

A Place of Her Own

At just 18, Chef Michaila Cowles Cosmus welcomes diners to Huckleberry's in Lake Lure

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Navigating the kitchen with the confidence of a seasoned culinary pro, Michaila Cowles Cosmus cheerfully instructs the staff of two through preparations for Sunday brunch. It seems a typical restaurant scene, but there is a twist: Michaila is just 18 years old and this is her eatery, Huckleberry's Restaurant & Bakery in Lake Lure.

At 16, an age when most teenagers are fretting about school exams and driver's license tests, Michaila was launching Huckleberry's Bakery, the precursor to her full-blown restaurant. Working largely on kitchen equipment that had been donated, she turned out her first professional batches of "cupboard cookies," a recipe she came up with as a child using whatever ingredients she found in the cabinets—nuts, raisins, caramels.



HOMESPUN MEAL Michaila Cowles Cosmus opened Huckleberry's Bakery in 2011, managing the Lake Lure business while earning a culinary degree from Johnson & Wales.

