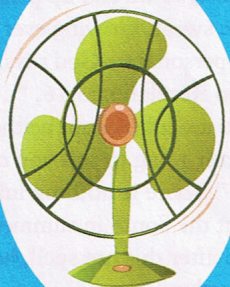


# chill out



Think cool. When the mercury rises, we all feel the heat. They don't call our city Hotlanta for nothing. Baby, it's hot outside. Better read our ultimate guide for staying cool.

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( paneer and a movie )



We know several devotees of the buffet and Indian films served up at **Bollywood Masala Grill House**. As far as strip malls go, they make a decent frozen **mango margarita** to go with your dosai, chicken tikka masala or lamb curry. [2201 Lawrenceville Highway (at North Druid Hills Road), Decatur, 404-636-6614]

## get wet

3 great places to get soaked:

**Centennial Olympic Park's Fountain of Rings** Shaped like the Olympic rings, this interactive fountain features 251 computer-controlled water jets, 400 fog jets and 487 lights. Daily water shows are choreographed to Neil Diamond tunes or *The Little Mermaid*, but simply dashing into a ring and looking out through a wall of water is the most fun. See [centennialpark.com](http://centennialpark.com).

**Six Flags' White Water** Whether you prefer sliding down The Cliffhanger, a thrilling freefall roughly nine stories high, or drifting lazily along the Little Hooch, White Water is a great place to go when you need to beat the heat. The Marietta facility is also a manageable size—which does a lot to help parents chill. Six Flags Over Georgia's Skull Island attraction, located within White Water's sister theme park, offers acres of water play minus the thrill rides. See [sixflags.com](http://sixflags.com).

**Shooting the Hooch** The days of the infamous Ramblin' Raft Race may be over, but you can still ride the Chattahoochee River via canoe, kayak or raft. Chattahoochee Outfitters will rent you the necessary equipment and shuttle you upstream from various outposts in North Atlanta. For shorter rides, rent a two- or four-man pedal boat at Azalea Park. And this year, they're launching the "Spirit of Roswell," a historic paddlewheel riverboat. See [shootthehooch.com](http://shootthehooch.com).



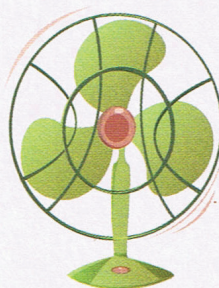
**SPARKLES** The renowned 128.54-carat Tiffany Diamond may be on permanent display at the firm's flagship location in New York, but Atlanta's Phipps Plaza store offers plenty of dazzling gems. Here, the jeweler that invented the six-prong engagement ring setting and once stunned the world by purchasing the French crown jewels has draped Cooke-Johnson, Porter and Elektra (left to right) in its signature designer diamonds.

## best chili

The world is divided between people who like beans in their chili and people who know better. The best place to look for chili is an authentic Texas restaurant. **One Star Ranch** (25 Irby Ave., 404-233-7644) doesn't grind the meat for its gloriously spicy, chewy all-beef chili. Only the uncouth would mention the word "bean" here. All you need is a big spoon and a slice of jalapeño cornbread to sop up a thick, chunky stew that requires a lot of jaw action. Better yet, eat your chili al fresco under the big Buckhead sky! -C.L.



# ICE, ICE BABY!



the cool issue

Icing is the final touch that makes the cake, and any woman will affirm that the same goes for diamonds. Who better than **Kim Porter**—girlfriend of über-cool rapper/producer Sean “Diddy” Combs—to attest that “ice” is the ultimate accessory for any ensemble, from jeans to designer gowns? Along with her best buds and partners in the marketing firm Three Brown Girls, **Eboni Elektra** and **Nicole Cooke-Johnson**, the former model talks about her addiction to the luminous gem.

“There’s nothing better than the bling,” quips Cooke-Johnson, who says that she fell in love with diamonds back in 11th grade, when she received a half-carat diamond tennis bracelet as a gift. “I’m into classic diamond jewelry and vintage pieces. My favorite piece, for obvious reasons, is my wedding ring. It’s a marquis solitaire, a 1930s replica of the ring my grandfather, [late R&B

crooner] Sam Cooke, gave to my grandmother more than 60 years ago. I get sentimental every time I look at it.”

“There’s a certain intrigue that draws attention to you when you walk into a room wearing beautiful diamonds,” insists Elektra, who, though single, admits that she already has an engagement ring design in mind. “They’re definitely status pieces. . . . My favorite piece that I already own is a fabulous Cartier ‘love bracelet’ my sister, Kim Porter, gave me in 1998. It’s full of diamonds!”

“I’ve got everything from vintage pieces to ghetto-fabulous chains, astro-cut and heart-shaped styles, I just really love big, chunky jewelry,” says Porter, who confesses that she once pawned the engagement ring she received from a former suitor (not Diddy) for a mere \$5,500. “I get a lot of pieces from my significant other. He gets a kick out of

creating new pieces for me. For my birthday, he gave me a beautiful ring with six rows of diamonds on it. It’s hard to pick a favorite. I really love this ring that I picked up in Sardinia, Italy. It has a diamond crown set into white ivory. I also have this beautiful belly chain with a diamond cross hanging from it that I wear every day. I only take it off when I get a massage!” —C.T.

## (portable potables)



Be on the lookout for the bright red **SoCo Hurricane** trailer, coming to an outdoor music festival or park near you. Despite the overly cute nickname, Southern Comfort’s wagon is the place to order neon-colored frozen lime or cherry-berry-orange concoctions made with more than a touch of the smooth, spiced bourbon liqueur. Combine the two flavors for a sweet-and-sour sipper best enjoyed in the shade.

## stoned,cold

Nothing refreshes and relaxes on a sweltering summer day like a frosty draft beer. Experts generally agree that 38 degrees is the ideal temperature. So with a digital thermometer, a few willing volunteers and an unquenchable thirst, we set off to find out which Atlanta tavern has the frostiest brew on tap. —B.W.

Test subject	Average temp & vessel	Margin of error	Verdict
<b>Taco Mac</b> 1006 North Highland Ave., 404-873-6529	36.5 degrees, pint glass	Frosted glasses straight from the ice-box probably helped drop the temp below optimum.	Quick, friendly service. The extra chill tasted good to us—on average, the coldest beer tested.
<b>Dark Horse Tavern</b> 816 North Highland Ave., 404-873-3607	39.0 degrees, pint glass	We blew our cover by leaving notes behind on the bar.	Quick service and talkative bartenders are entertaining (and distracting).
<b>Twisted Taco</b> 66 12th St., 404-607-8771	36.7 degrees, pint glass	None that we remember, but did we mention the hot bartender?	Our very hot female bartender may have caused an unintentional warming of the product.
<b>The Lodge</b> 248 Buckhead Ave., 404-233-3345	38.2 degrees, plastic cup	Inquisitive patrons asked what the hell we were dipping in our beer. (“Wow, your job sucks, don’t it?”)	Not the coldest, but the closest to the ideal 38 degrees. Florida Gators fans, who know cold beer in hot climates, love it here.
<b>CJ’s Landing</b> 270 Buckhead Ave., 404-237-7657	58 degrees (see margin of error), plastic cup	After we remembered to remove the the thermometer probe’s protective sheath, the temp plunged to 38.5.	Well into our research, we screwed up our order too. But did the bartender have to yell, “You gotta ask for draft, bitch?”