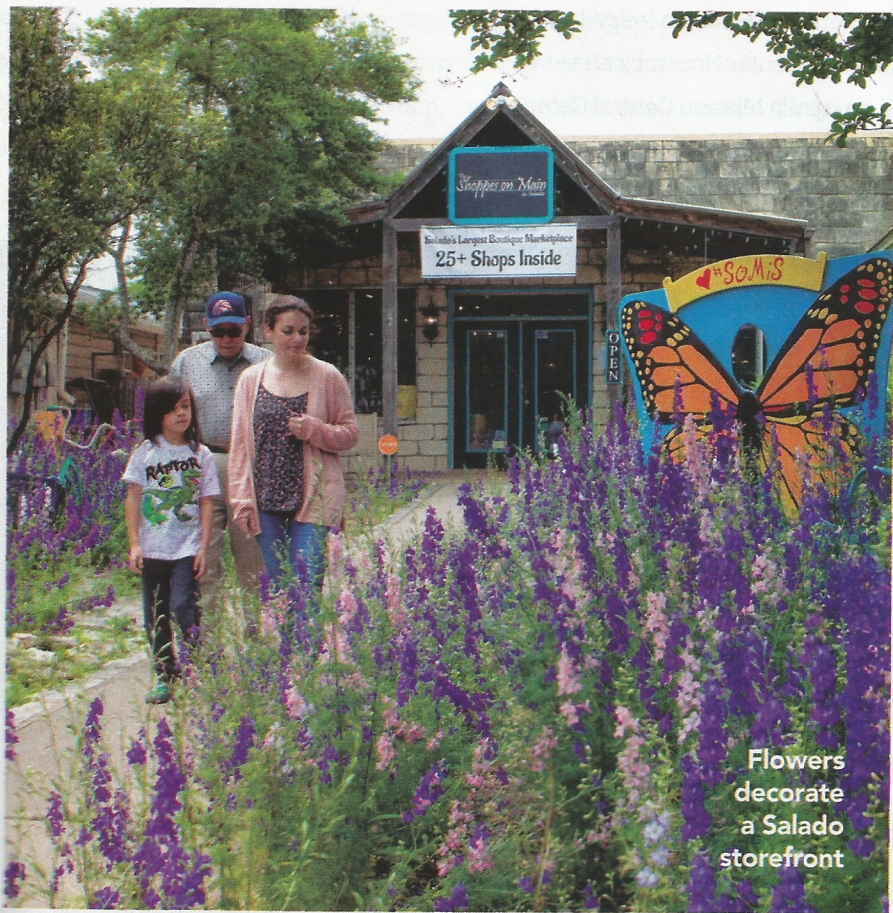


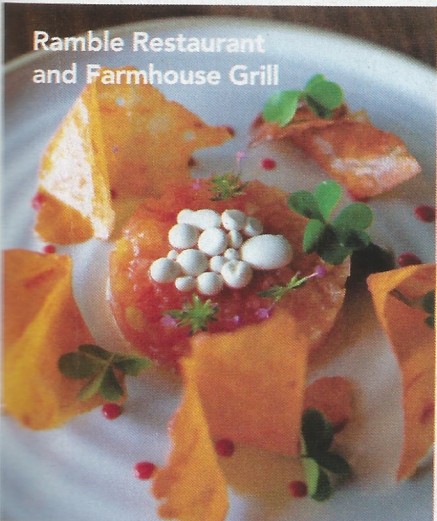
[ DAY TRIP ]

# Salado

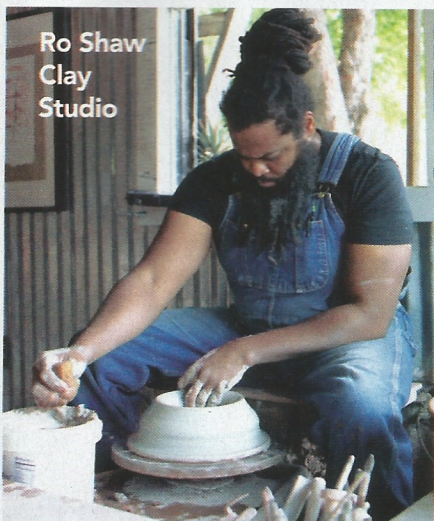
For years, construction work on Interstate 35 made visiting Salado, well, challenging. The town suffered. But happily, the work is now finished and Salado is hopping. In the last year alone, more than half a dozen shops and galleries have opened. Throw in a historic hotel renovation, several new restaurants, and a popular craft brewery, and this is a great time to go. —*Cynthia J. Drake*



Flowers decorate a Salado storefront



Ramble Restaurant and Farmhouse Grill



Ro Shaw Clay Studio

## The Perfect Day

**9 A.M.** Go for brunch (Saturdays and Sundays only) at the **STAGECOACH INN**, which dates back to the 1860s. Rumored to have hosted Sam Houston and Jesse James, the hotel and restaurant have been overhauled, but the cozy dining room still serves such traditional favorites as 1861 Hush Puppies made with the inn's original recipe. (254) 947-5111; [stagecoachsalado.com](http://stagecoachsalado.com).

**10 A.M.** Try your hand at glassblowing, pottery making, and ceramics at **SALADO GLASSWORKS** (254-947-0339; [saladoglassworks.com](http://saladoglassworks.com)) or **RO SHAW CLAY STUDIO** (254-410-6361; [roshawclaystudio.com](http://roshawclaystudio.com)), neighbors on Peddler's Alley. Then peruse the area's art studios and sculpture garden.

**12 P.M.** Order lunch at **THE SHED**, a no-frills tavern serving pulled-pork Salado Sliders and Shed (Frito) Pie. If the weather's pleasant, relax on the patio—you can even bring your pup. *Closed Tuesdays.* (254) 947-1960; [inncreek.com/the-shed](http://inncreek.com/the-shed).

**2 P.M.** A 10-minute drive north of town takes you to **CHALK RIDGE FALLS PARK**, where you can enjoy a 3-mile hike along the Lampasas River. Keep your eyes out for the waterfall and suspension bridge. (254) 939-2461.

**4 P.M.** Sample the craft microbrews at **BARROW BREWING COMPANY**, a family-friendly neighborhood hangout. (254) 947-3544; [barrowbrewing.com](http://barrowbrewing.com).

**6 P.M.** Salado newcomer **RAMBLE RESTAURANT AND FARMHOUSE GRILL** takes guests on a culinary journey with inventive small dishes and entrées. Reservations are recommended. *Closed Tuesdays.* (254) 308-2006; [ramblerestaurant.com](http://ramblerestaurant.com).

**8:15 P.M.** Catch a showing of *Salado Legends* at **TABLEROCK AMPHITHEATER**. The outdoor musical drama tells the village's history. *July 20, 27, August 3.* (254) 947-9205; [tablerock.org](http://tablerock.org).

Be sure to designate a driver if you plan to drink alcohol.