

# 944

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# Trailblazers' Picks

What's New, What's Now  
and What's Next According  
to the Local Trendsetters



Photo by The  
Midnight Socialite

## Chris Merkle

Photographer | The Midnight Socialite

themidnightsocialite.com

As the Midnight Socialite, Chris Merkle, 23, keeps the country aware of what's happening in Atlanta. He was recently ranked one of the top 15 photographers in North America by *Format* magazine. Now he's going global. "My mobile camera phone project allows people to submit anonymous pictures from their cell phones. I've received photos from across America, France, Germany, Australia and Iceland."

### Dining

**CM:** "Craft is one of my favorite restaurants right now, as well as Spice Market (the Beef Salty). I also like the Wine Bar at the St. Regis." ★

### Beauty & Fitness & Hotels

**CM:** "I run at home and workout with a medicine ball. I'm not much of a spa-goer, but for haircuts I visit Olivia Todd Salon. I always enjoy the W Hotels — any hotel that picks up the phone asking, 'What is your wish?' can get me in a lot of trouble. I like that."

### Nightlife

**CM:** "(I don't understand) free admission at clubs. How do you expect a club to provide you with good entertainment when they aren't making money? And as for the open door policy you can't pay your way into a club in LA or NY — we need to have more selectivity here, so I don't see grandmothers on the dance floor."

### Dining

**ED:** "Sweet Auburn Bistro's menu is deep with great food. The Crab and Shrimp Omelet is amazing!"

"The sweet potato pancakes at Highland Bakery are the best. I like dessert in the morning."

"Eno By Zaza has wine from all over the world, some exclusive to the restaurant, without the pretentious behavior you see among some 'wine experts.'"

### Nightlife

**ED:** "Wax Wednesdays at Ixtlan features real DJs who love music, and they battle it out for the crowd's enjoyment."

"DJ Jaycee is so sick! He knows almost everything that's been recorded in a studio and he lives, eats and tweets music all day."

"The segregation makes me sick. Tonight is white night at so-and-so" or "If you're a fan of hip-hop (which means black), then you need to be here tonight." You can't tell me a place like Seattle embraces their diversity more than Atlanta."

### Fitness & Spas & Salons

**ED:** "Coach Reggie Ball and (the trainers at) Impact fitness train everyone from pro athletes to 70-year-old ladies. It's not sexy like LA Fitness, it's just effective."

"Bliss Spas have fabulous facial treatments."

"Amber Parra at Salon Deco is great with cuts and amazing with color."

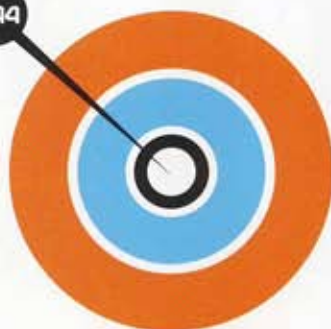
## Elle Duncan

V-103 Radio Personality | Sideline Reporter for the Atlanta Hawks, Atlanta Falcons

whoiselle.com | v103webmag.com

"I talk and play for a living, two things that I would do for free," says Elle Duncan. Once Ryan Cameron's sidekick, Duncan is now celebrating the first anniversary of her own show. "Striking out on your own can be overwhelming, but once it slows down, it seems to make more sense!"

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Photographed by Richie  
Arpino at State