

# Shop 'til you drop...

By Liz McGarr

If you've been on pretty much any stretch of I-95, you've seen the billboards. You've probably heard the radio ads. But have you taken the extra few minutes to head down to Smithfield and see what all this hoopla is about?

Just a short drive from the Triangle, Smithfield boasts an outlet shopping paradise. Factory outlet stores offering rock-bottom deals on brand names like Van Heusen, Regal Ware, Royal Doulton, Gitano, L'EGgs, Hanes, Old Mill are clustered together at the Carolina Pottery Outlet Center. A Fieldcrest Cannon outlet is nearby. And just down the road, "The Largest Discount Store In America," as J•R Tobacco Company bills itself, offers real deals on not just tobacco products, but men's and women's fragrances, pens, sunglasses, books, lighters and much more.

Take Exit 93, Walpat Road, to the **Fieldcrest Cannon Factory Outlet Store**. Here you'll find quality bed and bath fashions offered at factory-direct prices. When a redecorating urge hits and you don't have the bucks to invest in new furniture, paint or wallpaper, this is your kind of place. You'll be amazed at the difference new curtains in the kitchen, color-coordinated towels and rug in the bathroom and a new comforter with matching sheets for the bedroom will make.

Down between exits 95 and 97 is the **Carolina Pottery Outlet Mall**. This is a bonanza of factory outlet stores with something for everyone: including barbecue! These are name-brand manufacturer's outlets offering everything from shoes to books to clothes to kitchenware.

The 39 stores include:

- **Carolina Pottery:** name brand housewares
- **Aileen:** women's sportswear in misses and plus sizes
- **American Tourister:** quality luggage, business cases, travel accessories
- **Amity:** quality leather goods, accessories, travel items
- **Ann's Diamond Center and Jewelry Outlet:** full service jeweler offering selection of gems and watches
- **Banister Shoes:** 40 Brand shoe store
- **Bass Factory Outlet:** first quality men's, women's and children's Bass shoes and accessories
- **Benetton:** unique European clothing for the whole family
- **Best Buys:** ladies' sportswear
- **Bon Worth:** contemporary ladies's apparel in misses and plus sizes
- **Book Warehouse:** hardbacks, paperbacks, computer software, special purchases and gift items
- **The Boot Factory:** featuring Laredo and Code West boots plus Australian Outback dusters, Carolina workshoes and western wear accessories
- **Bugle Boy:** men's, women's and children's contemporary sportswear
- **Capezio Shoes Factory Direct:** brand name shoes from Capezio, Liz Claiborne, Evan Picone, Bandolino, Pappagallo and more
- **Carolina Clock Outlet:** clocks, oriental rugs, other household items
- **Carolina Linen:** name brand bed and bath fashions



- **Casual Male Big & Tall:** specialty sportswear for Big & Tall Men offering brand names like Levi, Sasson, Pierre Cardin and Sedgfield

- **Gitano Warehouse Clearance Center:** active and casual sportswear

- **Harve' Benard:** men's and ladies' dress and casual wear

- **Leather Loft:** luxury leather items

- **Le Creuset Factory Outlet:** enameled cast iron cookware from France

- **L'EGgs, Hanes, Bali Factory Outlet:** name brand hosiery, underwear, lingerie, socks, activewear and more

- **Manhattan Factory Store:** fashion brand names

- **Nike Factory Store:** name brand active and casual wear

- **Old Mill:** first quality ladies's fashions

- **The Paper Factory:** complete line of party goods, gift wrap, greeting cards and more

- **Prestige Fragrance & Cosmetics:** name brand cosmetics and fragrances

- **Regal Ware Outlet Store:** cookware and kitchenware

- **The Ribbon Outlet:** over 3,000 varieties of ribbons and trims, also craft supplies, gifts and accessories

- **Royal Doulton:** chinaware, giftware, figurines, character jugs, childsware and crystal

- **RWP Furniture:** indoor and outdoor casual furniture

- **Specials:** Levi's and Docker's shirts, blouses, jeans, jackets for the whole family

- **Toy Liquidators:** name brand toys such as Fisher Price, Playskool, Milton Bradley, Mattel and more

- **Van Heusen:** fashions

- **Westport, Ltd.:** top labels in women's fashions including Westport, Ltd., Princeton Club, Atrium and Melano Design group

There is also a food court where you can refuel yourself and family between stores. **Nik's Pizza, Roz's Barbecue & Fried Chicken, Stormin' Normans and The Vinegar Pie** are found here.

The stores at Carolina Pottery Outlet Center offer at least 30% to 70% off regular retail prices.

Down to Exit 97 and pull into **J•R Tobacco Company**. The billboards that line I-95 don't lie; this is a huge discount store where you can rack up on the bargains. If you've ever wondered what a half-million carton of cigarettes looked like, this is the place to go. J•R's also offers the largest selection of cigars in the world plus snuff and chewing tobacco.

# J•R

Smoke isn't the only aroma at J•R's. You can find men's and women's fragrances, name brand and "designer fragrance knockoffs" at far below retail prices. You'll find names like Anne Klein, Anais Anais, Cassini, Halston, Giorgio, Gucci, Aramis, Obsession, Paco Rabanne and Polo.

J•R Tobacco Company also has Mont Blanc pens, Cross pens, Ray-Ban sunglasses, Swiss Army knives, Zippo lighters, Hoffsritz cutlery. Plus thousands of books starting at \$1.00.

Take a day and head down to Smithfield and the bargain bonanza located between Exits 93 and 97 off I-95. The name brands won't be all you recognize; you'll probably see some familiar faces as well. It may not be world-famous, but it ain't no secret among dedicated shoppers either.