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CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA: WILL YOU ACCEPT THIS ROSE?

Experience The Queen City Just Like Hometown Leading Lady Emily Maynard and Her Suitors Did!

CHARLOTTE, NC – (May 14, 2012) The first ever *Bachelor* or *Bachelorette* season to film outside of Los Angeles, season eight brings 25 suitors to Charlotte to woo bachelorette Emily Maynard in her hometown. The Queen City snags a starring role as the backdrop for consistently top-rated reality romance.

Looking to experience Charlotte just like Emily and her bevy of beaus did? Enter to win the "Queen City Bachelorette Getaway" for four with two night suite accommodations at the Hampton Inn & Suites SouthPark at Phillips Place, \$100 to Osso Restaurant & Lounge at NC Music Factory, \$300 to e2 Emeril's Eatery at the Levine Center for the Arts, four passes to the Mint Museum Uptown, jewelry for four from Towne & Reese with a chance to meet the designers, and a \$100 gas card. Enter at www.charlottescgotalot.com/bachelorette beginning May 14.

Seen Around Town: Bachelorette Sightings in Charlotte

- The Bachelorette's leading lady can be seen around town at several local hotspots regularly. Whether perusing the beauty counter at Neiman Marcus at **SouthPark Mall**, picking up a bite from fast-food favorite Chick-fil-A or cheering on the **NBA Charlotte Bobcats** at **Time Warner Cable Arena**, Emily's Charlotte roots run deep.
- Set the stage for love at Blumenthal Performing Arts' **Booth Playhouse**, where Emily and her many admirers met *The Muppets* on a group date. The private affair was a fundraiser for Levine Children's Hospital, which houses the Ricky Hendrick Centers for Intensive Care funded through a gift by the Hendrick family after Ricky's death. The theater plays host to everything from Broadway's hottest plays to classic operas and local productions within walking distance to Charlotte's hottest nightlife and restaurants.
- The bachelors stayed in a European-style 12,000-square foot home with six bedrooms and seven full bathrooms with three half baths built in 2006. Complete with an elevator and ballroom, it features the must-have assets characteristic to the show including an expansive outdoor patio and in-ground pool. Located in the **Ballantyne** neighborhood of Charlotte, the house was close to Forbes Four Star-rated **Ballantyne Hotel and Lodge** in addition to dining and nightlife in mixed use establishments like **Ballantyne Village**, **Stonecrest** and **Blakeney**.

- For her first one-on-one date, Emily took her date to the **NC Music Factory**, a revamped former textile mill from the early 1900s that's now home to 13 music, dining and nightlife concepts. A red carpet led the couple into **Osso**, a new contemporary Italian eatery with wow-factor design by the acclaimed Francois Fossard, the brains behind Butter in New York City and Mansion in Miami. Afterward, a concert by country trio Gloriana was set at **Time Warner Cable Uptown Amphitheatre**.
- Emily Maynard took one suitor on a high-flying date within Charlotte's new cultural campus, the **Levine Center for the Arts**. The pair scaled down the side of the five-story **Mint Museum Uptown** hand in hand. Boasting Contemporary, American and European collections, visitors looking for some Cinderella inspiration like Emily's can explore their current "Fairytale, Fantasy & Fear" exhibition, which explores art inspired by classic tales from across the globe. Afterward, grab a bite at Emeril Lagasse's newest endeavor, **e2**, on the bottom floor. Spectators streamed out of the restaurant to catch a glimpse of the Bachelorette rappelling down the side of the Mint shouting, "Give him a rose!"
- Post rappelling at the Mint Museum Uptown, Emily and her date ended the night on a high note with an outdoor concert by Luke Bryan. The singer crooned his hit "Do I" and more as the pair danced among the crowd at a stage set up at **Trade and Tryon Streets**, the heart of Center City Charlotte. The Square, as it's called by Charlotteans, marks the crossing of two Native American trading paths that established the city. Bronze statues by Raymond Kaskey depict commerce, transportation, industry and the future, the cornerstones of Charlotte's development. The statues are part of a **free walking tour** highlighting Charlotte's extensive public art.
- Cast and crew enjoyed Charlotte-based **Bojangles' Chicken & Biscuits** during filming with the biggest fan being Producer Mike Fleiss, who insisted that "if Emily finds her soul mate and gets married...Bojangles' [should] cater the wedding." Founded in 1977, Bojangles' is a Queen City institution famous for its "Cajun" spicy fried chicken, buttermilk biscuits and Southern sweet tea.
- Emily Maynard has admitted she's no stranger to bargain shopping at places like Forever 21 and Target. But when she's up for a splurge, she looks no further than Charlotte's **Capitol Clothing** in South Park, named by Isaac Mizrahi as "one of the finest boutiques in America." As for accessories, she never leaves home without **Towne & Reese** baubles. Designed locally in Charlotte, these pieces aren't afraid to use some bold hues and chunky accents mixed with delicate and classic jewelry designs.

Looking for more information on all things Emily Maynard? Visit our website at
www.charlottesgotalot.com/bachelorette

The mission of the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority is to leverage our hospitality marketing and management expertise to maximize the impact of the Charlotte region's economy...creating opportunities and jobs for our community.

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