



Clockwise from left: Old safe deposit boxes add historic flair; teller windows serve up fresh orders; nickels add up to floor coverings; bullish art reflects the address; cuisine with Asian flair.



# THE VAULT

**Location:** 2112 Bull Street

**Website:** [vaultkitchen.com](http://vaultkitchen.com)

**Must-have dish:** Chicken Claypot

A shiny new penny of sorts, The Vault provides patrons glimpses of its past. For more than 50 years, the building served Savannah as Bank of America.

The original sturdy white columns still accent the entryway. Inside a gleaming 3-ton steel vault door serves as a focal point and entry to an exclusive dining room.

"Every building has a history; just because we use the space differently doesn't mean the history is gone," says owner Ele Tran.

Interior designer Vanessa Heidersberger added other touches from the building's past to enhance the dining experience. Safety deposit boxes serve as design elements on the wall in the shape of a bull—representing the street location—and the pastiche along the front of the bar.

Inch-thick bulletproof glass that once surrounded the teller booths now encloses the kitchen and is used as vanities in the restrooms to complement the assortment of nickels collaged on the floor.

"The idea was to create a flavor of urban fun that you might see in New York City or Seattle—but in Savannah," says project architect Jose Gonzalez.

While tasteful Asian-infused cuisine and a vibrant atmosphere make dining at The Vault enjoyable, what makes it all the more special are the memories it conjures for visitors. Those who used to work or bank there are now able to withdraw new memories in this chic eatery. ■



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TOP CENTER AND BOTTOM RIGHT: SOMI BENSON/JALA