

Around Town: **Austin**

off the beaten path

Written by Jacqueline Rangel  
Photography by Colleen Duffley

For Grammy-winning musician Martie Maguire, it was Austin's eclectic lifestyle that attracted her to the city 13 years ago and ultimately persuaded her to stay. And though she is a member of both the Dixie Chicks and the Court Yard Hounds—her band with sister and fellow Dixie Chick Emily Robison—Martie still finds time to keep tabs on the ever-changing Austin scene. We asked the talented musician to take us on a tour of her favorite spots around Austin that are off the beaten path, yet easy to duck into on a whim.

**Jo's Coffee**  
Although the original South Congress outpost is

known for the sentimental scrawl on its outside wall—it reads, "I love you so much"—and its prime people-watching scene, Martie prefers the newer Second Street location for a cup of hot tea and a Texas-sized omelet. (242 W. Second St., joscoffee.com)

**Luke's Inside Out**  
Nearly every Austinite has a favorite food trailer, and this South Lamar stop is it for Martie. With chef Luke Bibby's rotating menu ranging from over-the-top to healthy, there's something for everyone. "His salads are like works of art, and the burger is just decadent," Martie says. "He just does really good, creative food." (1109 S. Lamar Blvd., lukesinsideout.com)

Musician Martie Maguire gives us a tour of her adopted hometown







Henri's

**Henri's**

Another small gem on the bustling South Lamar corridor is Henri's, the perfect place to sip a glass of Cava on a late afternoon while sampling a selection of delicious cheeses, salamis, and smoked meats. (2026 S. Lamar Blvd., [henrischeese.com](http://henrischeese.com))

**Lick**

For dessert, step next door to Henri's and grab an ice cream cone at Lick. The surprising concoctions—flavors include Texas Sheet Cake; Grapefruit with Champagne Marshmallows; and Goat Cheese, Thyme & Honey—are made with pure, whole ingredients sourced from local farmers and dairies whenever possible. (2032 S. Lamar Blvd., [ilicklick.com](http://ilicklick.com))

**Moss**

Drive a little farther down the road approaching downtown, and you'll discover Moss. It's the type of store you walk into ready to be delighted by the thrill of the find—an upscale resale boutique whose buyers have an eye for both timeless and funky designer pieces. Case in point: the inside-out rabbit fur coat that Martie scored for less than \$100. (705B S. Lamar Blvd., [mossaustin.com](http://mossaustin.com))



Lick



Henri's





Blackmail

**Wee**

When shopping for the little ones in your life, Martie recommends the selection at this Second Street District locale. She loves its modern sensibility with everything from decor to clothing and small gifts. (213 W. Second St., [shopwee.com](http://shopwee.com))

**Blackmail**

South Congress can be an overwhelming avenue for some, but take a tip from Martie and seek shelter from the crowds in Gail Chovan's Blackmail boutique—worth visiting for both the fashion and the fixtures. On more than one occasion,

Martie has managed to buy a “not for sale” item right off the wall. “The design of the store lures me in,” Martie says. “Gail is a real Austin icon and an amazing clothing designer.” (1202 S. Congress Ave., [blackmailboutique.com](http://blackmailboutique.com))

**Stag**

For a more masculine turn, don't miss Stag—a menswear shop that embraces the unexpected. Offering new and vintage clothing, accessories, artwork, and even taxidermy, Stag isn't your run-of-the-mill men's shop. (1423 S. Congress Ave., [stagaustin.com](http://stagaustin.com))



Moss



Stag



Moss





Stag



Stag



Stag

**Mercury Design Studio**

Because you won't want to stop when you're on a roll, Mercury is next on the list of must-see shops. Like a few of Martie's favorites, Mercury sits in the middle of the Second Street District, beckoning passersby to explore the store's artistic vignettes. Of particular interest? The art on the walls. "I found a print of some lips that I just love, and now it hangs in my twin daughters' room," says Martie. (225 W. Second St., [mercurydesignstudio.com](http://mercurydesignstudio.com))

**Uptown Modern**

Situated on a stretch of Burnet Road that's dotted with stores selling vintage items, Uptown Modern is where Martie goes when in search of a true statement piece—like the Lucite table and matching chairs she currently loves. Consider it the furniture equivalent of Moss—an elegantly curated treasure hunt. (5111 Burnet Road, [uptownmodernaustin.com](http://uptownmodernaustin.com))

**East Side King**

Austin wholeheartedly embraces its food trucks. In return, the mobile grub hubs promise to keep things interesting. Like the colorful designs by artist



Mercury Design Studio



## EXCURSIONS



Peelander-Yellow that adorn its trucks, East Side King's Asian-inspired fare is anything but boring. East Side King also now has two brick-and-mortar locations. (eskaustin.com)

### The Continental Club

Having been in bands that zigzagged all across Texas, Martie appreciates an authentic atmosphere that stays true to its roots. The fact that this oasis of low-key live music has looked and felt the same since her college days no doubt adds to its comfortable vibe and sentimental value. "I really hope The Continental stays the way it is for a long time to come," she says. (1315 S. Congress Ave., continentalclub.com)



bustling South Congress Avenue and plays host to a number of local artists on any given evening. "The owner, Liz Lambert, is so essential to Austin's look and coolness," Martie says. "She's one of the biggest entrepreneurs in town, always contributing something exciting." It's no wonder this is where Martie would call it a night, putting the finishing touches on her ideal Austin day. (112 Academy Drive, hotelsaintcecilia.com)

### Hotel Saint Cecilia

Hotel Saint Cecilia is the ultimate spot to kick back with friends and bask in the glow of Austin's charm. Beautiful in design and natural environment, the Saint Cecilia sits just off



Hotel Saint Cecilia



Hotel Saint Cecilia



Hotel Saint Cecilia