., The Spa at Palmetto Bluff**

*Travel + Leisure, World's Best Awards, 2014*

**#2 Best Course in South Carolina, May River Golf Club**

*South Carolina Golf Course Ratings Panel, 2014*

**Top 100 Resorts of the World**

*Robb Report, 2014*

**Top 25 Best Golf Resorts, May River Golf Club**

*Links Magazine, 2013*

**#1 Top Hotels & Resorts in the U.S.**

*Condé Nast Traveler, Readers' Choice Awards, 2013*

**#1 Top 20 Resorts in the South**

*Condé Nast Traveler, Readers' Choice Awards, 2013*

**#11 of 100 Top 100 Hotels & Resorts in the World**

*Condé Nast Traveler, Readers' Choice Awards, 2013*

**#7 Best Hotel for Food Lovers**

*Bon Appetit, 2013*

**#16 Family Resort**

*Andrew Harper, Readers' Choice Awards, 2013*

**#96 Top 100 Hotels Overall**

*Travel + Leisure, World's Best Awards, 2013*

**#11 Resort in the Continental U.S.**

*Travel + Leisure, World's Best Awards, 2013*

**#24 Top Family Hotels in the United States**

*Travel + Leisure, World's Best Awards, 2013*

**#4 Best Course in South Carolina, May River Golf Club**

*Golfweek, Best Courses, 2013*

**#7 Top 100 Resort Spas in North America, The Spa at Palmetto Bluff**

*Condé Nast Traveler, Spa Reader's Poll, 2013*

**#1 Hotel in South Carolina**

*U.S. News & World Report, Best Hotels in the USA, 2013*

**#3 Top 10 Hotels in the USA**

*U.S. News & World Report, Best Hotels in the USA 2013*

**Gold List**

*Condé Nast Traveler, Readers' Choice Awards, 2013*

**500 Best Hotels in the World**

*Travel + Leisure, 2013*

**#12 Top U.S. Hideaway**

*Andrew Harper's Hideaway, 2013*

**#19 Top Golf Resort. May River Golf Club**  
*Andrew Harper's Hideaway, 2013*

**#8 Top 25 Hotels in the U.S.**  
*TripAdvisor's Travelers' Choice Awards, 2013*

**#6 Best Public Course in South Carolina, May River Golf Club**  
*Golf Digest, 100 Best Public Courses 2013*

**#27 Nationwide, May River Golf Club**  
*Golf Digest, 100 Best Public Courses 2013*

**#25, May River Golf Club**  
*Golf Week, Best Resort Courses 2013*

**#15 in the Top 100 Resort Spas in North America**  
*Condé Nast Traveler's Spa Reader's Poll, 2012*

**#1 Best Resort in the Southern U.S.**  
*Condé Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Awards, 2012*

**#2 Best Hotel & Resort in the U.S.**  
*Condé Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Awards, 2012*

**#17 Top 100 Hotels and Resorts in the U.S.**  
*Condé Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Awards, 2012*

**#9 Top U.S. Hideaway**  
*Andrew Harper's Hideaway's Readers' Choice Awards, 2012*

**#5 Top Family Resort**  
*Andrew Harper's Hideaway's Readers' Choice Awards, 2012*

**#51, May River Golf Club**  
*Golf Magazine, Top 100 Golf Courses 2012*

**#4 in Continental U.S. and Canada**  
*Travel + Leisure, World's Best Hotels for Families 2012*

**#6 in Top Resort in Continental U.S.**  
*Travel + Leisure's World's Best Awards, 2012*

**#79 Top 100 Hotels Overall**  
*Travel + Leisure's World's Best Awards, 2012*



**#1 Best U.S. Hotel**

*U.S. News & World Report, 2012*

**#3 Southern U.S. Resort**

*Condé Nast Traveler, Top Golf Resorts in the World 2012*

**500 Best Hotels in the World**

*Travel + Leisure, 2012*

**#3 South Carolina Tennis Resort**

*TENNIS Magazine, Top 50 Tennis Resorts 2012*