

TRAVEL + LEISURE

July 2008

“50 Reasons to Love the U.S.A Now”

The latest Las Vegas spectacle. Homemade ice cream in a small Southern town. The start of rodeo season... It's July, and what better time to explore the country—whether rediscovering a classic spot or encountering something fabulous and brand-new? On the following pages you'll find our highly opinionated state-by-state guide, with tips and ideas to inspire your next trip. From Alaska to Maine, summer in America has never been more fun. Here are 50 reasons to pack your bags and go. **11**

34 GEORGIA

Because rap and roti make a very Hotlanta. “Honestly, I didn't plan on doing it,” says rap musician Chris “Ludacris” Bridges of his decision to create Straits (793 Juniper St.; 404/877-1283; dinner for two \$80) with chef Chris Yeo, in Atlanta's Midtown neighborhood. “But I was blown away by Chris's use of spices—plus, what better way to be hands-on in your hometown than bringing something it's never seen before.” The menu is a mix of Asian-influenced small plates, with a nod to Singaporean dishes, such as *roti prata* with minced beef, and seafood in a coconut curry. Ludacris's favorite dish? The “Kung Pao lollipops” in a red-jalapeno sauce.



Chris Yeo (left) and Chris “Ludacris” Bridges.