



FROM ROUND TOP, *with Love*

BY ELIZABETH COSSICK

PHOTO BY JODY WILLIAMS TRAYLOR

When I first opened the screen door and stepped into The Front Porch of Vinings, it smelled like a barn – in the best way. It was the scent of sweet hay and simpler times. When I mentioned my observation to shop owner Lisa Rieves, she said it's because much of her wares had, indeed, come from a barn. Or, more accurately, from Texas's world-famous Round Top Antiques Fair.

Twice a year in Round Top, the cows are moved out of the fields and miles of antique vendors are moved in. Century-old crystal chandeliers, authentic milking stools, textiles, farm tools and jaw-dropping furnishings line the roads and fill the barns.



THE DON'T-MISS LIST

Fave finds at The Front Porch:

- Lighting! Amazing lamps and chandeliers.
- Himalayan candles, crafted in Decatur.
 - Locally made jewelry and bags.
- Curated art by regional up-and-comers.
- Authentic cowboy boots, handmade in Mexico.
- Unique dining tables and chairs. (*Stand down, Pottery Barn. The Front Porch is where it's at.*)



So, before Lisa opened The Front Porch in 2015, she knew that a trip to Round Top would yield the treasures she envisioned for her shop. With a long history of stocking and launching shops in the metro area, Lisa knows the formula for a winning establishment. But, she also knew that she wanted The Front Porch to be different – to offer sought-after antiques, handmade treasures, and items with a history all their own.

“When I think about what makes a home cozy and unique, it’s those items that have a past and a story to them,” says Lisa. “That’s what I wanted to bring to The Front Porch – the kind of treasures that are usually collected over time.”

The location of the shop itself begs for the type of wares Lisa was picturing. The Front Porch of Vinings occupies The Vest House, a historic residence next door to Old Vinings Inn. The owner

of the building had passed up several potential leasers before Lisa, saying he was waiting for the right person. Lisa’s vision for a shop filled with quality and character got the nod. “People ask, ‘How did you get this house?’ And I answer, ‘God was saving it for me,’” she says.

Lisa opened The Front Porch in the fall of 2015, and, not surprisingly, already has a strong following. She has returned to Round Top twice to restock and has also recruited select local candles, bags, jewelry and art – as well as tapping into a few “secret sources.” “I have some really great pickers who know what I’m looking for now and bring me such amazing finds,” she says.

But her most prized items are usually the ones covered in Texas dust. “I love that when a customer buys something, I know its past,” she says. “I found it in a field somewhere, brought it back to Georgia, lovingly cleaned it, and now you’re going to put it in your house. You get to continue its story.”

SOURCE | The Front Porch of Vinings. 2949 Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta. 678-424-1606. thefrontporchofvinings.com. Find them on IG, Twitter, Pinterest and Facebook.

