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### Willistown Township, Malvern

This home is one of four structures on the property. Situated on 5 acres, the original home dates back to the early 1700's with additions from the early 1800's to present. There is a carriage barn that has been completely renovated, a kennel room, a remodeled one bedroom cottage for guests, an 1800's stone bank barn. The main residence has undergone a 5 year total restoration, which features 5 bedrooms, 3 full & 4 partial baths. A wine cellar & wine tasting room. A grand first floor master bedroom suite. The highest of quality in moldings of solid cherry. The finest in stone & tile. An in ground heated pool & spa. Priced at \$2,300,000.



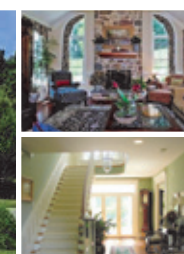
### Old Barn, Malvern

Awesome Horse Property In The Heart Of Willistown Township. Custom built Chester County Stone & Stucco residence featuring 4 bedrooms, 4 full baths, plus 3 partial baths. Level 4.2 acres, quality built stone and framed 6 stall bank barn includes tack room, shower stall, automatic water fillers for each stall, hayloft and workshop, 3 paddocks with 2 run in sheds plenty of fenced area plus sand ring. Separate 2 bay garage with 2nd floor studio. Extensive hacking located right across the street. High end tile stone and granite throughout. It is an entertainer's delight, a heated in-ground pool and spa, private setting but yet convenient location. \$1,250,000.



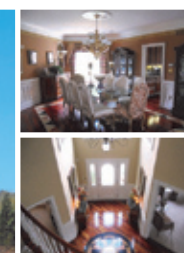
### Dovecote, Malvern

Prime location in Malvern, in award winning Great Valley Schools. Premium 8+ acres on end of cul de sac lot. This custom home features over 10,000 sqft of living space. 6 bedrooms, 6 full and 2 partial baths, heated in-ground swimming pool and spa, lush professional landscaping and hardscaping, full finished walkout lower level to include billiard room and controlled wine room. This is an entertainers delight with a true gourmet kitchen. Highest quality construction, master bedroom suite includes fireplace, unique silo sitting room, and extensive custom built-in closet storage. Available immediately. Priced to sell at \$1,995,000.



### Whitehorse Meadows, Charlestown Township

Attractively priced at \$1,250,000 this residence offers a premium end of the cul de sac 3.6 acres and an impressive circular driveway with fountain and English gardens. Extensive landscaping and hardscaping. 5 bedrooms, 3 full, 3 partial baths. The entire home is elegantly appointed with professional decorating, extensive site finished Brazilian Cherry hardwood flooring throughout, formal living room with fireplace, over sized formal dining room with butlers pantry and a true gourmet kitchen. Award winning Great Valley School District. If you are looking for quality, location and exceptional value, this executive residence is a must-see!



### Tuckaway Trail, West Chester

Former model home with over \$250,000 in spectacular upgrades. Picturesque views from premium corner lot. Grande 2-story entry foyer with turned staircase. In-laid marble and cherry Brazilian hardwood flooring throughout first floor. Conservatory room, wet bar, oversized gourmet chefs kitchen, 5 bedrooms with individual baths, 3-car attached garage, walking distance to club house of Broad Run Golf and Country Club. Quick settlement okay. This spectacular residence is also available to be purchase furnished. This residence is offered for sale at \$779,000.

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<i>Barron's</i> – Top 100 Women Financial Advisors (from 2006)
<i>Fortune</i> – One of America's Top 100 Independent Advisors (2008)
<i>Wealth Manager</i> – 50 Most Influential Women in Wealth (2009)
<i>Worth</i> – One of the Nation's Top Wealth Advisors (2009,2010,2011)
<i>The 50 Top Women in Wealth</i> – <i>Wealth Manager Magazine</i> (May 2010)
<i>Philadelphia Business Journal</i> – #2 Top Wealth Advisor (2010)
<i>Barron's</i> – Top 1,000 Financial Advisors (from 2006) <i>Only 40 Recognized in Pennsylvania</i>

*Raised in Radnor, PA, Patricia Brennan has been providing Wealth Management advice **right here in West Chester** for over 25 years. She is a Georgetown University graduate and earned her CFP® designation in 1990. She is a recognized leader in her industry and serves on the National Advisory Board for Royal Alliance. On a local level, Patti, her husband, Ed, and their four children reside in **West Chester**, where she is also active in her community. Patti currently serves as a board member for the Chester County Economic Development Council, Cuddle My Kids, and was recently appointed to the Board of Trustees for The Chester County Hospital and Health System.*

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#### Londonerry Township

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## Publisher's Letter

Welcome to our **8th Annual Dining Guide** featuring “The Best of the Best” – covering almost 100 of the best area restaurants. We share our picks for the Best Newcomers, Places to Watch, Best Chef’s Tables, and much more. Let us be your guide to great dining in our area throughout the year.

Also, welcome to our new larger-size *County Lines Magazine*. It was a hard decision, abandoning the convenience of 35 years and over 400 issues of our digest-size magazine. But our readers and advertisers spoke. They wanted more space, bigger photos, a bigger look. We made a mock-up. We surveyed. We agreed. It felt ... liberating! We hope you agree.

In January’s Dining Guide, we start the year off by celebrating the flavors, textures and history of Chester County, the creativity of its chefs, and the variety of its restaurateurs. Dining with history, dining in West Chester, shopping at farmers markets in winter, and eating invasive plant species — yes, you read that right! We hope you’ll try the delicious choices our area offers!

In the future, we’ll continue our usual editorial schedule, emphasizing what’s unique, interesting and local. Next month, we feature fine homes. In March, antiques. And so on. Our website, *CountyLinesMagazine.com*, has the complete schedule.

While you’re at the website, you’ll notice it’s another way to read *County Lines* — current and back issues. Plus a searchable calendar of area events. And search our advertiser directory for the best goods and services. Just click: very green, very easy!

If you’re already a *County Lines* reader, thank you. We hope you enjoy our coverage, our larger format, our wider distribution of the magazine. If you’re reading for the first time, we hope you’ll become a regular and that you’ll join us on Facebook (lots of give-aways).

To find where your next copy is available, click “Get A Copy” at our website. Visiting advertisers is a great way to get the magazine. It’s free! Or, buy a copy at Barnes & Noble, Wegmans, Giant, Whole Foods, Chester County Book & Music Co., and other newsstands.

Thank you for reading *County Lines* and Happy New Year!



Ed Malet

# COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

## ANNUAL DINING GUIDE

Volume XXXV, Number 5

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VOLUME 35, NUMBER 5 January 2012

# COUNTY LINES



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Cover photo: Surf and turf dining in the Hotel DuPont's Green Room.

Photos at top, clockwise from left: i-Pasta, The Whip, Classic Dinner, Daddy Mims' Creole BYOB.



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# Good to Know

Just a few things we thought  
you'd like to know for January.



**Planning for Next School Year.** Open house season at independent schools is gearing up again, so parents should get out their calendars and start their research.

A good place to start: *County Lines'* 6th Annual Guide to Education, developed in partnership with **PA Assn. of Independent Schools (PAIS)**, arriving in mailboxes in February. The Guide includes articles about schools with history (many with over 100 years), services for students with learning differences, camps that add learning to summer, a directory of area schools, and more.

*CountyLinesMagazine.com* has an updated list of open houses.

**Read Local.** If you didn't get a copy for Christmas, run to your nearest independent bookstore to buy **Chester County Fiction**. Spend an afternoon with 13 local authors telling 16 short stories based in and around Chester County.

Organized by author Jim Breslin, whose story was inspired by a Jamie Wyeth painting in the Brandywine River Museum, the collection involves loss, violence and heartbreak. Perfect winter reading. Watch authors talk about their work on YouTube for multi-media fun.

Get copies at **Chester County Book & Music Co.**, 975 Paoli Pk., West Chester, 610-696-1661; *ccbmc.com*.



**Fun Clinics.** Direct from Freeport, Maine, the new **L.L. Bean** store at King of Prussia Mall drew the holiday shopping crowds to this first Philly-area store.

For January, they'll continue attracting attention with free activities. Prepare for outdoor adventures with their in-store experts at 7:30, Tuesday nights. Register for Snowshoeing Basics, Adventure Technology, Camping in the Cold (brrrr!), Essential Knots for Fishing. Leon Leonwood Bean would be proud. 160 N. Gulph Rd., King of Prussia, 888-473-1828; *LLBean.com*.



**New Year's Resolution for Your Home.** Add beauty to your life with a visit to newly opened **Beauty – Art, Antiques & Rugs**, where you'll find a carefully curated collection of foundational, statements pieces and distinctive accessories for your

home. Owners Paula and Craig Jackson have collected a striking array of artwork, furniture, rugs and unusual accent pieces that can transform ordinary space into a warm and personal place to call home.

With 10 art exhibits planned for this year and an artist's reception in mid-February, there are more reasons to visit. 3857 Providence Rd., Newtown Square, 610-353-4569; *BeautyArtGallery.net*.

**Awards.** Great news for **Gateway Medical Associates** and all of us who may need their services: The National Committee for Quality Assurance has recognized Gateway's primary care physicians for fulfilling the requirements of a Level 3 Patient Centered Medical Home.

What's that, you ask? It's the committee's highest level of patient care recognition and a great resource for our area. Achieving this distinction involves a review of a physician's performance of patient care.

At nine area locations, Gateway offers a full spectrum of primary care — preventive, acute, chronic care — using integrated technology. All good news! Read more at *GatewayDoctors.com*.

**Capture Spring in a Jar.** Build your own magic indoor garden and personal eco-system with the help of the experts at **Terrain at Styers**. Part science experiment, part design project, terrarium building has become more popular lately, especially among those looking for a low-maintenance part of their life.

For a miniature tropical garden or small slice of desert landscape, bring your hand-blown glass container or empty goldfish bowl, January 12, to the Terrarium Workshop (\$25 covers potting materials and wine; plants and containers for purchase).

Gardening doesn't grab you? Stop by for "Clean Start" recipe tasting (easy, nutritious) or a hot toddies demonstration. More ways to jazz up January. 914 Baltimore Pk., Glen Mills, 877-583-7724; *ShopTerrain.com*.





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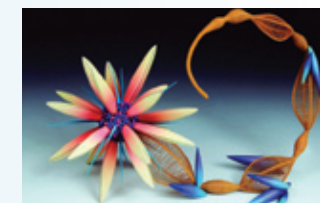
## Of Special Note



### 10th Annual "A Taste of Phoenixville"

January 19

Join this premier food, wine, beer event featuring selections from some of Phoenixville's finest restaurants and caterers. Live music and dancing. Benefits the Good Samaritan Shelter. Franklin Commons, 400 Franklin Blvd. \$75-\$85. 6 to 10. 610-933-9305; TasteOfPhoenixville.com.



### Wayne Art Center CraftForms

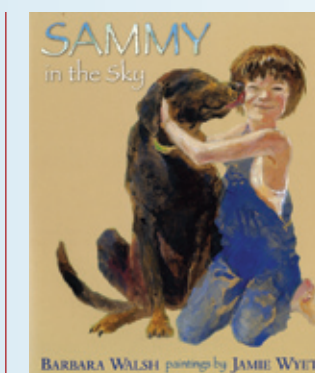
Through January 21  
Catch the final days at one of the leading contemporary craft exhibitions in the country. 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. Mon-Fri, 9 to 5; Sat, 10 to 4. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.



### 6th Annual Lemon Ball

January 14

Wear your best yellow gown and cummerbund to Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation's annual fundraiser, which features a lively evening of cocktails, dinner, raffle, silent and live auctions and entertainment. Benefits research projects to find a cure for childhood cancer. Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market St., Philadelphia. 6:30 p.m. \$125-\$250. 610-649-3034; AlexsLemonade.org.



### Jamie Wyeth Illustrations at the Brandywine River Museum

Through January 15

Be among the first to see 20 mixed media illustrations created by Jamie Wyeth for the recently published children's book by Barbara Walsh, *Sammy in the Sky*, when the exhibit opens at the Brandywine River Museum, Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Daily 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.. \$6-\$10. 610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org.



### DuPont Theatre Presents Blast!

January 31 - February 5

Experience the excitement! Winner of the 2001 Tony for Best Special Event on Broadway, a thrilling performance where athleticism, musical talent, kaleidoscopic movement and showmanship merge into an art form that is competitive and entertaining. 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. Tues-Thurs, 7:30 p.m.; Fri-Sat, 8; Wed, Sat, Sun, 2. \$35-\$70. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com.



# Upcoming Events

## Noteworthy in January . . .

Through September 7

**"IN STITCHES: Unraveling Their Stories."** Learn how commonplace pieces become heirloom treasures at this exhibition put together by Westtown School and Chester County Historical Society. Enjoy a large selection of samplers and other embroidery made by girls from Chester County and the surrounding area 200 years ago. CCHS, 225 N. High St., West Chester. Wed-Sat, 10 to 5. 610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org.



January 14

**Concert by Melomanie.** This group presents provocative pairings of early and contemporary works in innovative chamber music collaborations. Grace United Methodist Church, 900 Washington St., Wilmington. 8 pm. \$15-\$20. 302-764-6338; Melomanie.org.

January 14-22

**The Philadelphia Home Show.** Discover what's new in home remodeling, decor and more. Meet over 500 experts and see thousands of products and services. The Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th & Arch Sts., Philadelphia. Fri-Sat, 10 to 9; Sun, 10 to 6; Mon, 10 to 7; Tues-Thurs, 4 to 9. \$3-\$13. 888-254-0882; PhillyHomeShow.com.



January 20-March 25

**Longwood Gardens Orchid Extravaganza.** A dazzling world of orchids with thousands from around the world, including a living orchid curtain, orchid topiaries and columns, an orchid waterfall and other displays. Experience 20 rooms of pure sunshine where spring has never left, and you won't want to either. 1001 Longwood Rd. (Rt. 1), Kennett Square. Daily 9 to 5. \$8-\$18. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

## Art & Craft Shows

Ongoing

**Chester County Art Association.** A nonprofit, cultural organization promoting participation in the arts through instruction, exhibitions and community outreach. 100 N. Bradford Ave. 610-696-5600; ChesCoArt.org.

Through January 15

**16th Annual Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital Art Ability Exhibit & Sale.** Artists from around the world with physical, cognitive, visual and hearing disabilities submit their

work to this juried exhibition and sale. 414 Paoli Pk., Malvern. Daily 9 to 9. 484-596-5710; MainLineHealth.org/ArtAbility.

Through January 21

**Wayne Art Center Exhibit – "Green from the Get Go: International Contemporary Basketmakers."** 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. Mon-Fri, 9 to 5; Sat, 10 to 4. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.

January 18-March 26

**Art Trust Gallery Exhibit – "Ethereal Material."** Diverse fiber artists explore interlaced materials, investigating the extremely

delicate/substantive, graceful/strong, temporal/unearthly, to discover new ways of interpreting what we observe. Artists' reception, **Feb. 10**, 5 to 8:30. Meridian Bank, 16 W. Market St., West Chester. Weekdays 9 to 4:30. 484-467-1664; TheArtTrust.com.



## Family Fun

January 24

**Children's Series at the DuPont Theatre – Harriet Tubman & The Underground Railroad.** Harriet's story of self-sacrifice, dedication and survival is told in a series of theatrical scenes that include dance, dialogue and music of the period. Gr. 3-8. DuPont Theatre, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. 9:30 and noon. \$6. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com.



January 14-16

**Hagley Museum & Library's Invention Convention.** Children enjoy three days of inventing, experimenting and interactive educational entertainment. Activities include a Create-an-Invention Workshop, a Tinkering Table to take apart appliances and learn how they work, a science-related scavenger hunt and a Toddler Tools area for the youngest with play sets from the kitchen and carpentry shop. Hagley Museum & Library, 298 Buck Rd., Wilmington. 10 to 4. \$4-\$6. 302-658-2400; Hagley.org.

January 16-March 3

**Longwood Gardens OrKID Days.** Each OrKID Day includes a kids' performance, craft and planned activity. **Jan. 16**, Sharon Katz & The Peace Train; **Feb. 25**, Ken Cowan, organ; **Mar. 3**, Daria – World Music for Children. 1001 Longwood Rd. (off Rt. 1), Kennett Square. \$8-\$18. Performances: noon and 2; 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.



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# VoxAmaDeus | 2011-2012 SEASON XXV

## Silver Anniversary Season

### **GERSHWIN GALA** **AMA DEUS ENSEMBLE** **FRIDAY, JANUARY 6 AT 8 PM** **Kimmel Center – Perelman Theater**

### **RENAISSANCE CANDLEMAS** **VOX RENAISSANCE CONSORT** **FRIDAY, JANUARY 27 AT 8 PM** **Old St. Joseph’s Church, Philadelphia**

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 AT 6 PM** **Daylesford Abbey, Paoli**

FOR INFORMATION AND TICKETS 610.688.2800 | [www.VoxAmaDeus.org](http://www.VoxAmaDeus.org)

[www.KimmelCenter.org](http://www.KimmelCenter.org) | 215.893.1999

## Shows & Exhibitions

February 1-5

**The Atlantic City Boat Show.** Celebrate life on the water. Climb aboard hundreds of boats for every budget and lifestyle, including luxury motor and sailing yachts, sport fishers, performance boats and personal watercraft. You'll find demonstrations, hands-on clinics and free boating advice as well as Scuba diving in a tropically warm pool and a powerboat docking challenge. Atlantic City Convention Center, One Miss America Way, Atlantic City, NJ. Wed-Fri, 11 to 8; Sat, 10 to 8; Sun, 10 to 5. \$14. 718-707-0716; ACBoatShow.com.



## First Friday, Second Saturday

January 6

**First Fridays.** Stroll through area towns to find exhibits, galleries, restaurant specials, entertainment and extended hours. **Berwyn,** 610-203-4543; BerwynDevonBusiness.com. **Kennett Square,** 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. **Lancaster City,** 717-509-ARTS; LancasterArts.com. **A Main Line ARTitude,** with free trolley from Bryn Mawr to Ardmore, 610-642-4040; FirstFridayMainLine.com. Oxford, 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org. **Phoenixville,** 610-933-3070; PhxFirstFriday.com. **Wayne,** 610-687-7698; FirstFridayWayne.com. **West Chester,** 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com.

January 14

**Media's Second Saturdays.** Media's version of First Fridays. 610-566-5210; MediaArtsCouncil.org.

## Fundraising & Benefits

January 21

**Sing for Hope: 4th Annual Winter Opera Gala.** An evening of exceptional vocal performances benefitting Global Family, which sponsors community-based education programs around the world. Fulton Theatre, 12 N. Prince St., Lancaster. 8 pm. \$20-\$100. 717-397-7425; EastCoast.MCC.org/WinterOperaGala.

## Gardens

January 9

**Lancaster County Garden Club Presents "Beautiful Enough to Eat: Plants to Enjoy in the Garden and on Your Plate."** Explore beautiful and delicious plants from every corner of the garden; edible options for sun or shade, trees, shrubs, perennials, vines and aquatic plants. Salem United Church of Christ, 2312 Marietta Ave., Rohrerstown. 7:30 pm. \$5 donation. 717-872-5192; LancasterGardenClub.org.

## Local Farm Markets

See article in this issue.

## Museums

Through January 8

**Winterthur Museum.** "Paint, Pattern & People: Furniture of Southeastern PA, 1725-1850," featuring nearly 200 objects focusing on the culture and creativity of the area's English- and German-speaking inhabitants. Winterthur, Rt. 52, 6 mi. NW of Wilmington. Tues-Sun, 10 to 5. \$5-\$18. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.

Through February 26

**Delaware Museum of Natural History Presents "Giants: African Dinosaurs."** Life-sized dinosaur skeletons from the African continent are displayed along with touchable fossils. 4840 Kennett Pk. (Rt. 52), Wilmington. Mon-Sat, 9:30 to 4:30; Sun, noon to 4:30. \$6-\$8. 302-658-9111; DelMNH.org.



D. Rentauskas, courtesy Project Exploration

January 21-March 11

**Brandywine River Museum – "Comic Catharsis: A Gift of Cartoons by William Steig."** Over 100 works donated from the artist's estate, as well as selected works for children on loan from the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art. Best known today as the creator of Shrek, William Steig first achieved fame for his cartoons and covers for *The New Yorker*. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Daily 9:30 to 4:30. \$6-\$10. 610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org.

Through April 15

**The Franklin Institute Presents "Giant Mysterious Dinosaurs."** The world's largest and most unusual dinosaurs invade The Franklin Insti-

tute for a limited time. View exotic skeletons, excavate a dig pit and watch animatronic dinosaurs come to life in this captivating, interactive exhibit. 220 N. 20th St., Philadelphia. Sun-Thurs, 9:30 to 5; Fri-Sat, 9:30 to 8. \$6-\$25. 215-448-1254; FI.edu.

February 3-26

**The Demuth Museum – "An Architect's Influence" Invitational Show.** Showcasing the work of contemporary artists from Lancaster and the surrounding region. 120 E. King St., Lancaster. Tues-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 1 to 4. 717-299-9940; Demuth.org.

## Music, Music, Music

Ongoing

**Kennett Flash.** An all-ages concert venue where artists perform in an intimate setting. All genres of music — folk, rock, country, blues, jazz and family shows. Tues, Open Mic Nights. **Jan. 4,** The Jazz Bridge Project; **Jan. 5,** Better Than Bacon Improv Comedy Troupe; **Jan. 13,** Freedy Johnston; **Jan. 14,** Fusionhouse; **Jan. 20,** Jon Herington Band; **Jan. 28,** Chuck Anderson Trio. 102 Sycamore Alley, Kennett Square. 484-732-8295; KennettFlash.org.

Through February 11

**Keswick Theatre.** **Jan. 18,** former lead vocalist/keyboardist from the Guess Who, Burton Cummings, \$29.50-\$39.50; **Jan. 28,** comedian Kathleen Madigan, \$26.50-\$32.50; **Feb. 10,** Javier Colon, winner of NBC's *The Voice*, \$29.50-\$39.50; **Feb. 11,** Bruce Hornsby, \$29.50-\$49.50. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. 8 pm. 215-572-7650; KeswickTheatre.com.

January 6, 27, 29

**Vox Ama Deus Concerts: Gershwin Gala – Jan. 6,** including variations on "I Got Rhythm," "An American in Paris," "Concerto in F" and "Rhapsody in Blue." Kimmel Center, Perelman Theater, Broad and Spruce Sts., Philadelphia. 8 pm. \$60. **Renaissance Candlemas – Jan. 27,** Old St. Joseph's Church, 321 Willings Alley, Philadelphia. 8 pm. **Jan. 29,** Daylesford Abbey, 220 S. Valley Rd., Paoli. 6 pm. \$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

January 7

**The Colonial Theatre – Eric Johnson Electric Band.** One of the premier guitar players in contemporary music, Eric Johnson Electric Band with very special guest Andy McKee. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 8 pm. \$19.50-\$36.50. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

January 21

**Hadley Memorial Fund Concert: Slyte of Hand.** Three musicians perform on hurdy-gurdy bagpipes, Celtic harp, viola, hammered dulcimer, pennywhistle, mandolin, guitar, bodhran, spoons, chalumeau and vocals. Ken-



nett Friends Meetinghouse, N. Union and W. Sickie Sts., Kennett Square. 7:30. Free. 610-444-1855; HadleyFund.org.



January 22, 29, February 4  
Chesco Pops Winter Concert Series: "From Basin Street to Broadway: A Tribute to America's Musical Roots." The Chesco Dixieland Band is featured performing Dixieland jazz favorites. **Jan. 22**, Fugett Middle School, 500 Ellis La., West Chester; **Jan. 29**, Phoenixville Area High School, 386 City Line Ave., Phoenixville; **Feb. 4**, Oxford Area High School, 705 Waterway Rd., Oxford. All concerts, 3 pm. \$5-\$15. 610-701-5701; ChesCoPops.org.

January 28  
TurtleDove Folk Club Presents The Dukes of Destiny. A traditional steamy blues/dance, featuring a wide variety of music, from Louis Jordan-styled swing to soul. West Grove Friends Meeting House, 153 E. Harmony Rd., West Grove. 8 pm. \$15-\$17. 802-431-3433; TurtleDove.org.

## Outdoor Fun

Through February  
**Tyler Arboretum Events.** **Jan. 14, Feb. 11**, Family Night Hike, 6:30 pm; **Jan. 21**, Homemade Bird Feeders, 10 am; **Feb. 4, 11**, Maple Sugaring Exploration, 10:30 am; **Feb. 11**, Gourd Crafting Workshop, 10 am; **Feb. 18**, Owl Prowl, 5 pm; **Feb. 25**, Pancake Breakfast and Maple Sugaring Celebration, 8 am. 515 Painter Rd., Media. Phone for registration. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.



## Bring Your Binoculars

*Opportunities for  
Winter Birding Expeditions:*

January 17, February 16  
**Tyler Arboretum's Birding Trips.** **Jan. 17**, Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge and Brigantine Island, NJ. 7 am to 5 pm, \$65. **Feb. 16**, Cape Henlopen Area Birding Field Trip, 7 am to 7 pm, \$95. 515 Painter Rd., Media. Trips include transportation, beverages and a snack; bring lunch and binoculars. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.

Through January  
**Valley Forge Audubon Society and John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove Bird Walks.** **Jan. 15, 28**, Audubon Center at Mill Grove, 1201 Pawlings Rd., Audubon, 8 am. **Jan. 21**, Black Rock Sanctuary, 953 Black Rock Rd., Phoenixville, 8 am. **Jan. 22**, Exton Park Pond, E. Swedesford Rd. and Church Farm La., W. Whiteland, 8 am. 610-666-5593; ValleyForgeAudubon.org.

## Theater

Through January 15  
**The Sound of Music.** The Rodgers and Hammerstein classic at The Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Phone or check the website for curtain times. \$37-\$60. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

January 11-February 5  
**Fallow.** A play about what holds us to the families we are born into and how we seek to make new families of our own. People's Light & Theatre, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Tues-Thurs, 7:30; Fri-Sat, 8; Sun, 7; Wed, Sat, Sun, 2 pm. \$25-\$45. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

January 22  
**Comedian Demetri Martin at DuPont Theatre.** An evening of hilarious stand-up by Martin, who has been a writer on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* and a contributor on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. 7 pm. \$35.75. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com.

January 31-February 5  
**Blast!.** See Of Special Note.

## Tours & Lectures

Through January 8  
**Yuletide at Winterthur.** Holiday displays from past Yuletides and holiday traditions of Americans from the Colonial period through World War II. Rt. 52, 6 mi. NW of Wilmington. Free to Winterthur members and is included in general adm. (\$5-\$18) for nonmembers. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.

Through January 8  
**Christmas at Longwood.** Dazzling floral displays, stunning trees, holiday music. New this year, Longwood is transformed into a gingerbread fantasy featuring imaginative displays throughout the Gardens. Rt. 1, Kennett Square. 9 to 9. \$8-\$18. **Timed admission tickets only.** 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

Through January 8  
**Victorian Holiday Tours: "A Currier & Ives Christmas."** Experience Christmas at the turn of the 20th century at historic Pennypacker Mills. The theme throughout the house this year will reflect Currier & Ives winter scenes. 5 Haldeman Rd., Schwenksville. Tues-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 1 to 4. Free (\$2 donation). 610-287-9349; MontcoPA.org.

February 1-28  
**Brandywine Valley Wine Trail Member Wineries Present "Wine & Chocolate Month."** Bring your sweetheart and celebrate with 8 wineries of the Brandywine Valley Wine Trail as you enjoy delicious wine and chocolate tastings and other romantic events each weekend in February. Visit their website for details of events planned at each winery. 866-390-4367; BVWineTrail.com. ♦



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CountyLinesMagazine.com





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*The Best  
of the  
Best* 2012

Paramour

*Wow*

Wow, what a wonderful year for new restaurants! Especially in Wayne, which added five more to an already vibrant dining scene. We bring you the scoop on a bevy of recent additions.

In this, our 8th Best of the Best roundup, we noted the continuing interest in farm-to-table dining and sustainability — from using local and sustainably sourced ingredients to adding solar panels to restaurant roofs. Spinoffs and expansions by established restaurants are another happy trend.

As always, we highlight locally owned and operated restaurants, many that are family affairs and all that add to the pleasure of living and dining in our area. We searched and surveyed to find what's special about each of the almost 100 choices here.

So, read on and start making plans for a restaurant-rich 2012!



**BEST NEWCOMERS**

**Paramour**

139 E. Lancaster Ave., Wayne / 610-977-0600

[ParamourWayne.com](#)

Oh, Paramour, mon amour. This chic replacement for Taquet in the iconic Wayne Hotel was worth waiting two years for. Swanky comes to mind to capture an uptown vibe inside four dining areas: lush lobby lounge, sleek bistro bar with banquettes, dining room with 8-seat raw bar by the open kitchen, and outside veranda. Chef Michael Giampa (Striped Bass, Brasserie Perrier) touts his Crudo Sampler and flatbreads as stars (try roasted eggplant & half-dried tomatoes), along with a mostly American wine list. Locals love the Striped Bass, Caramelized Cauliflower Soup, and for dessert Ricotta Donuts (watch out Nectar!). Sunday brunch, with an already acclaimed DIY Bloody Mary Bar (20 hot sauce choices), gets raves for goodies like an appetizer bar and Blue Corn Pancakes. Many reasons to check out this addition to suburban fine dining.

**Avalon Pasta Bistro**

78 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown / 610-873-

4200 / [PastaBistro.com](#)

That Chef John Brandt-Lee describes this offspring of West Chester’s Avalon Restaurant as neighborhood-oriented just hints at the story behind Avalon Pasta Bistro, in the century-old building previously housing Jasper. Financed in part through Kickstart, with pledges from the community, this cash-only BYO partnered with local Victory Brewing, which provides complimentary beer or sangria to diners. They’re also planning fundraisers with local schools. Serving a prix fixe tapas menu (pasta, plus 2 choices, \$30; early menu Tues-Fri, \$20) to

encourage sampling and sharing the rustic Italian fare, the Bistro also encourages a communal, family dining experience. With many antipasti, salads and flatbreads, plus the best pastas from big sister Avalon (Veal Cheeks Mezza Luna and Lamb Bolognese), this newcomer gets raves!

**PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT  
Talula’s Garden**

210 W. Washington Sq., Philadelphia / 215-592-7787 / [TalulasGarden.com](#)

Chester County native Aimee Olexy, whose highly acclaimed Talula’s Table (see Best Chef’s Table) put Kennett Square dining on the national map, thrives at her Philly restaurant opened last spring. Partner Stephen Starr adds one more to his ever-growing restaurant galaxy. No one is surprised Talula’s Garden is a knockout, decorated with reclaimed materials, or that the seasonal American fare has Philadelphians buzzing. Fans cheer Olexy’s culinary expertise, including her contagious love affair with cheese played out at her elaborate pink-granite cheese bar in the cozy-chic dining room. Worth a trip to Center City.

**Ella’s American Bistro**

214 Sugartown Rd., Wayne

[Check them on Facebook](#)

[EllasAmericanBistro.com](#)

At press time, Ella’s promised a December 19 opening for this anticipated addition to the long line of new Wayne restaurants and longer line of farm-to-table followers (too soon to coin the term FTT?). Chef Matt Schuler (Viking Cooking School) tempts diners with online photos of forthcoming dishes for brunch, lunch and dinner. Drool over Chicken Balantine with braised root vegetables and Caramelized Leek Risotto



Xilantro; photo: Jason Varney

Cake roasted pulled chicken. Drink local beers and sip classic cocktails at the bar made from an organically milled sycamore (really?). Located in Devon Square shopping center and backed by the folks from Devon BMW and Blue Horse, Ella’s is trying to keep the suspense sustainable, too.

**PLACES TO WATCH**

**Xilantro**

103 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne / 484-580-8415

[Xilantro.com](#)

“Fine Mexican cuisine and Tequila bar” sums up Xilantro, the newer of two Mexican restaurants on North Wayne Ave., this one from the Sarape Restaurants group. Chef Juan Pablo Quiroz’s menu features authentic, yet progressive food — tableside guac in lava stone bowls and mole sauced entrées get praise. The bar’s 100+ premium tequilas and specialty cocktails (low-cal margaritas from a family recipe) are the perfect complement. The décor is sleek, stylish, sexy, with a South Beach vibe, and hints of the fun ambiance of Garces’ Distrito, with glass and green neon, and no VW in the window. Even the servers get raves — how rare for a new place?

**Matador**

110 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne / 484-580-8303

[MatadorRestaurante.com](#)

This “Spanish Mexican Tapas Tequila Bar” opened a year ago to satisfy diners’ desires to sample many dishes and drink tequila. A two-story beauty, Matador combines dark leather, heavy wood, Spanish fixtures, with tableside service of the house guac, suckling pig (Cochinillo Asado) and Spanish

coffee (it’s flaming delicious) to create an Old World feel. The tapas menu offers veg, chicken, meat and fish options (love the ceviche), plus regular entrées and specialties. They’ve hosted live Flamenco night, Herradura Tequila Dinners, and late night Happy Hours (11 to 1!), plus tequila flights for designated passengers. Last count, the tequila list topped 148. Looks like a tequila contest with the newcomer across Wayne Ave.!

**Hogfish Bar and Grill**

372 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne

610-688-9300 / [HogfishWayne.com](#)

Fish-to-table isn’t yet a niche dining category, in part because of few seafood-oriented options here. Hogfish hopes to change that with a menu that’s “95% seafood” and featuring hogfish (sweet, white-meat snapper) flown in from Florida in Fish Tacos, Po’ Boys, Fish & Chips, and a grilled entrée with tropical salsa, Key West tropical rice. This casual, Florida fish experience restaurant is heavy on the heart-healthy options, for which Chef Bob Donovan relies on salsas and fruit relishes, not artery-clogging sauces. With a friendly bar, Happy Hour menu (Hogfish sampler \$7), burgers and strip steak for meat-eaters, and daily specials, you can go hog wild.

**Redhound Grille**

128 Paoli Pk., Paoli / 484-318-8047

[RedhoundGrille.com](#)

Good American food served in a friendly atmosphere at affordable prices is what Redhound Grille promised to bring to the former Big Easy space on Paoli Pike. Named after the owners’ Rhodesian Ridgeback, Red-

hound mixes in dog-friendly events (Give a Dog a Bone), live music, lively bar, and daily specials on a menu with local, organic ingredients. Chef Shane Magee serves up plenty of veggie options —Vegetable Risotto, Moroccan Grilled Vegetables, plus House Special Veggie burger or a Grilled Vegetable Sandwich! Dog art on the walls; but not all red dogs.

**LaVerona**

114 E. State St., Kennett Square

610-444-2244 / [LaVeronaPA.com](#)

Kennett Square welcomed a new Italian restaurant (where Newton’s was) in November to positive buzz. It’s a family operation run by two brothers and a cousin, all experienced restaurateurs, with stints at Giuseppe’s in Newtown Square and Duling Kurtz in Exton. Classic Italian dishes appeal in the white-tablecloth dining room serving house-made gnocchi, ravioli, tortellini and eggplant parmesan. Tempting veal specialties include Saltimbocca, Marsala, and Parmesan. Black

Angus Rib Eye Steak is prepared with exotic mushrooms and caramelized onions; Pan-Seared North Atlantic Salmon comes with cannellini beans and broccoli rabe. Expect tasty pies from the brand new pizza oven.

**BEST NEW VENTURES**

**Sangkee Noodle Bowl**

4755 West Chester Pk., Newtown Square

610-353-5353 / [SangkeeNoodleBowl.com](#)

Chinese food fans for miles applauded the opening of Sangkee Noodle Bowl in place of Parker’s Prime. A collaboration between Michael Chow (Sangkee franchise) and Win Signature Restaurants (Teikoku, Azie), they offer almost too many choices. From classics like General Tso’s, to Sangkee’s famous Peking Duck, and all kinds of comfort in large noodle bowls (try roasted duck), with choices: egg noodle, Mei Fun thin rice noodles, Ho Fun thick rice noodles, Thai rice noodles, Japanese Udon. Red, black and gold touches converted the former steakhouse into an upscale, yet casual place



Avalon Pasta Bistro



Ella’s American Bistro





Redhound Grille



Sangkee Noodle House

for Chinese food. A long list of Sangkee's favorites makes for dinner and many movies (Regal Theater is in Edgmont Square).

### Pepperoncini Sotto Restaurant & Bar

184 Bridge St., Phoenixville

484-924-8429 / [PepperonciniRestaurant.com](http://PepperonciniRestaurant.com)

This new arrival to Phoenixville's restaurant row has a well-regarded sister six years its senior in Conshohocken. Named after sweet, moderately hot Tuscan peppers, Pepperoncini Sotto's name is also a nod to its location below the Mainstay Inn. It's already attracting a good crowd, especially on First Fridays, with hearty, authentic Italian classics. Many sing the praises of Veal Sinatra and Award-Winning Pescatore Sotto (seafood combo, plum tomato herb sauce over cappellini). An Italian-heavy wine list, small plates menu, thin crust pizzas, weekly spe-



Pepperoncini

### The Farmhouse Bistro

39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern

610-647-8060 / [TheFarmhouseBistro.com](http://TheFarmhouseBistro.com)

Farmhouse Bistro must be the best pre-theater option in Malvern. It shares the 18th-century building that anchors People's Light & Theatre and boasts three dining rooms, plus terrace and garden dining. Evolving from Places Bistro and now operated by the theater company, the Bistro has CIA-trained Chef Ben Mayhew at the helm and a new menu of causal modern American fare. Early reviews are positive, and the idea of offering Sunday Brunch before the Holiday Pantos, complete with the Panto characters, is an early glimpse of inspired management.

### Mixx Restaurant & Bar

789 E. Lancaster Ave., Villanova

610-527-0700 / [MixxRestaurant.com](http://MixxRestaurant.com)

In October, Mixx Restaurant, the downstairs bar at Azie on Main, revamped its menu and relaunched with international small plates. With the lively bar as the centerpiece, this new direction looks promising. Chef "Chay" Vadhanachai (Teikokou, Azie on Main) offers tons of tapas plates to share — homemade potstickers, dumplings (cheesesteak, French onion soup, veggie), sliders (kobe beef, brisket, filet), flatbreads — plus choices from the raw bar and sushi rolls. Stylish black and white modern toile wallpaper with yellow accents helps mix it up.

### DESTINATION RESTAURANT Birchrunville Store Café

1403 Hollow Rd., Birchrunville

610-827-9002 / [BirchrunvilleStoreCafe.com](http://BirchrunvilleStoreCafe.com)

If you haven't visited this gem in the Chester County countryside — a *Philly Mag* perennial top pick — the question is, why not?

True, great choices abound, but Birchrunville Store Café is a true destination restaurant with tops in food, service and charm. Chef Francis Trzeciak continues to dazzle with innovative blends of French and Italian traditions that appeal but don't intimidate with simple, elegant twists on the classics. Celebrating seasonal ingredients, the changing menu brings back the faithful and newly converted to the country-charming, cash-only BYO aglow with candlelight. Savor Sliced Breasola with marinated beets, goat cheese, mache salad; Sliced Venison filet with pumpkin risotto, fresh black trumpets, sage reduction. Try the 5-course tasting menu on first Tuesdays (\$75), or experience 4-hour Private Tastings (\$100): hors d'oeuvres, plus 5 sublime courses! New Year's resolution: go now.

### BEST CHEF'S TABLE Talula's Table

102 W. State St., Kennett Square

610-444-8255 / [TalulasTable.com](http://TalulasTable.com)

A must for every foodie's bucket list for a story you'll dine out on for months. The seasonal 8-course tasting menu celebrates food with style, served exclusively to your group (8 to 12), seated at a harvest table in Talula's excellent gourmet market. Savvy servers share highlights of each course, which builds to a climax. Your favorite wine-friend can select pairings for the BYO dinner, or check Talula's suggestions. Recent highlights: Smoked Sable, crisp salami, creamy cauliflower, winter truffle. Then Oyster Stew, followed by Duck Meatballs, Slow-poached Salmon, and, deep breath, Pulled Boar Shank and Boar Strip Loin. The cheese course always impresses, and desserts, like Butternut Napoleon/hazelnut tuiles/dark chocolate tempter, dazzle. Yes, reservations must be made *exactly* one year ahead.

### BEST CHEF'S TASTING Majolica

258 Bridge St., Phoenixville

610-917-0962 / [MajolicaRestaurant.com](http://MajolicaRestaurant.com)

Magical Majolica continues to evolve, winning accolades from *Philly Mag* as #23 of the 50 top places to eat, and stars for grilled octopus (chickpeas, feta, oregano). From return of the cooking demos — followed by a feast (\$65) — to the new Sunday brunch (\$28), Andrew Deery's BYO keeps it fresh with seasonal dishes creatively prepared in an intimate space. A talented chef in the kitchen makes a Tasting Menu irresistible, so choose 6 or 8 courses (\$55, \$75) of tasty adventure. Menus change, but the 7th anniversary

menu gives a clue: potato and leek veloute, lobster sausage; char, edamame, horseradish foam, tobiko caviar; roasted suckling pig, crispy polenta; lavender-honey ice cream. Mmm Majolica.

### BEST PRIX FIXE MENU Sola

614 W. Lancaster Ave., Bryn Mawr

610-526-0123 / [SolaBYOB.com](http://SolaBYOB.com)

Touted as both a neighborhood gem and special occasion restaurant pulling diners from New Jersey and Delaware, Sola's creative, American menu with European influences, impeccably prepared and presented, continues to impress. Chef Dave Clouser gets high marks for graciousness, often answering the phone himself. Of special note for a place earning top *Zagat* food scores (27/30) is the weekday prix fixe value (\$40). Recent choices include Spanish Rock Octopus, chick pea, chorizo sausage & artichoke salad, herb pistou; Cider Brined Pork Tenderloin, vanilla scented sweet potatoes, maple-bourbon reduction, spatzle; Spiced Pumpkin Cheese Cake, ginger snap crust. Believe the accolade: ex-Sola-nt.

### BEST LOCAL, SEASONAL Restaurant Alba

7 W. King St., Malvern / 610-644-4009

[RestaurantAlba.com](http://RestaurantAlba.com)

Locovores delight at this Malvern mecca for locally sourced food prepared with respect for its flavor and producers — farmers and fishermen get a shout-out by name on the menu. High quality ingredients inspire contemporary cuisine built around the open, wood-burning grill. Chef Sean Weinberg's experience spans his parents' restaurant (Rose Tatoo), cooking with French Laundry's Thomas Keller, and time in Italy and Mexico. Eclectic lunch and dinner menus, complemented by select wines from Italy (plus BYOW), offer enticing choices, like these two Bruschette options: Honey Roasted Pumpkin & Sweet Garlic Caponata or Mortadella with "Our Own Hens' Egg." Can't get more local! Chef's Choice antipasto gets raves, as does slow-roasted suckling pig. Try the 5-course Tasting Menu (Tues–Thurs., \$65), always awesome at Alba.

### More Favorites White Dog Café

200 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne

610-225-3700 / [WhiteDog.com](http://WhiteDog.com)

Hard to believe this branch of Judy Wicks' temple of sustainability, now owned by Marty



White Dog Café; Photo: Courtney Apple

Grims (DuJour, Moshulu), arrived just a year ago: feels like it's been here almost as long as the R5. Don't miss portraits of dogs of every color that line the walls of this multi-room crowd magnet. Try the lively bar/den, bright kitchen with gleaming copper pots, cozy library with Harry Potteresque flying books, and comfy garden room. Chef Zack Grainda, who prepped at the original WDC, offers choices like Kennett Square mushroom soup and Meadow Run Spiced Lamb Sliders that attest to the mission of 95% of farm purchases from within 50 miles. Even cheeseburgers come from grass fed beef! Cashew crusted organic tofu anyone? Dog gone great!

### Harvest Seasonal Grill & Wine Bar

Glen Eagle Square, West Chester Pk.,

Glen Mills / 610-358-1005

[HarvestSeasonalGrill.com](http://HarvestSeasonalGrill.com)

Beginning with its name, this upscale casual winner waves the local/farm-fresh flag and promotes its relationship with 75+ area farmers. They count calories here, with most items under 500. Recommended: flatbread appetizers, great for sharing, like Pear and Bleu cheese with arugula and fig glaze, and Buffalo Shrimp with bleu cheese. Seafood options: Flounder Francaise, Grilled Rosemary Shrimp, Grilled Swordfish Caponata and cedar-roasted Atlantic Salmon. Braised



Short Ribs and Harvest Moon Grilled Chicken check in below 500 calories; New York Strip with bleu cheese and garlic mashed doesn't. Organic wines and beers available, of course.

### CLASSIC CHESTER COUNTY DINING – TIE The Ship Inn

693 E. Lincoln Hwy. at Ship Rd., Exton  
610-363-7200 / ShipInn.net

#### The Farmhouse Restaurant

514 McCue Rd., Avondale  
610-268-2235 / LNgolf.com

See "Dining With History" article in this issue for more about these wonderful, classic Chester County restaurants.

### BEST BISTRO

#### Sovana Bistro

696 Unionville Rd., Kennett Square  
610-444-5600 / SovanaBistro.com

They dance to the "seasonal" beat at this contemporary bistro, where European style and modern American flavors merge with grace and ease. Local resources are celebrated, led by owner Chef Nick Farrell. The late autumn antipasto, a veritable mini-tasting experience, includes Bartlett pear fritter, butternut bisque, mushroom/goat cheese bread pudding, and onion/bacon panini. Cheese plates shine, as do gourmet pizzas with thin crusts and innovative toppings like local pear/brie/grilled radicchio/sweet onions. Hearty seasonal entrées include Painted Hill Farm Paillard of Beef with fennel-olive-feta salad. Multiple pasta choices keep fans happy. Horse-country folks and other locals appreciate the selection of wine and beer, yet like that they can BYO, too.

### Another Favorite Blue Pear Bistro

275 Brintons Bridge Rd., West Chester  
610-399-9812 / BluePearBistro.com

Stylishly minimalist décor shines in what was an 18th-century general store. The kitchen has mastered comfort food for contemporary palates, including small- and medium-plate portions. Enjoy the positively chic Grilled-cheese Sandwich with gooey extra-sharp cheddar and parmigiano-reggiano on toasted brioche. From the medium-plate list: Wild-caught Salmon with Moroccan-spiced glaze. Eat on the front porch for a Rockwellian experience.

### BEST CASUAL

#### Styer's Garden Café

Terrain at Styers  
914 Baltimore Pk., Glen Mills  
610-459-2400 / ShopTerrain.com

What's more relaxing than a meal in a garden, especially one designed by the folks from Anthropologie? Walk through Terrain's gorgeous nursery to the antique greenhouse site of the BYO café set among orchids, ferns and must-have trinkets that can be yours — for a price. Chef Keith Rudolf's menu draws from local farmers and gets praise for all things mushroom (soup, tart, risotto), inventive tasting menus, well-composed artisanal cheese plates, and fresh bread baked in terra cotta pots with heavenly herb butter (sage, lavender!). Drinks are served in mason jars, the silver is artfully mismatched, and a fountain splashes background noise. Add cooking classes, demos and appearances by the likes of the Fabulous Beekman Boys. Wish your garden was as fabulous?

### BEST AL FRESCO DINING 333 Belrose Bar & Grill

333 Belrose Ln., Radnor  
610-293-1000 / 333Belrose.com

Elegant and fun, with white linens and upbeat music spilling out from the lively bar, this popular patio is a Radnor institution. Colorful flowers cascade from window boxes and bright umbrellas provide shade and a cheerful ambiance, the ideal setting for Chef Carlo deMarco's imaginative American



Harvest Seasonal Grille  
Photo: Courtney Apple

fusion fare. Regulars demand Carlo's Black Bean Soup with pico de gallo and the Java Pork Tenderloin with maple smashed yams, black bean sauce and mango-jalapeño salsa. Typical lively choices include New Orleans-style Shrimp appetizer with spicy black pepper and House-smoked Chicken Quesadillas with caramelized onions, cilantro crema and chipotle salsa. When temperatures don't cooperate, heaters come out, extending the al fresco season.



### Another Favorite

#### Media's Dining Under the Stars

Downtown Media on State Street  
VisitMediaPA.com

Summer nights are meant for dining outside under the stars and Media's Wednesday nights do it right. State Street closes to traffic, restaurants pull out their tables, music fills the air, and you have a family-friendly event for enjoying great food and company. Perfect al fresco!

### BEST ROOFTOP DINING

#### Mas Mexicali Cantina

102 E. Market St., West Chester  
610-918-6280 / Mas-Mexicali-Cantina.com

A top-of-the-world spirit fills the air at this attractive rooftop spot with the best views in West Chester. Mark your calendar for the May 5th opening — Cinco de Mayo — absolutely perfect for this high-energy restaurant where celebrations are in its DNA. The full menu is served on the rooftop, from chunky guacamole and "Bad Boy Nachos" to tacos, burritos and quesadillas, and entrées like Honey Chipotle Salmon, Baja-style Paella and Braised Short Ribs. Sip a mojito or chug a beer, but you must sample a Más fresh-shaken margarita. The cool cucumber version is just the ticket on a hot day. Or, try the El Diablo margarita, a hot-hot treat, thanks to the muddled slices of peppery Serrano chilies that add pizzazz.

### BEST FAMILY DINING

#### Ron's Original Bar & Grille

74 E. Uwchlan Ave., Exton  
610-594-9900 / RonsOriginal.com

Keeping the little ones happy is rule #1 for great family restaurants. Rule #1.5: offer great martinis, popular wines and scores of beers. The atmosphere must be upbeat and colorful. And offer lots of food choices, all well prepared and tasty, and most good for you. No problem. Ron's meets all these standards and more: endless pizza toppings (Buffalo chicken rocks), plus "ovals" (open-faced Stromboli) and just about every mainstream Italian dish, from Stromboli to Veal Parmigiana. Myriad pasta creations Nonna would applaud, like delicious Spinach Lasagna. Other ethnic faves include quesadillas, Creole Shrimp and Teriyaki Stir Fry, and "American" food, too, with Black Angus Strip Steak, Grilled Salmon plus burgers and hoagies. And ten (!) yummy cheesecakes. While you're deciding, the kids can scramble over the front of a school bus. Honest.



The Pub at Wegmans

### BEST DINNER TO GO

#### Wegmans

50 Foundry Way, Malvern / 484-913-9600  
600 Commerce Dr., Collegeville / 484-902-1500  
1056 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown  
610-518-7800 / Wegmans.com

With its amazing variety and consistent quality, you simply must stop by Wegmans to pick up a chef-prepared dinner on your way home. The \$6, \$8 and \$10 meals-to-go offer top-of-the-line choices: Coconut-crusted Tilapia, Jambalaya Pasta with shrimp, Pot Roast. Each comes with two sides like butternut squash with spinach and raisins. Or, choose from the Asian foods bar, salad bar, sushi, flatbread Naan pizzas and regular pizza. In the enticing bakery section, aromatic breads adjoin sweet things like snowbally coconut cake and pumpkin pie — regular or mini sizes. You can also eat in, enjoying self-served meals with a glass of wine in the Market Café. Or relax at the in-store restaurant, The Pub, a full-service scene that rivals the best local pubs. Who knew?

### Another Favorite

#### Janssen's Market

3801 Kennett Pk., Greenville, DE  
302-654-9941 / JanssensFineFood.com

Generations from Chateau Country and beyond have relied on this high-end market for outstanding take-out dinners and world-class cheese selection. The Gourmet du Jour posted online gives you a head start. A sampling: Five chicken dishes including Sous Vide Herb, and six fish/seafood creations. Also Marsala-glazed Flank Steak, Boneless

Pork Chop with cornbread stuffing, side dishes and salads, and specials like Spinach Lasagna and Philly Cheesesteak Egg Rolls. Fresh soups and yummy desserts.

### BEST FOR WILD GAME

#### Half Moon Restaurant & Saloon

108 W. State St., Kennett Square  
610-444-7232 / HalfMoonRestaurant.com

Get a taste of living on the wild side at this bustling casual, upscale pub where game dishes and Belgian beers rule. Delicious daily specials include Wild Game Chili, Buffalo Short-rib Tacos, Kangaroo Medallions, Bourbon BBQ Wild Boar Sliders. Entrees range from Kangaroo Loin to Buffaloaloaf with exotic mushrooms. Why game and Belgian beer? Simply because they're personal favorites of co-owner Scott Hammond, who touts the flavor and healthfulness of game and swears that Belgian brews are the world's most flavorful, best-crafted and most intense. It's been a winning combo for 12+ years. Don't miss rooftop dining five stories up in the dead of winter, thanks to retractable glass windows that create an atrium atmosphere.

### BEST BREAKFAST

#### Classic Diner

352 W. Lancaster Ave., Malvern  
610-725-0515 / TheClassicDinerPA.com

Celebrate the most important meal of the day at the Classic Diner, where the mouth-watering menu ranges from simple eggs and bacon (less simple when it's house smoked bacon, so good it's sold on QVC)





The Green Room at the Hotel DuPont

to Peanut Butter & Banana French Toast with star anise infused honey. There's a long list of beyond-bacon options to accompany your "Eggs Anyway," a dizzying array of omelet extras (feta, roasted peppers, sundried tomatoes), and bountiful batter choices from good ol' chocolate chip pancakes to airy Belgian waffles, plus the "Stickiest Buns." Serving the hungry breakfast and lunch 7 days a week since 1995, with take out, catering, holiday pies. Watch the crowds on weekends. It's a classic; not a secret.

### BEST BRUNCH

**The Green Room at the Hotel du Pont**

11th & Market Sts., Wilmington  
302-594-3154 / [HotelDuPont.com](http://HotelDuPont.com)

The stately setting, grand and gracious, puts you in a fine dining mood. Settle into upholstered wingback chairs and check out the coffered oak-beamed ceiling, ornate gold chandeliers, Italian mosaics, oil paintings and Versace-patterned china. Enjoy live piano music from the balcony while you dine on excellent French cuisine. Extensive buffet choices for appetizer and dessert courses bookend full-service entrées. Starter selections include smoked

seafood, soup du jour, brie en croute and bread pudding. Typical entrées: Rabbit Cassoulet with heirloom beans, andouille sausage; Pan-seared Black Bass with spicy black beans, fried duck egg, chili sauces; Cast-iron Seared Bison Ribeye, mesquite smoked. End on a sweet note with crème caramel, assorted tortes, mini crème brûlées, French pastries and the Hotel du Pont's popular macaroons. Bon appétit!

### Another Favorite

**The Stone Barn**

100 Stone Barn Dr., Kennett Square  
610-347-2414 / [TheStoneBarn.com](http://TheStoneBarn.com)

The "over the river and through the woods" ride to the charmingly rustic Stone Barn will put you in a mellow mood for the impressive feast that awaits. Tall windows frame the country view and a huge stone fireplace warms the homey ambiance. The popular brunch, spread over several tables, includes carving stations, fresh and smoked seafood, lots of fresh fruit, every breakfast entrée you desire, an omelet station, salads and hot entrées featuring chicken and seafood. And, of course, a tempting array of delectable desserts. All you need is a nap.

### BEST LUNCH

**Limoncello Ristorante**

9 N. Walnut St., West Chester  
610-436-6230 / [LimoncelloWC.com](http://LimoncelloWC.com)

Most would agree this buffet spread the size of Italy is the most popular in town. Crowds

line up to survey the Southern-Italian goodness and then plan their meal. For \$9.95, pick from a tempting array of four gourmet pizzas, four stromboli creations, four salads and two pasta specials — bow ties with peas and pancetta is a hit. Plus, a whole table of grilled vegetables — eggplant, broccoli rabe, zucchini, etc. There's always a chicken special or two, like Chicken Marsala with mushrooms. More veal dishes have been added, the most popular being Veal Scallopine, and customers have welcomed more fish specialties, too, with Mahi Mahi and tilapia as favorites. This always-bustling, family-run business knows how to please.

### BEST DESSERT

**Sweet Charity**

Sponsored by Chester County

Community Foundation

Waterloo Gardens, 200 N. Whitford Rd., Exton  
[ChesCoCF.org](http://ChesCoCF.org)

For true dessert lovers, why not make a night of sampling offerings from Chester County's finest chocolatiers and pastry chefs who showcase their talents for a good cause at Sweet Charity? This March 27 fundraiser for Chester County Community Foundation, held at Exton's Waterloo Gardens, features over a dozen top dessert purveyors so you can sample one sweet bite at a time. Last year's winners: St. Peter's Bakery for Chocolate Caramel Crunch Torte and Desmond Hotel's Bread Pudding. Check *County Lines'* March events for details.



Sweet Charity

### Another Favorite

**Liz Marden Bakery & Café**

110 S. Union St., Kennett Square  
610-444-5757 / [LizMarden.com](http://LizMarden.com)

Liz Marden's delectable European-style cakes and pastries made her Delaware's go-to baker for years. Now it's Kennett Square's turn. Marden moved her business last summer, adding a café serving quiches, croissants, sandwiches and plenty of pastries. Her exquisite mousse-filled cakes and wedding cakes are legendary, as are high-concept personalized cakes for every occasion. A series of cakes designed as a stage-set replica for Delaware Theatre Company's 30th anniversary had Wilmington buzzing.

### BEST TEA ROOM

**The Lincoln Room**

28 W. Market St., West Chester  
610-696-2102 / [LincolnRoomWestChester.com](http://LincolnRoomWestChester.com)  
Tea for two is always welcome on a busy day in this charming tearoom that's so much more. Located in the historic Lincoln Building, this tea spot has drawn admiring fans for its variety of excellently prepared teas, tempting Tea Room Sampler, plus hearty soups, killer quiche, authentic scones (apple raisin walnut is a winner), and renowned Croissant Bread Pudding. Owner Susan Johnstone makes sure there's lots going on — Fondue Fridays, Lincoln Birthday celebration, historic walking tours, ghost tours. They host private parties and celebrate birthdays the first Saturday each month. Makes you wonder how West Chester got along before it opened.

### Another Favorite

**Lotus Farm to Table**

112 W. State St., Media  
610-565-5554 / [LotusFarmToTable.com](http://LotusFarmToTable.com)

This addition to Media's State Street is not technically a tearoom, yet Lotus has styled itself as a "Salad and Tea House" along with its farm-to-table mission. Sharing the menu with Chef Christopher Allen's simple prep and local ingredients, over a dozen teas star with loving descriptions of flavors and health benefits. A noteworthy stop for tea lovers, especially when proprietor Courtney Rozsas helps with pairings. Under the menu's "Vital Necessities," find Happy Tea, Beauty Tea, Charm Tea (lemon tea to invigorate like a spring breeze) African Rooibos or Talsi.

Plus buds that bloom as your tea steeps. Bloomin' wonderful.

### BEST SOMMELIER

**Savona**

100 Old Gulph Rd., Gulph Mills  
610-520-1200 / [SavonaRestaurant.com](http://SavonaRestaurant.com)

Luckily, Savon'a impressive 1,000-bottle wine cellar is presided over by Melissa Monosoff, one of 100+ Master Sommeliers in North America (only 17 women). More a self-described wine nerd than wine snob, Monosoff draws on extensive food knowledge from her Culinary Institute of America training to suggest the perfect pairing to make an excellent meal epic. Whether you're looking for that magical bottle for a celebratory dinner, enjoying a perfect pick with a rustic pizza at Bar Savona, or joining a Friday wine tasting class (\$35), Monosoff will be your wine guide. With a range from local Chaddsford wines to 4-digit Opus One, a good guide is golden.

### BEST WINE BAR

**Domaine Hudson**

**Wine Bar & Eatery**

1314 N. Washington St., Wilmington  
302-655-9463 / [DomaineHudson.com](http://DomaineHudson.com)  
New owners Mike and Beth Ross continue to delight wine enthusiasts with the 40+ carefully selected wines by the glass, 100+ craft beers, artisanal cheeses and



Gilmore's

a super menu of small and large plates. Open Table recently included Domaine in its "Top 50 Wine Bars in the U.S." Updated décor includes new banquettes and warm-colored walls, freshly painted in

continued on page 64



Yangming





Ship Inn

# Dining With History

Lise Monty

A taste of the one-of-a-kind restaurants that serve history along with great dining experiences.

Their walls could tell fascinating tales that go back to the days of William Penn, and each has a personality and charm like no other. They are the historic inns and restaurants that enrich this area's dining-out scene.

As 2012 dawns, it's a good time to celebrate their enduring commitment to hospitality and respect for their heritage. While their chefs stay on top of ever-evolving trends, they wisely keep traditional favorites, too, knowing long-time customers would rebel if they didn't.

Here's a taste of these one-of-a-kind restaurants, where you can soak up some colorful local history while enjoying dinner.

## Ship Inn

This popular marine-themed restaurant in Exton has operated continuously since 1796. John Bowen saw the potential when he built the two-story, stone

public house on the recently completed Lancaster Turnpike. On display since day one is the "Sign of the Ship," which in its day equaled a four-star rating.

Huge fireplaces with finely carved woodwork frames and lavish 18th-century wall coverings define the elegant period dining rooms.

Seafood dishes rule, followed by various steaks, including boneless, Black Angus rib-eye. Updated classics include the best-selling crab cakes, oven-



Dilworthtown Inn



Seven Stars Inn

roasted with red pepper and parsley oil. Old World influences show up in offerings like Veal "Zurich Style" served with spatzle, German mini dumplings.

Foodies cheer the roasted baby beet salad with roasted pecans and gorgonzola. And everyone, Grandma included, craves the English toffee pudding as they have since 1796.

## Dilworthtown Inn

The gracious Dilworthtown Inn, in West Chester, recipient of a numerous awards for its cuisine and wine list, loves to celebrate its colorful history. A "renowned gathering place" since 1780, it has many stories to tell. One involves the Battle of the Brandywine, when General Howe's officers camped out in the building that became part of Dilworthtown Inn.

Each of the Inn's 15 candlelit dining rooms, spread out over three floors, has been authentically restored. Wide windowsills, stenciled walls and working fireplaces recall the best of Colonial craftsmanship.

Menu options range from classics like rack of lamb and chateaubriand for two, to tempting new-American faves like lemon grass-scented free-range chicken breast with warm spring-bean

salad, and pan-seared scallops with melted Belgian endive.

Ginger crisp lobster, prepared with crystallized ginger pound cake, sounds totally trendy, but it's been a popular appetizer for 20-plus years.

## Seven Stars Inn

American Revolutionary militia met here, among the countless who've gathered over the past 200-plus years as Seven Stars Inn, in Phoenixville, grew from a modest homestead to today's three-level stature. Its quirky layout celebrates its rustic heritage, while Tiffany chandeliers and crisp white linens add elegance.

This is the 25th anniversary of Frank Cacciutti's ownership, also celebrated by the general manager and executive chef. Longevity thrives here.



Farmhouse Restaurant



Kimberton Inn

So do the enthusiastically touted large portions, delivered with gusto and high quality. Its hard-core clientele insist on this and the accompanying expert preparation. The house specialty is a whopping 32-40 ounces of slow-roasted prime rib. Steaks are ginormous and the stuffed 12-14-ounce lobster tail is jaw-dropping with its crab-meat and sautéed shrimp topping, plus hollandaise. More classics: veal Oscar and roast duck, peach melba and carrot cake.

For this walk through history, make sure to bring your appetite!

## The Farmhouse Restaurant

Country charm abounds in this 1734 farmhouse in Avondale where handsome oriental carpets cover wide-plank floors, candles flicker on crisp linens and old farm implements hang from the low ceilings, along with decoys, varied baskets, dried flower arrangements and much more. It adds up to homey fine dining.

Crab cakes hold super-star status here, described as "our biggest draw ... all crab, with no filler, no binder, no Old Bay." One is paired with filet mignon in the surf-and-turf winner.

Other classics, often inspired by the season, include the veal combo, of medal-



Farmhouse Restaurant







Foxfire at The Stone Barn



The Gables at Chadds Ford

lions and sweetbreads with roasted chestnuts and apples, and baby New Zealand rack of lamb with a ragout of root vegetables and beans. Appetizers include Vietnamese egg rolls and baked portobello gratin. The delectable praline ice cream pie endures as a guilty pleasure with its crunchy bits and rich caramel sauce.

#### Kimberton Inn

Early Americana is alive and well in this cozy, comfortable restaurant built as an inn in 1796. Rustic fireplaces on two levels, glorious oriental carpets and excellent original artwork enhance the welcoming, life-is-good ambiance. Surrounded by perennial gardens, a quiet stream and duck pond, the Inn blends in with the quaint village of Kimberton.

The menu focuses on traditional American cuisine with some dishes influenced by the latest trends. Long-time regulars crave the sautéed calf's liver with caramelized onions and port wine reduction, and grilled Australian lamb chops with herbed mustard crust. Also popular: barbecue-spiced salmon fillet with a fire-roasted pineapple barbecue sauce and crab hush puppies, and seared ginger-and-cinnamon-spiced pork tenderloin with mashed sweet potatoes and a maple-pecan glaze.

Timeless desserts include warm apple crisp and banana cream pie.

#### Foxfire at The Stone Barn

The stately old barn and its surrounding farmland in Unionville have been in the

Thomforde family for four generations. Its original structure, which dates back to the early 1800s, has been beautifully restored using reclaimed and recycled items from the nearby rolling countryside, including antique brick, weathered cypress board and field stone.

It's perfectly situated to maximize the farm-to-table concept with its own herb and vegetable garden right out back and nearby apple trees.

Chef Ray Maxwell offers the best of what's in season, including vegetarian plates. He favors "contemporary" cooking rather than stewing or roasting "forever." Winners include house-smoked Berkshire pork chops with baked apples and saddle of boneless pheasant with cranberries and shiitake mushrooms, wrapped with smoked bacon, ballotine-style. Butternut squash shows up in delicious soup as well as tempting flans.

#### The Gables at Chadds Ford

In the late 1800s, the new owner of this circa-1745 beauty went Victorian by adding wrap-around porches and 23(!) gables. Thus the name for this distinguished home that was a stop on the Underground Railroad during the Civil War.

Last summer, Ann and Dan Kolenick purchased the restaurant and moved back to their Pennsylvania roots. They continue to own and operate a popular North Carolina seafood restaurant. The Gables' comfortably chic dining room in a converted

1800s dairy barn and its appealing patio continue unchanged.

Look for new Asian fusion specialties and a new bar menu. The American cuisine line-up includes crab dip brûlée, and shrimp and grits as appetizers; filet mignon, crispy skin red snapper, sautéed salmon over lemon-herb spaghetti squash, and pan-seared pork chop with braised cabbage and apple. ♦

### Historic Restaurants

**Our area is chock full of historic places to dine. A few to sample.**

Seven Stars Inn – 1736  
Historic General Warren Inn – 1745  
Stockyard Inn – 1750  
Dilworthtown Inn – 1780  
Kimberton Inn – 1796  
The Ship Inn – 1796  
Guardhouse Inn – 1800  
Duling Kurtz House – 1830  
Kennett Square Inn – 1835  
Mendenhall Inn – 1855  
Concordville Inn – 1869

### Restaurants in Historic Buildings

Becca's Restaurant – 1700s  
The Farmhouse – 1734  
The Gables – 1745  
Brandywine Prime – 1750  
Yangming – 1765  
Old Greenfield Inn – 1780  
Farmhouse Bistro – 1798  
Foxfire at The Stone Barn – 1800s  
Limocello – 1800  
Vickers Tavern – 1823  
Emily's – 1827  
Catherine's – 1851  
Birchrunville Store Café – 1892  
Gilmore's – 1892

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# Sampling Favorite Hometown Dining Spots in West Chester

Barnaby's

Malcolm Johnstone

If you're wondering where to find a wide selection of restaurant styles, just head to West Chester. There's a steady stream of new restaurant openings, plus food-oriented festivals and events that will pique your interest and please your palate. It's all there.

In September, downtown West Chester closes its main street and hosts the Chester County Restaurant Festival. Both sides of Gay Street are loaded with food booths from around the Brandywine Valley. In May, Restaurant Week allows patrons to try something new, something ethnic or something else.

Just stroll the walkable streets of West Chester and find the choice you crave. Satisfying in every way.

## What's New

New restaurants in downtown West Chester continue to add excitement and variety to the cuisine scene. Here's what's new.

Although **Roots Cafe** (8 W. Gay St., 484-887-8290; [RootsCafeWC.com](http://RootsCafeWC.com)) might be the smallest restaurant in Chester County, its full kitchen makes great food while supporting a sustainable environment, using local produce from nearby farms that help the local economy. Plus biodegradable and recycled containers for to-go orders.

**Ash's Naked Noodle and Cheese** (18 S. Church St., 610-692-3113; [NakedNoodleAndCheese.com](http://NakedNoodleAndCheese.com)) will get you thinking about mac & cheese in a new way, with dessert mac & cheese dishes like maple walnut, chocolate chunk and peach cobbler. Other tempting options include Philly Cheesesteak, the Gorgonzola and Bacon, or the Buffalo Chicken.

Named after Jack McFadden, who brought the blighted building with caved-in roof back to life, **Jack's Steaks & Shakes** (16 E. Gay St.) brings a different take on Philly cheesesteaks: healthy, not greasy. Served alongside hand-cut fries and Pauline's cole slaw (McFadden's mother's mayonnaise-less recipe), with shakes from low-fat, frozen yogurt.

You'll find home-cooked Mexican cuisine at **La Bamba Mexican Restaurant** (39 W. Gay St.). The interior is so casual, you can see your order being made while you wait. Outdoor seating (weather permitting) and a reasonably priced menu make this the place for a quick meal or take-out.

**The Social Lounge & Bar** (29 E. Gay St., 610-738-3948; [TheSocialWC.com](http://TheSocialWC.com)) is the newest addition to the party venue scene (more listings at [CountyLinesMagazine.com](http://CountyLinesMagazine.com)). Live entertainment offering everything from acoustic jams to dancing to the Philadelphia area's hottest DJs.

## West Chester Choices

With that review of the newest entries into the wild world of West Chester dining options, let's not forget the places we've come to know, love and frequent.

## Breakfast & Lunch

Whether starting your day right with a great meal or enjoying a respite at noon, West Chester offers these great choices.

**De Starrs Restaurant & Bar** (112 E. Gay St., 610-692-4160) has been serving Greek dishes along with American fare for more than 30 years. Their Greek omelet is recommended and the turkey club is made with turkey roasted on-site.

**The Lincoln Room** (28 W. Market St., 610-696-2102; [LincolnRoomWestChester.com](http://LincolnRoomWestChester.com)), an American tearoom located in a historic building, offers lunch with hints of British Empire elegance. Check their web-site for popular Fondue Fridays.

**Market Street Grill** (6 W. Market St., 610-429-5328) gets raves for brown sugar swirl stuffed French Toast with caramelized bananas, cream cheese and walnuts. For lunch try salads, wraps, specialty sandwiches.

**Nudy's Cafe** (300 W. Market St., 610-696-4550; [NudysCafes.com](http://NudysCafes.com)), a popular regional breakfast and lunch chain, offers a wide variety of specialty breakfasts, including variations of Eggs Benedict, pancakes, crepes, French toast and creative omelets.

**Olive Branch Restaurant** (142 W. Gay St., 610-431-7141; [OliveBranchWC.net](http://OliveBranchWC.net)) serves up a variety of tapas-size plates for grazing. Lobster mac & cheese and cheese-cake get raves.

**Penn's Table** (Gay & Church Sts., 610-696-0677; [PennsTableRestaurant.com](http://PennsTableRestaurant.com)), family-owned and operated, this spot prides itself on preparing food "the way Mom used to make it."

**Three Little Pigs** (131 N. High St., 610-918-1272; [ThreeLittlepigsWC.com](http://ThreeLittlepigsWC.com)) is a gourmet deli featuring homemade soup, breads and desserts made daily. Dine in the bright front room overlooking High Street or outdoor patio.

## Haute Cuisine

Enjoy the art of dining where the chef is the reason for the restaurant. For a special occasion or just to pamper yourself.

**Gilmore's Restaurant** (133 E. Gay St., 610-431-2800; [GilmoresRestaurant.com](http://GilmoresRestaurant.com)) is where Chef Peter Gilmore personally prepares his guests award-winning cui-

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Ash's Naked Noodle & Cheese



Kooma

## Restaurant Events

### West Chester Restaurant Week

Celebrate the culinary scene with multi-course, fixed-priced menus for lunch and dinner, May 12-20. Sample special menus and the best of West Chester cuisine. Discover the new and revisit old favorites at a great price.

### West Chester Wednesdays

Have a delicious time dining in West Chester and supporting public safety at the same time. Wednesday evenings starting in February, a portion of the dinner price at participating restaurants goes directly to the West Chester Police Department to help keep West Chester safe. Enjoy the warm feeling that you're helping keep West Chester a safe and interesting community. Participating restaurants at [DowntownWestChester.com](http://DowntownWestChester.com).

sine in an intimate setting. Every meal is an event.

**Nonna's** (116 E. Gay St., 610-430-0203; [NonnasWC.com](http://NonnasWC.com)) exquisite setting — including a wine cellar — takes you back to old Italy with such dishes as Giunna ravioli, made fresh every day.

### Hometown Flavor

There's an American tradition of good food here in West Chester.

**Doc Magrogan's Oyster House** (117 E. Gay St., 610-429-4046; [DocMagrogans.com](http://DocMagrogans.com)) takes you back to the days when oysters and other seafood were the most popular food in West Chester.

**Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant** (High & Gay Sts., 610-738-9600; [IronHillBrewery.com](http://IronHillBrewery.com)) brews its own award-winning beers on-site, and offers a wide range of family-friendly menu choices.

**Pietro's Prime** (125 W. Market St., 484-760-6100; [PietrosPrime.com](http://PietrosPrime.com)) serves only Pureland Premium Black Angus Beef, richly marbled then aged to tender perfection. For the perfect martini, try their Martini Bar.

**Side Bar & Restaurant** (10 E. Gay St., 610-429-8297; [SideBarAndRestaurant.com](http://SideBarAndRestaurant.com)) is newly remodeled and offers fish, meat and poultry prepared with care.

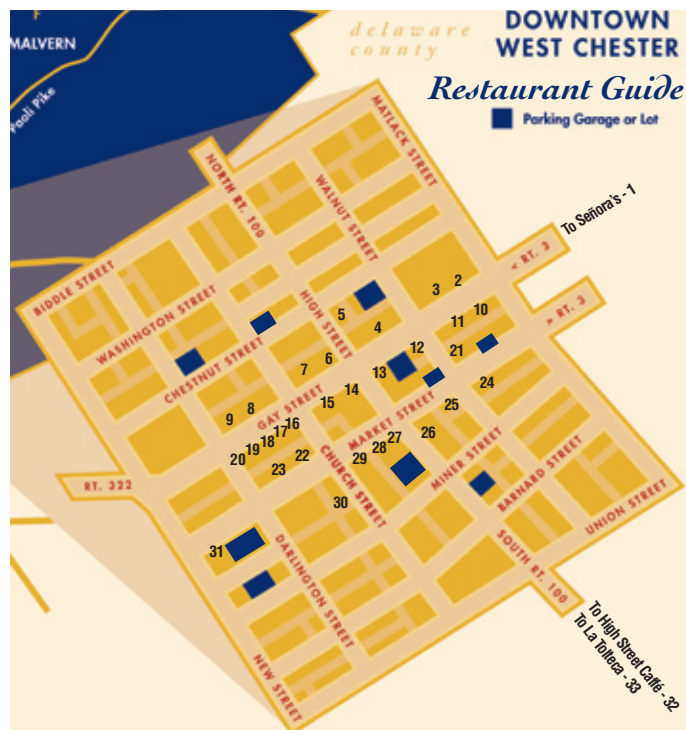
### Sports Bars

For "lite" fare and a chance to catch up on the sports scores, nothing beats these big-screen bars.

**Barnaby's of West Chester** (15 S. High St., 610-696-1400; [BarnabysWestChester.com](http://BarnabysWestChester.com)) offers something new every day, now with an app for fresh specials with no yucky paper to worry about.

**Jitter's Sports Bar** (146 W. Gay St.; 610-696-0427) provides that neighborhood feeling where everyone knows your name. Entertainment on select nights.

**Landmark Americana** (158 W. Gay St., 610-701-9900; [LandmarkAmericana.com](http://LandmarkAmericana.com))



## Restaurant Guide

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Señora's Authentic Mexican     | 16. Penn's Table                |
| 2. Gilmore's Restaurant           | 17. Ryan's Pub & Restaurant     |
| 3. Doc Magrogan's Oyster House    | 18. Olive Branch Restaurant     |
| 4. The Social Lounge & Bar        | 19. The Mediterranean           |
| 5. Three Little Pigs              | 20. Landmark Americana          |
| 6. Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant | 21. Limoncello Ristorante       |
| 7. La Bamba Mexican Restaurant    | 22. Spice Indian Thai Bistro    |
| 8. Kooma Japanese Restaurant      | 23. Pietro's Prime              |
| 9. Star of India Restaurant       | 24. Más Mexicali Cantina        |
| 10. i-Pasta                       | 25. Rams Head Bar & Grill       |
| 11. Nonna's                       | 26. Barnaby's                   |
| 12. Teca                          | 27. Market Street Grill         |
| 13. Jack's Steaks & Shakes        | 28. Nooddi-Thai Chef            |
| 14. Roots Cafe                    | 29. The Lincoln Room            |
| 15. Kildare's Irish Pub           | 30. Ash's Naked Noodle & Cheese |
|                                   | 31. Nudy's Café                 |
|                                   | 32. High Street Caffé           |
|                                   | 33. La Tolteca                  |

*Landmark-WC*) brings cuisine nouveau to downtown with contemporary design and a menu to match.

**Rams Head Bar & Grill** (40 E. Market St., 484-631-0241; [RamsHead-BarAndGrill.com](http://RamsHead-BarAndGrill.com)) presents a menu of fine food at a reasonable price in a comfortable atmosphere.

### International Specialties

Step into another country for an evening of authentic cuisine from far, far away.

**High Street Caffé** (322 S. High St., 610-696-7435; [HighStreetCaffe.com](http://HighStreetCaffe.com)) is known for its funky-eclectic atmosphere and serving up Cajun gator and gumbo. Now with the Vudu Lounge for late night fun.

**i-Pasta Ristorante Italiano** (134 E. Gay St., 484-887-0760; [i-Pasta.net](http://i-Pasta.net)) is a family-owned BYO serving original, home-made sauces on freshly made pasta. A truly Italian meal by a truly Italian family!

At **Kildare's Irish Pub** (18-22 W. Gay St., 610-431-0770; [KildaresPub.com](http://KildaresPub.com)), Dave Magrogan brought an Irish pub, piece by piece, to Gay Street, and a menu to delight any Dubliner.

**Kooma Japanese Restaurant** (151 W. Gay St., 610-430-8980; [GoKoomaRestaurant.com](http://GoKoomaRestaurant.com)) is a fusion sushi bar with stylish décor, radiating hipness and serving fresh sushi, sashimi, maki and more.

**Limoncello Ristorante** (9 N. Walnut St., 610-436-6230; [LimoncelloWC.com](http://LimoncelloWC.com)) serves up authentic, home-cooked, southern Mediterranean cuisine in an expanded bar and dining area, plus great patio.

**The Mediterranean** (150 W. Gay St., 610-431-7074; [TheMedWCPA.com](http://TheMedWCPA.com)) is a casually comfortable BYO known for recreating authentic European dishes in what feels like the chef's home.

**Noodi-Thai Chef** (10 W. Market St., 610-430-3300; [ThaiChefToday.com](http://ThaiChefToday.com)) offers noodle dishes in many satisfying styles for a BYO lunch or dinner.

**Ryan's Pub & Restaurant** (126 W. Gay St., 610-344-3934; [Ryans-Pub.com](http://Ryans-Pub.com)) is a neighborhood pub where you can relax with good food in a comfortable setting.

**Spice Indian Thai Bistro** (113 W. Market St., 610-431-0113; [SpiceBYOB.com](http://SpiceBYOB.com)) has two kitchens serving one restaurant with Thai and Indian cuisine. Great lunch buffet.

**Star of India Restaurant's** (Gay & Darlington Sts., 610-429-0125) simple décor

sets the mood for exotic meals of masalas, vindaloos, curries and biryani of northern Indian fare.

**Teca** (38 E. Gay St., 610-738-8244; [TecaWine.com](http://TecaWine.com)), a bistro with a vast wine bar and great paninis, has become a favorite gathering place for friends and family.

### South of the Border

Muchos options for Mexican meals.

**Más Mexicali Cantina's** (102 E. Market St., 610-918-6280; [Mas-Mexicali-Cantina.com](http://Mas-Mexicali-Cantina.com)) hip cantina ambiance sets the stage for family favorites like spicy tacos, plus veggies and tofu on its new menu.

**Señora's Authentic Mexican Cuisine** (505 E. Gay St., 610-344-4950) is a family-owned and operated BYO for fresh, authentic home-cooked Mexican favorites with tasty salsas.

**La Tolteca** (907 S. High St., 610-429-8101; [LaTolteca.net](http://LaTolteca.net)) will mix a margarita with your tequila at this BYO, with a menu bursting with classic regional Mexican dishes.

### Nightlife and Entertainment

After dinner, stop by West Chester's many music venues for live music. Go to [WestChesterBid.com](http://WestChesterBid.com) and [CountyLinesMagazine.com](http://CountyLinesMagazine.com) for more. ♦



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# COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

## Restaurant Guide 2012



A handy guide to 150 area restaurants,  
with capsule descriptions of cuisine,  
ambiance, prices, specials, awards  
and more. Let us help you discover the  
many great dining choices in our area  
— so you can visit them all year long.

Farmhouse Bistro at People's Light & Theatre  
Photo by Andrea Shives





La Toltteca

☼ Indicates a Historic Building.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Avondale

☼ The Farmhouse Restaurant, 514 McCue Rd. 610-268-2235; [LNGolf.com](http://LNGolf.com). Renovated 17th-century farmhouse nestled in country gardens. Crackling fireplaces, soft candlelit rooms and local art set the stage for some of the best food in *County Lines* country, now offering a new menu. Wine cellar with chef's table. 3-course dinner on Sun, \$30. Outdoor dining overlooking the gardens and golf course. Open 7 days. L-\$7-\$15.95; D-\$28-\$35. Brunch-\$5.95-\$22. **Best of the Best '05 to '11, *County Lines***.

### Berwyn

Aneu Bistro, 575 Lancaster Ave. 610-251-9600; [AneuBistro.com](http://AneuBistro.com). New American cuisine at this chic, contemporary bistro, committed to serving great food, choosing local vendors and using sustainable products. BYOB (\$7 corkage fee) and full-service bar. Specials: Mon, buy 1 app/get 1 free; Tues, ½ price bottle of wine; Wed, buy 1 dessert/get 1 free; Sun, no corkage fee. Mon-Thurs, 8 am to 9 pm; Fri, 8 to 10; Sat, 9 to 10; Sun, 9 to 3. L-\$9-\$15; D-\$19-\$32; Brunch-\$6-\$15. **Best of the Best '11, *County Lines***.

Nectar, 1091 Lancaster Ave. 610-725-9000; [TasteNectar.com](http://TasteNectar.com). Asian-inspired cuisine is served in this beautiful space, with a towering ceiling, minimalist stone walls with flickering candles, a posh sushi bar and a giant, silk-screened Buddha. Open 7 days for dinner; Mon-Fri for lunch. L-\$9-\$29; D-\$9.50-\$39. **Best of the Best '05 to '12, *County Lines***.

Thai Orchid Restaurant, 556 W. Lancaster Ave. (Berwyn Shopping Center). 610-651-7840; [Thai-OrchidBerwyn.com](http://Thai-OrchidBerwyn.com). Contemporary Thai cuisine served in an authentic atmosphere with rich woodwork and pierced wood wall hangings and coromandel screens. They offer a fixed-price, three-course luncheon, \$10.95. BYO. Open 7 days. V, MC, Dis. **Best of the Best '07 to '12, *County Lines***.

### Birchrunville

☼ Birchrunville Store Café, 1403 Hollow Rd. 610-827-9002; [BirchrunvilleStoreCafe.com](http://BirchrunvilleStoreCafe.com). Only a handful of tables at this charming, out of the way restaurant, serving fine contemporary French-Italian cuisine. Allow two hours for a leisurely meal. Smart casual. BYO. Dinner, Wed-Sat, two seatings Fri-Sat, 6-6:30 and 8-8:30. First Tuesdays, a 5-course tasting menu, \$75. Advanced res. req. Entrée prices: \$25-\$28. Cash only. **Best of the Best '05 to '12, *County Lines***.

### Bryn Mawr

☼ Yangming, 1051 Conestoga Rd., (Haverford & Conestoga Rds.) 610-527-3200; [YangmingRestaurant.com](http://YangmingRestaurant.com). Innovative Chinese-International cuisine and classic dishes. Specialties include jumbo lump crabcakes, firecracker veal and capellini with shrimp. Happiness hour Mon-Fri, 4:30-6:30. They have a red wine book, with many new choices. Banquet facilities. Open 7 days. L-\$7.75-\$11.95; D-\$9.95-\$37.50. **Best of the Best '05 through '12, *County Lines***.

### Chadds Ford

Big Fork Restaurant, 101 Ridge Rd. 610-358-8008; [BigForkRestaurant.com](http://BigForkRestaurant.com). A quaint, comfortable restaurant with a country-western inspired atmosphere. Dinner, Wed-Sun starting at 5:30. \$19-\$26.

☼ Bistro on the Brandywine, 1623 Baltimore Pk. Rts. 1 & 100. 610-388-8980; [BistroOnTheBrandywine.com](http://BistroOnTheBrandywine.com). An affordable alternative to the familiar rotation of pizza and burgers offering bistro-style food with a French leaning. BYOB, \$5 corkage. Lunch Mon-Sat dinner, 7 days. L-under \$10; D-under \$20.

☼ Brandywine Prime, 1617 Baltimore Pk. Rts. 1 & 100. 610-388-8088; [BrandywinePrime.com](http://BrandywinePrime.com). Creative, contemporary American cuisine, emphasizing fresh, locally grown products including in-house dry-aged beef. Fresh shucked oysters from around the world and creative sashimis. Dinner, Mon-Sat; Sun brunch. Sunday Special, 3-course dinner \$29.95. Entrées, \$18-25. **Best of the Best '07, '09, *County Lines***.

Chadds Ford Restaurant & Pub, 1400 Baltimore Pk. 610-459-8453; [ChaddsfordRestaurant.com](http://ChaddsfordRestaurant.com).

Enjoy dining in this cozy, quaint, restaurant with a country atmosphere. Featuring Continental cuisine with daily specials. Family owned and operated for 42 years. Casual. Open 7 days for lunch and dinner, L-\$5.50-\$11.99; D-\$11.95-\$23.99.

### Chester Springs

America Bar & Grill, 499 E. Uwchlan Ave. 610-280-0800; [www.AmericaBarGrill.com](http://www.AmericaBarGrill.com). Contemporary American cuisine served in an upscale, casual atmosphere. Specials include a Tapas menu and “build your own steak dinner.” Outdoor patio dining. Mon-Sun for lunch and dinner; Sun brunch, 10 to 2. L-\$8.95-\$14.95; D-\$14.95-\$24.95; Brunch, \$16.95.

### Collegeville

The Pub at Wegman's, 600 Commerce Dr. 484-902-1500; [Wegmans.com](http://Wegmans.com). See listing under Downingtown. **Best of the Best '11, '12, *County Lines***.

### Concordville

☼ Concordville Inn, Rt. 1 (Baltimore Pk.) 610-459-2230; [ConcordvilleInn.com](http://ConcordvilleInn.com). Classic American cuisine served here with Family Nights, “To Go” menu and the slow roasted prime rib is a specialty. Casual. Open for lunch Mon-Sat, 11:30 to 3; dinner, daily, 4:30 to 10; Sun brunch, 10 to 2. L-\$4.95-\$18.95; D-\$15.95-\$39.95. **Best of the Best '07, '08, *County Lines***.

### Downingtown

Amani's BYOB, 105 E. Lancaster Ave. 484-237-8179; [AmanisBYOB.com](http://AmanisBYOB.com). Farm fresh, seasonal cuisine. This 40-seat BYO has an open kitchen in a warm and inviting atmosphere, with a relaxed elegance feel and upscale farm décor. Open for lunch, Tues-Fri, 11:30 to 3; dinner, Tues-Thurs, 5 to 10; Fri-Sat, 5 to 10:30; Sun, 5 to 9; closed Mon. L-\$8-\$13; D-\$19-\$29. **Best of the Best '11, *County Lines***.

☼ Avalon Pasta Bistro, 78 W. Lancaster Ave. 610-873-4200; [PastaBistro.com](http://PastaBistro.com). Specializing in home-made pastas, flatbreads, salads, sophisticated cheeses and a 15-item antipasti platter. They serve 2 complimentary pints of beer or glasses of sangria to adults. Tues-Sat, 5 to 10. Lunch service starting soon. Prix fixe menu, served in small portions family style, \$30, Tues-Thurs, 5 to 6, \$19.99. BYOB. Cash only. **Best of the Best '12, *County Lines***.

☼ Firecreek Restaurant & Bar, 20 E. Lancaster Ave. 610-269-6000; [Firecreek-Restaurant.com](http://Firecreek-Restaurant.com). On the bank of the Brandywine River, this upscale American grille is in a historic paper mill. Live jazz, Thurs, 6 to 9; Sun, 11 to 2. Happy hour Mon, Tues, Fri, 4:30 to 6:30; Wed-Thurs, 4:30 to 7:30. Mon-Thurs, 11:30 am to 10; Fri-Sat, 11:30 am to 10; Sun, 4 to 8 pm. Sun brunch, 10:30 to 2. Sun-Thurs, 3-course prix fixe dinner, 5 to 6:30, \$35. L-\$11-\$18; D-\$20-\$36. **Best of the Best '10 to '12, *County Lines***.

The Pub at Wegman's, 1056 E. Lancaster Ave. 610-518-7800; [Wegmans.com](http://Wegmans.com). A cozy bar with a menu that offers something for every taste. Upscale snacks share the menu with pub favorites. They also have an impressive selection of imported and domestic beer, wine, cocktails and cordials. And the best part is the server greets you with “Don't worry about the tip — we've got it covered!” Check website for hours. **Best of the Best '11, '12, *County Lines***.

☼ Station Taproom, 207 W. Lancaster Ave. 484-593-0560; [StationTaproom.com](http://StationTaproom.com). High-end pub food is served in a warm, casual setting. Happy hour, Mon-Fri, 4:30 to 6:30 featuring \$3 pints, \$5 pulled pork and \$1 off small plates and wine by the glass. Open at 3, Mon-Thurs; Fri-Sun at noon, Sun 11 am for brunch. Entrée price range: \$5-\$10.

### Drexel Hill

Shere-E-Punjab, Drexel Line Shopping Center, 5059 State Rd. 484-452-8140; [ShereEPunjab.com](http://ShereEPunjab.com). See listing under Media, PA **Best of the Best '10 to '12, *County Lines***.

### Earlville

The Tiki Bar, Manatawny Rd. 610-689-4707; [TikiBarPa.com](http://TikiBarPa.com). Enjoy a raucous dinner party inside or out back in southern Berks. Their original “cook your own” cuisine is absolute Americana, from road kill to alligator. All food is grilled. On the “National Register of Hysterical Places.” Open 4 to 12, 7 days. \$10-\$30. **Best of the Best '05 to 08, *County Lines***.

### Edgemont

☼Ristorante La Locanda, 4989 West Chester Pk. (Rt. 3). 610-353-7033; [LaLocandaPA.com](http://LaLocandaPA.com). Bistro-style dining, warm and inviting, with a charming bar area. Italian cuisine from the Abruzzi region. BYO Sun, Mon, Tues. Open Mon-Thurs, 11:30-10, Fri-Sat, 11:30-11, Sun brunch, 11 to 3; Sun, 3-9.

### Exton

Allegria Ristorante, 8 E. Welsh Pool Rd. 610-524-6060; [Allegria-PA.com](http://Allegria-PA.com). The cuisine is fine and the atmosphere is cozy. Chef D'Aprano blends old and Italian nouvelle cuisine with daily specials. Res. BYO. Lunch, Tues-Fri, 11:30 to 2; dinner, Tues-Thurs, 4 to 9:30; Fri-Sat, 5 to 9:30. L-\$6-\$17; D-\$16-\$29. **Best of the Best '05, '07 to '11, *County Lines***.

Brickside Grille, Eagleview Town Center, 540 Wellington Square. 610-321-1600; [BricksideGrille.com](http://BricksideGrille.com). Innovative American cuisine with ethnic influences in an upscale, casual atmosphere. Banquet facilities. Casual. Open Mon-Sat, from 11 am; Sun, from 10 am. **Best of the Best '05 to '07, *County Lines***.

Capriotti's Sandwich Shop, 117 E. Swedesford Rd., Fairfield Place Shopping Center. 610-363-7095; [Capriottis.com](http://Capriottis.com). See listing under West Chester. **Best of the Best '12, *County Lines***.

The Drafting Room, Colonial 100 Shoppes, Rt. 100. 610-363-0521; [Drafting-Room.com](http://Drafting-Room.com). An inviting casual dining room offering a creative American menu. Daily specials and they will suit individual dietary needs. Casual. Lunch, Mon-Sat, 11:30 to 4:30; dinner, Mon-Thurs, 4:30 to 10; Fri-Sat, 4:30 to 11; Sun, 3 to 10; late night, Mon-Thurs, 10 to 11; Fri-Sat, 1 to 12:30 am; L-\$8-\$16; D-\$6-\$27. Brunch, \$16.95. **Best of the Best '06, '08, '09, '10, *County Lines***.

☼Duling-Kurtz House & Country Inn, 146 S. Whitford Rd. 610-524-1830; [DulingKurtz.com](http://DulingKurtz.com). Enjoy American Continental fine dining in one of 8 period dining rooms, with Early American furniture and working fireplaces. The adjacent Country Inn B&B is a converted historic barn with 13 guest rooms, Open 7 days. Lunch Tues-Fri, 11:30 to 3; Sat 12 to 3; dinner, Mon-Sat, 5 to 10; Sun 4 to 9. L-\$8.50-\$18; D-\$16-\$37. **Best of the Best '05 to '11, *County Lines***.

The Riverstone Café, Whiteland Towne Ctr.. 610-594-2233; [RiverstoneCafe.com](http://RiverstoneCafe.com). Dramatic, contemporary style, from the expansive bar, featuring beer, wine and vodka from around the world, to the large community table with cascading water fountain. Tapas menu and a raw bar, Contemporary American menu. Open 7 days for lunch, dinner and Sun brunch. Music & Martinis on Fri, 9 pm. L-\$6.95-\$9.95; D-\$12.95-\$27.95. **Best of the Best '08, '09, *County Lines***.

Ron's Original Bar & Grille, 74 E. Uwchlan Ave. 610-594-9900; [RonsOriginal.com](http://RonsOriginal.com). Serving healthy food, made onsite daily with natural ingredients, prepared from scratch. American/Italian cuisine with daily chalkboard specials and Value Dinner Menu Sun-

Thurs. Live music, Thurs-Sat, Happy hour Mon-Fri. Lunch and dinner Mon-Thurs, 11 to 9:30; Fri-Sat, 11 to 11; Sun, 11:30 to 9. Bar is open until midnight; Thurs-Sat until 2 am. L-under \$10; D-\$9-\$27. **Best of the Best '11, '12, *County Lines***.

☼The Ship Inn, 693 E. Lincoln Hwy. at Ship Rd. 610-363-7200; [ShipInn.net](http://ShipInn.net). An area landmark featuring specialty seafood and steak entrées and daily specials. Choose an intimate formal atmosphere warmed by the fireplaces or casual dining in the Grill (and before and after dinner drinks at the bar). Lunch and dinner, Mon-Sat, 11:30 to 10; Sun, 4 to 10. Happy hour Tues-Fri, 4:30 to 6. Live music Friday. L-\$6.95-\$17.50; D-\$8.75-\$35.95. Private parties welcome. **Best of the Best '05 to '11, *County Lines***.

☼Vickers Tavern, Corner of E. Welsh Pool Rd. & Gordon Dr. 610-363-7998; [VickersTavern.com](http://VickersTavern.com). Once a stop on the Underground Railroad,

this 1823 farmhouse features traditional Continental cuisine with modern flare. Upscale; casual at the bar. Res. pref. Lunch, Mon-Fri, 11:30 to 2; dinner, Mon-Thurs, 5:30 to 10, Fri-Sat until 5:30 to 11. Happy hour daily, 5:30. Live music, Fri-Sat. L-\$8.50-\$15.95; D-\$21-\$39.95. Private rooms. **Best of the Best '05 to '09, *County Lines***.

### Glen Mills

America Bar & Grill, 981 Baltimore Pk. 610-558-9900; [AmericaBarGrill.com](http://AmericaBarGrill.com). Contemporary American cuisine served in an upscale, casual atmosphere. Specials include a popular Tapas menu and “build your own steak dinner.” Outdoor patio. Open Mon-Sun for lunch and dinner; Sun brunch, 10 to 2. L-\$8.95-\$14.95; D-\$14.95-\$24.95; brunch, \$7.95-\$16.95.

Mile High Steak & Seafood, 1102 Baltimore Pk. 610-361-0855; [MileHighSS.com](http://MileHighSS.com). Serving quality, certified Angus Beef, fresh seafood, fine wines and sig-

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nature cocktails. Enjoy an intimate dining experience or host a larger celebration in their private banquet room. Serving dinner Mon-Sat, 4:30 to 10; Sun, 4 to 9. Sun brunch, 10 to 2. Sun Happy hour, 4 to 8. **Best of the Best '09, County Lines.**

#### Gulph Mills

Savona, 100 Old Gulph Rd. 610-520-1200; SavonaRestaurant.com Fine dining in a romantic setting with professional European service, focusing on French and Italian Riviera cuisine. A *Wine Spectator* Best of Award of Excellence, Savona offers over 1100 wine selections. Dinner Mon-Sat, from 5:30; Sun brunch, 11 to 2. Lunch is available for private parties. **Best of the Best '07 to '12, County Lines.**

#### Kennett Square

Flickerwood Wine Cellars Tasting Room, 116 W. State St. 610-444-8341; Flickerwood.com. Enjoy great wine and live music from 6 to 9 pm. **Best of the Best '09, County Lines.**

Floga Bistro, 826 E. Baltimore Pk. 610-444-6500. Northern Italian cuisine with a Mediterranean flair is served at the BYOB with a casually sophisticated ambiance. Specials include a 3-course dinner, Mon-Thurs, \$17.99. Gluten-free menu available. Open daily for lunch and dinner. L-\$7-\$12; D-\$7-\$22.

☼ Foxfire at The Stone Barn, Rt. 842, 3 mi. N. of Rt. 1. 610-347-2414; TheStoneBarn.com. See listing under Unionville, PA.

☼ Half Moon Restaurant & Saloon, 108 W. State St. 610-444-7232; HalfMoonRestaurant.com. Restored tin ceilings, porcelain tile, mahogany details, and the all-season, glass-enclosed Roof Top offers dining with a view. Specializing in wild game, farm-raised meats, Belgian beers, 27 taps, seafood, vegetarian. Two full bars, wine list. Lunch and dinner; closed Sun. Travel Channel, Food Paradise Feature, 2010. **Best of the Best '06 to '12, County Lines.**

☼ Kennett Square Inn, 201 E. State St. 610-444-5687; KennettInn.com. A landmark in this small town housed in an attractively restored historic building, serving American cuisine in a Williamsburg setting. Formal or informal dining. Upscale casual. Open for lunch, Mon-Sat, from 11:30; dinner, Mon-Sat, 5:30-9:30, Sun, 4 to 9. L-\$8-\$17; D-\$15-\$32. **Best of the Best '06 to '09, County Lines.**

The Orchard, 503 Orchard Ave., just south of Longwood. 610-388-1100; TheOrchardBYOB.com. This 45-seat BYO has a softly lit dining room with contemporary, sleek white paneling, antiques and plush fabrics. Features American/International cuisine. Upscale casual. Dinner only, Tues-Fri, begins at 6; Sat, begins at 5; closed Sun-Mon. \$25-\$35.95. V, MC. **Best of the Best '05 to '12, County Lines.**

Sovana Bistro, 696 Unionville Rd. 610-444-5600; SovanaBistro.com. This fine restaurant embraces a farm-to-table mentality, seasonally inspired and locally sourced. Finding innovative ways to ensure each guest receives a unique dining experience. BYO, with an eclectic wine list and cocktails. Tues-Sat, 11 to 10 pm; Sun 4:30 to 9pm. Closed Monday. **Best of the Best '06, '08, '09, '10, '11, '12, County Lines.**

Sunrise Café & Tearoom, 127 E. State St. 610-444-8141; SunriseCafe-TeaRoom.com. Upscale family dining in this New Age diner offering a full breakfast and lunch menu with the standard fare and healthy options. Breakfast and lunch Mon-Fri, 7 am to 2 pm; Sat-Sun, 8 am to 2 pm. Brunch-\$3-\$8; L-\$5-\$8.75. **Best of the Best '07, '08, '11, County Lines.**

Talula's Table, 102 W. State St. 610-444-8255; TalulasTable.com. A gourmet market, reminiscent of a European café or boulangerie. Their breads and pastries are baked on premises. Prepared foods, soups and salads and delicious Italian coffee. An old-fashioned farm table is where the chef will create seasonal farm-table dinners and tasting menus for a groups up to 12. Open 7 days, 7 to 7. L-\$6-\$12; D-\$90. **Best of the Best '08 through '11, County Lines.**

#### Kimberton

☼ The Kimberton Inn, Kimberton Rd. 610-933-8148; KimbertonInn.com. An inviting, restored 200-year-old inn, tastefully furnished in antiques and oriental rugs with wood-burning fireplaces. Regional American cooking. Live piano Fri-Sat. Dinner, Tues-Sat, 5:30 to 9:30, Sun, 5 to 8:30. Sun brunch, 11 to 2. D-\$18-\$40; Sun brunch, \$24. Res. rec. weekends. **Best of the Best '05 to '09, County Lines.**

#### King of Prussia

☼ Creed's Seafood & Steaks, 499 N. Gulph Rd. 610-265-2550; CreedsKOP.com. Contemporary American restaurant offering a selection of fresh fish, seafood and steaks and a raw-bar menu. Contemporary, warm and sophisticated. Upscale casual. Lunch Mon-Fri, 11:30 to 2:30; dinner Mon-Sat, 5 to 10. L-\$8-\$19; D-\$18-\$39. **Best of the Best '05, County Lines.**

Desi Village, 145 Gulph Rd. 610-265-8500; Desi-Village.com. Bright, comfortable restaurant serves North Indian cuisine. Daily specials and chef specials. Lunch buffet, Mon-Fri, 11:30 to 3, Sat-Sun, till 3:30. Dinner, Sun-Thurs, 5 to 10; Fri-Sat until 11. L-\$8.95-\$14.95; D-\$11-\$25. **Best of the Best '06 to '10, County Lines.**

#### Lancaster

Gibraltar, 931 Harrisburg Pk. 717-397-2790; GibraltarGrille.com. Lancaster's top *Zagat*-rated restaurant. Fresh seafood arriving daily from all over the world. Menu selections change weekly and are served with flair, along with their *Wine Spectator* award-winning wine list. Upscale casual. Outdoor dining; Aqua Bar open before and after dinner. Live music, Fri-Sat. Lunch Mon-Fri; dinner daily. **Best of the Best '05 to '12, County Lines.**

Lancaster Brewing Company, 302 N. Plum St. 717-391-6258; LancasterBrewing.com. An award-winning restaurant inside a working micro-brewery, with creative, North American cuisine and freshly brewed beer (over 10 beers on tap). The

rustic ambiance of the historic tobacco warehouse and menu selection make for a memorable dining experience. Happy hour, Mon-Fri, 5 to 7; Sat-Sun, all day. Open Sun-Thurs, 11:30 to midnight; Fri-Sat, 11:30 to 2 am.

☼ Olde Greenfield Inne, 595 Greenfield Rd. 717-393-0668; TheOldeGreenfieldInn.com. American cuisine in a 1780-Pennsylvania farmhouse. Dinner in the award-winning wine cellar, piano lounge, "balcony" or, weather permitting, patio. Lunch, Tues-Sat, 11 to 2; dinner, Mon-Sat, 5 to 10; breakfast/brunch, Sun, 9 to 2. L-\$9.95; D-\$18-\$32; Sun brunch menu.

The Pressroom, 26-28 W. King St. 717-399-5400; PressroomRestaurant.com. A modern American bistro with high ceilings, a curved marble bar and Amish woodwork throughout. Daily specials and a variety of vegetarian dishes. Casual. Open Mon-Sat for lunch, 11:30 to 3; dinner, Tues-Thurs, 5 to 9:30, Fri-Sat, 5 to 10:30; Sun, 5 to 9. Outdoor dining on the terrace. **Best of the Best '05 to '09, County Lines.**

☼ Stockyard Inn, 1147 Lititz Pk. 717-394-7975; StockyardInn.com. Built in 1750 and owned by James Buchanan, elegantly restored, and serving the finest steaks, chops, prime rib and fresh seafood. Well known for generous hospitality, combining Old-World charm with contemporary American cuisine. Business casual. Lunch, Tues-Fri, 11:30 to 2:30; dinner, Tues-Sat, 4 to 9:30. Closed Sun-Mon. **Best of the Best '05 to '12, County Lines.**

☼ Strawberry Hill, 128 W. Strawberry St. (Strawberry, Mulberry & Vine). 717-393-5544; StrawberryHillRestaurant.com. Dinner at this elegant but casual restaurant, housed in a stately 1880s-Victorian building, is a unique experience. Cuisine ranges from traditional to innovative modern offerings. They have 1100 selections of wine, and will schedule wine dinners and tastings. Upscale casual. Daily, 5 to 10. D-\$15-\$32. **Best of the Best '06 to '08, County Lines.**

Palm Court Doubletree Resort at Willow Valley, 2416 Willow Street Pk. 717-464-2711; WillowValley.com. Fresh flowers, linen-draped tables, palm trees and elegant ambiance of the courtyard make Sunday brunch special. Breakfast favorites are offered along with made to order dishes. Casual. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, Sunday brunch, bar bites. Weekly dinner specials. **Best of the Best '05 to '07, County Lines.**

#### Leola

☼ Restaurant Mazzi, 46 Deborah Dr. 717-656-8983; RestaurantMazzi.com. Rustic Italian and





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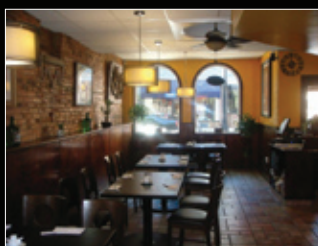
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French-influenced cuisine is served in an atmosphere reminiscent of a European restaurant, with food prepared with freshest ingredients from Lancaster County artisan farmers and vendors. One of their specialties is the antipasti, served on a "hog cart" wheeled through the dining room. Upscale casual. Dinner daily from 5. Cocktail Thursdays, 5:30 to 6:30. \$17-\$42. **Best of the Best '05, '06, '07, '10, '11, '12, County Lines.**

⊗ Osteria Avanti, The Inn at Leola Village, 38 Deborah Dr. 717-656-8983; [RestaurantMazzi.com](http://RestaurantMazzi.com). Classical Italian country restaurant, providing rustic style fare served in a casual warm atmosphere. (See Restaurant Mazzi).

### Malvern

Anthony's Pizza & Italian Restaurant, 127 W. King St. 610-647-7400; [AnthonysItalianRestaurant.com](http://AnthonysItalianRestaurant.com). A neighborhood favorite serving classic Italian specialties including chicken, veal and pasta dishes. BYOB. Casual. Open Sun-Thurs, 10 to 10:30; Fri-Sat, 10 to 11:30. \$5-\$20.

Bunha Faun, 152 Lancaster Pk. 610-651-2836; [BunhaFaun.net](http://BunhaFaun.net). Excellent French cuisine at this little spot on Rt. 30 in Frazer. The menu does not change often and is consistently good. Sun-Thurs, 5 to 9, Fri-Sat, 5 to 10. Closed Mon. D-\$17-\$32. **Best of the Best '05, '06, '10, '11, '12, County Lines.**

⊗ Cedar Hollow Inn, 2455 Yellow Springs Rd. 610-296-9006; [CedarHollowInn.com](http://CedarHollowInn.com). Upscale, casual dining in a friendly atmosphere. Table linens, rich cobalt blue glassware, and warm wooden floors set the stage for the delicious American/Continental cuisine. Open 7 days for lunch and dinner.

Classic Diner, 352 W. Lancaster Ave. 610-725-0515; [TheClassicDinerPA.com](http://TheClassicDinerPA.com). Don't be fooled by the old building. Once you enter, the clean, classy lines define this upscale diner serving gourmet breakfast and lunch (amazing omelettes). BYO. Casual. Soup specials. Open 7 days, 6 am to 3 pm. Breakfast-\$5-\$15; L-\$8-\$20. **Best of the Best '06 to '12, County Lines.**

⊗ Historic General Warren Inne, 9 Old Lancaster Rd. 610-296-3637; [GeneralWarren.com](http://GeneralWarren.com). A charming 18th-century country inn serving Continental/American cuisine, with fresh fish, steaks and veal. Private parties and weddings a specialty. Guest suites available. Lunch, Mon-Fri, 11:30 to 2:30; dinner, Mon-Sat, 5 to 10. L-\$10-\$16.50; D-\$24-\$37. **Best of the Best '05 to '11, County Lines.**



The Hunt Room at the Desmond Great Valley, 1 Liberty Blvd., 610-296-9800; [DesmondGV.com](http://DesmondGV.com). Casual-but-elegant ambiance with a beautiful view. Innovative American regional cuisine. Breakfast, lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch, 7 am to 10 pm. Outdoor dining. 3-course Prix Fixe dinner, 5 to 6:30, \$28, 6:30 to close, \$32, daily. Sun brunch, 8:30 to 2.

Margaret Kuo's Mandarin Restaurant, 190 Lancaster Pk. 610-647-5488; [MargaretKuo.com](http://MargaretKuo.com). The atmosphere here is contemporary Oriental and the cuisine is classic Chinese, specializing in Peking duck and fresh fish, plus a Sushi Bar. Offering a Year of the Dragon menu, a 10-course Chinese Banquet menu through February 29. Open 7 days. Casual.

⊗ Farmhouse Bistro, at People's Light & Theatre, 39 Conestoga Rd. 610-647-8060; [TheFarmhouseBistro.com](http://TheFarmhouseBistro.com). Beautifully restored Old Farmhouse at People's Light is the setting for intimate dining that is informal yet elegant. French Provincial cuisine with modern twists on classics, plus fish specialties. Dinner, Tues-Sat, 5 to 10; Sun, 4:30 to 9:30; Sun brunch, 11 to 2. **Best of the Best '07, '12, County Lines.**

Restaurant Alba, 7 W. King St. 610-644-4009; [RestaurantAlba.com](http://RestaurantAlba.com). The atmosphere is elegant yet comfortable, reminiscent of a European bistro, with

regional Italian cuisine with Mediterranean influences, and a seasonal menu changing monthly. An all-Italian wine list and hard to find wines. Upscale casual. Lunch, Thurs-Fri, 11:30 to 2; dinner, Mon-Thurs, 5:30 to 9; Fri-Sat, 5:30 to 10. D-\$19-\$29. V, MC, AE. **Best of the Best '06, '08 to '12, County Lines.**

The Pub at Wegman's, 50 Foundry Way. 484-913-9600; [Wegmans.com](http://Wegmans.com). See listing under Downtowntown. **Best of the Best '11, '12, County Lines.**

### Media

⊗ Azie Restaurant, 217 W. State St. 610-566-4750; [Azie-Restaurant.com](http://Azie-Restaurant.com). Contemporary Asian cuisine served in a modern space. Upstairs dining room and rooftop deck with an urban feel for dining in warmer weather. Open 7 days for lunch and dinner. Happy hour, Mon-Fri, 5 to 7, with half-price specials. Upscale casual. L-\$4-\$20; D-\$4-\$25; Brunch, \$11-\$16. **Best of the Best '09 to '12, County Lines.**

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant, 30 E. State St. 610-627-9000; [IronHillBrewery.com](http://IronHillBrewery.com). See listing under West Chester. **Best of the Best '05 through '12, County Lines.**

Margaret Kuo's Peking Restaurant, Granite Run Mall, Rt. 1. 610-566-4110; [MargaretKuos.com](http://MargaretKuos.com). Contemporary Oriental atmosphere with a pair of Temple lions dominating the entrance. Authentic Northern Chinese cooking; they introduced Peking Duck, Mooshu dishes and other northern specialties to the area. Serving Japanese cuisine, too. Open 7 days for lunch and dinner. Casual dress. **Best of the Best '09, '11, '12, County Lines.**

Margaret Kuo's Media, 4-6 W. State St. 610-892-0115; [MargaretKuos.com](http://MargaretKuos.com). The tradition of excellence in food and service is continued at this location, where an authentic Japanese menu is served along with No. Chinese cuisine. The master chef was trained by Tokyo's Imperial Kitchen Staff. **Best of the Best '09, '11, '12, County Lines.**

La Na Thai French Cuisine, 33 W. State St. 610-892-7787. Pumpkin-colored walls and gold woodwork give La Na a warm, comfortable atmosphere. BYO. Lunch and dinner specials. Casual. Mon-Thurs for lunch, 11:30 to 2:30; dinner 5 to 9:30; Fri-Sat, 5 to 10; Sun, 4:30 to 9. L-\$7.95-\$9.95; D-\$12.95-\$22.

Nadia Thai Cuisine, 42 E. State St. 610-892-8710. Offering wonderful Thai food and a noodle

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Restaurant Mazzi



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bar in a friendly atmosphere. BYOB. Open for lunch, Mon-Sat, 7 days for dinner. L-D-\$7.95-\$19.95.

**Quotations Restaurant**, 37 E. State St. 610-627-2515; [QuotationsRestaurant.com](http://QuotationsRestaurant.com). This family-friendly restaurant serves American cuisine and seafood, with 4, 42-inch TVs, Belgian beers on tap and over 50 microbrews. Daily specials; live acoustic music on Fri-Sat. Open Mon-Thurs, 11 to 11; Fri-Sat, 11 am to 2 am; Sun, 11 to 10. L-\$4.99-\$9.99; D-\$8.99-\$22.

**Riddle Ale House**, 1073 W. Baltimore Pk. 610-566-9984; [RiddleAleHouse.com](http://RiddleAleHouse.com). A new look and feel at this restaurant, which serves casual American food including hand-carved roast beef sandwiches (a specialty). Casual. Open 7 days for lunch and dinner. L-\$5-\$10; D-\$10-\$20. Major cards.

**Shere-E-Punjab**, 208 W. State St. 610-891-0400; [ShereEPunjab.com](http://ShereEPunjab.com). Enjoy the exotic flavors and subtle tastes of India here, where the cuisine boasts fragrant and warm spices blended fresh daily in a centuries-old craft. Lunch specials for businesses and a good selection of vegan/vegetarian dishes. Serving lunch Mon-Sun, 11:30 to 3 and dinner, Sun-Thurs, 4 to 9:30; Fri-Sat, 4 to 10:30. \$3.95-\$21.95. Catering available. **Best of the Best '10 to '12, County Lines.**

**D'Ignazio's Towne House**, corner of Baltimore Pk. & Veterans Sq. 610-566-6141; [TowneHouse.com](http://TowneHouse.com). A Delaware County tradition, where antiques and curios hang from every surface. Mainly American/Italian. Specials: Mon, pasta entrées \$10.99, Tues, Sun, specials, \$15.99, Recesson Buster dinners, Mon-Fri, 40% off before 5 pm. Casual. Open 7 days. L-\$4-\$7; D-\$10-\$20. **Best of the Best '05, County Lines.**

#### Mendenhall

⊗ **Mendenhall Inn**, Route 52, 323 Kennett Pk. 610-388-1181; [MendenhallInn.com](http://MendenhallInn.com). This upscale inn, hotel and conference center offers fine dining from an award-winning menu. They feature imported and domestic wines, flambé desserts, international coffees and outdoor dining. Dinner, Mon-Sat, 4:30 to 9:30, Sun, 4 to 8; Sun champagne brunch, 10 to 2. **Best of the Best '05 to '11, County Lines.**

#### Newtown Square

⊗ **The Newtown Grill**, 191 S. Newtown Street Rd., 610-356-9700; [ItalianSteakHouse.com](http://ItalianSteakHouse.com). Fine dining offering a unique menu blending the best of the Italian cuisine and the exceptional quality of Certified Angus Beef. Upscale casual. **Best of the Best '05, County Lines.**

**Teikoku**, 5492 West Chester Pk. 610-644-8270; [TeikokuRestaurant.com](http://TeikokuRestaurant.com). This beautiful restaurant with Asian-inspired décor offers outstanding contemporary Asian cuisine at affordable prices. Private dining room; outdoor deck. Open 7 days for lunch and dinner. L-\$4-\$20; D-\$4-\$25; Brunch, \$11-\$16. Happy hour, Mon-Fri, 4:30 to 6:30, with specially priced small plates, sushi and drink specials. **Best of the Best '05 to '12, County Lines.**

#### Paoli

**Le Saigon Restaurant**, 82 E. Lancaster Ave. 610-889-4870; [LeSaigon.com](http://LeSaigon.com). Casual, comfortable dining. Authentic Vietnamese cuisine with a French flair. Daily lunch and dinner special, weekly chef specials and carryout. Open Mon to Fri. Closed Sundays. Private parties available on Sunday. BYO. Cash only. **Best of the Best '05 to '12, County Lines.**

**Trattoria San Nicola**, 4 Manor Rd. 610-695-8990; [SanNicola.net](http://SanNicola.net). Authentic Italian cuisine meets the arts

in a unique, old-world environment offering fine food and beverages complemented by original artwork and lovely decor. Daily specials for lunch and dinner. Lunch Mon-Fri; dinner, Mon-Sun. L-\$9-\$14; D-\$12-\$22. **Best of the Best '06 to '08, County Lines.**

**Wabi Sabi Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar**, 1776 E. Lancaster Ave., 610-296-8100; [WabiSabiPaoli.com](http://WabiSabiPaoli.com). Serving sushi, Hibachi and Teppan-yaki fare prepared with flourishes by the chef in front of you and classic Chinese cuisine at Garnian Wa, which is also located within Wabi Sabi. Casual. Open 7 days for lunch and dinner. L-\$5-\$12.95; D-\$14-\$32. **Best of the Best '05, County Lines.**

#### Phoenixville

⊗ **Becca's Restaurant**, 19 S. Whitehorse Rd. 484-924-8502; [BeccasRestaurant.com](http://BeccasRestaurant.com). Located on an 18th-century property believed to have been a stop for the Underground Railroad. A true seasonal menu featuring organic and locally grown products. BYOB. Lunch, Wed-Sat, 11:30 to 2; dinner, Wed-Fri, 5:30 to 9, Sat, 5:30 to 10; Sun brunch, 10 to 2. Closed Mon-Tues. **Best of the Best '11, County Lines.**

**Black Lab Bistro**, 248 Bridge St. 610-935-5988; [BlackLabBistro.net](http://BlackLabBistro.net). Fine food in a relaxed setting with a New York bistro look. The cuisine is American casual contemporary. Daily specials. Open Tues-Sat for lunch, 11:30 to 2, and dinner Tues-Sun 5 to 10. Major cards except Dis. **Best of the Best '06, '07, County Lines.**

⊗ **The Columbia Bar & Grille**, 148 Bridge St. 610-983-0300; [ColumbiaBarAndGrille.com](http://ColumbiaBarAndGrille.com). A consistent favorite with discriminating locals since 1893. Innovative American fare including soups, salads, seafood and prime meats with live music, weekend brunch and Sunday evening dinner. Available for private parties. Smart casual. Open 7 days. **Best of the Best '08 to '11, County Lines.**

**Daddy Mims' Creole BYOB**, 150 Bridge St. 610-935-1800; [DaddyMims.com](http://DaddyMims.com). Close your eyes and have a bite, and the Creole cuisine of Chef John Mims will transport you to New Orleans. From gumbo to jambalaya to Creole seafood pasta, they've got it all. Chef's tasting, \$35. Open Tues-Thurs, 5 to 9; Fri-Sat, 5 to 10; Sun, 5 to 8. Res. rec. Don't miss their Mardi Gras party! Their private dining room is great for any occasion. **Best of the Best '10 to '12, County Lines.**

**The Epicurean Restaurant**, 902 Village at Eland, 610-933-1336; [EpicureanRestaurant.com](http://EpicureanRestaurant.com). Contemporary American cuisine in a warm, casual atmosphere. Live entertainment Wed, Fri, Sat. Their Tapas tasting menu is popular with selections inspired by the staff. Over 200 beers and 35 wines by the glass. Open 7 days. L-\$8.95-\$13.95; D-\$14.95-\$22.50; Sun brunch-\$8.95-\$13.95. Take-out available.

**G-Lodge Restaurant**, 1371 Valley Forge Rd. 610-933-1646. Best kept secret in Chester County for scrumptious, hearty breakfasts served until 1:30 at this oldest running restaurant in the area. Open Mon-Fri, 6 to 2:30; Sat-Sun, 7 to 2. \$6-\$8.

**Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant**, 130 E. Bridge St. 610-983-9333; [IronHillBrewery.com](http://IronHillBrewery.com). See listing under West Chester. **Best of the Best '05 to 12, County Lines.**

**Majolica**, 258 Bridge St. 610-917-0962; [MajolicaRestaurant.com](http://MajolicaRestaurant.com). New American cuisine with a French influence is beautifully presented at this jewel of a BYO, with décor that is simple yet elegant. Menu items are made in-house. Upscale casual. Dinner Tues-Sat. D-1st course: \$8-\$15; 2nd: \$20-\$24; 3rd: \$7-\$15. **Best of the Best '06 to '12, County Lines.**



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☼ Seven Stars Inn, 263 Hoeffcker Rd. 610-495-5205; SevenStarsInn.com. Charming 200-year-old inn offering a traditional steakhouse menu serving overly generous portions. Specialty is a Roast Western Prime Rib that's 32- to 40-oz. Tues-Thurs are BYO, no corkage fee. Upscale casual. Dinner, Tues-Sun. D-\$20-\$40. **Best of the Best '10, County Lines.**

Thai L'Elephant, 301 Bridge St. 610-935-8613; ThaiLElephant.com. Visit their new location and experience the flavor and excitement of Thai cuisine with a French flair in an authentic atmosphere with antique Thai décor. Lunch special, Mon-Sat, includes soup, appetizer, entrée starting at \$8.95. Lunch, Tues-Sat, 11:30 to 3. Dinner, Tues-Thurs, 5 to 9; Fri-Sat, 5 to 10; Sun, 5 to 9. L-\$7.95-\$10.95; D-\$10.95-\$20.95.

#### Pine Forge

☼ Gracie's 21st Century Café & Catering, 1534 Manatawny Rd. 610-323-4004; Gracies21st-Century.com. Eclectic décor with original artwork throughout this historic, 1710 building. The food is modern, multi-cultural with attention to using organics and wild-caught fish and local produce when available. Dinner Wed-Sat (other days and luncheon by reservation). \$28-\$42. **Best of the Best '09, County Lines.**

#### Pottstown

Angelina's Italian Kitchen, 864 E. High St. 610-705-1833. Classic Italian cuisine is served at this BYO located next to The Hill School in Pottstown. Catering for small and large events. Open Tues-Wed, 11 to 2; dinner Thurs-Sat, 11 to 10.

Funky Lil' Kitchen, 232 King St. 610-326-7400; FunkyLilKitchen.com. This sleek yet intimate 28-seat BYO, specializing in Modern American cuisine and offering seasonal menus, is reminiscent of a Center City-style bistro. Seasonal 18-seat outdoor courtyard. Upscale casual. Tues-Sat, 5 to 9. App-\$7-\$10; D-\$19-\$24. **Best of the Best '06, '07, County Lines.**

#### Radnor

333 Belrose Bar & Grill, 333 Belrose La. 610-293-1000; 333Belrose.com. Sophisticated American cuisine in an upscale, contemporary atmosphere, with four dining areas including an enclosed, heated patio and a large, active bar. Daily specials. Half priced wine Tues & Thurs. Lunch, Mon-Fri; serving dinner six days, Mon-Sat. L-\$12-\$21; D-\$24-\$35. **Best of the Best '05 to '12, County Lines.**

Susanna Foo Gourmet Kitchen, 555 East Lancaster Ave. 610-688-8808; SusannaFoo.com. A chic spot in a family-friendly atmosphere. Dumpelings are the house specialty. Business casual. Lunch Mon-Fri, 11:30 to 2:30; Sat-Sun, noon to 3; dinner, Mon-Thurs, 5 to 10; Fri-Sat, 5 to 11; Sun, 4 to 9. Happy hour, Mon-Fri, 4:30 to 6:30. Entrées under \$30. **Best of the Best '07, '08, '09, County Lines.**

#### Reading

☼ Green Hills Inn, 2444 Morgantown Rd., Rt. 10. 610-777-9611; GreenHillsInn.com. Delightful country inn serving fine contemporary French/American cuisine. Seasonal menu. Heart-healthy items on request. Casual to dressy. Closed Sunday. Dinner, \$17.95-\$28.50. "Consistently marvelous" — Zagat Guide. **Best of the Best '05, to '10, County Lines.**

#### St. Davids

Glenmorgan Bar & Grill, 593 E. Lancaster Ave. 610-341-3188; Glenmorgan.com. Located in The Radnor Hotel, Glenmorgan features a contemporary atmosphere, perfect for enjoying classic cocktails and spirited American cuisine. A 28-seat oval bar, half-price happy hour offerings Mon-Fri, 5 to 7 pm. Specialties

include the Glenmorgan Salad and Sage Fried Chicken & Bacon Waffles. L-\$8-\$12; D-\$24-\$26.

The Radnor Hotel, 591 E. Lancaster Ave. 610-341-3188; RadnorHotel.com. Champagne Sunday Brunch features live classical piano and magnificent views overlooking award-winning formal gardens. Experience their omelet station, seafood specialties and a variety of hand-carved meats, an extensive dessert selection and cascading Belgian Chocolate Fountain. Upscale casual. Sun, 10 to 2. \$27.95 adults, children under 12, \$13.95. **Best of the Best '05 to '08, County Lines.**

#### St. Peter's Village

The Inn at St. Peter's Village, 3471 St. Peter's Rd. 610-469-2600; TheInnAtSaintPeters.com. Fine dining featuring organic fare with a French influence. Wed, 4 to 8; Thurs, 4 to 9; Fri, 4 to 10; Sat, 11:30 to 10; Sun, 3 to 8. Sun brunch, 11:30 to 2:30. D-\$25-\$40. Banquet/catering. The Inn has 7 beautiful guest-rooms. **Best of the Best '07, '08, County Lines.**

#### Springfield

Capriotti's Sandwich Shop, 141 S. State Rd. 484-472-6257; Capriottis.com. See listing under West Chester.

#### Stratford / Wayne

Georges', 503 W. Lancaster Ave. Eagle Village. 610-964-2588; GeorgesOnTheMainLine.com. World-renowned chef and restaurateur Georges Perrier serves "global" cuisine in this charming restaurant. Lunch, Tues-Sat, 11:30 to 4; Sun brunch, 11 to 2. Dinner, Mon-Thurs, 5 to 10, Fri-Sat, 5 to 11, Sun, 5 to 9 (BYOW). L-\$8-\$16; D-\$16-\$25. Brunch-\$32.95 prix fixe. **Best of the Best '07, '08, County Lines.**

#### Strasburg

☼ Iron Horse Inn, 135 E. Main St. 717-687-6362. Fine dining in a casual atmosphere offering American cuisine such as certified Angus beef and crab cakes. Open for lunch and dinner, Mon, Wed, 12 to 9; Thurs-Sat, 12 to 10. Sun, 12 to 7. Closed Tues. L-\$6-\$12; D-\$10-\$35.

#### Unionville

Catherine's Restaurant, 1701 W. Doe Run Rd. 610-347-2227; CatherinesRestaurant.com. The only lighting is by candles and stunning copper work adorns the walls. Cuisine is New American and features grilled fish and meats. Upscale casual. BYO. Open Tues-Sat. Available for private party rental. Open for breakfast and lunch, Tues-Sat, 10 am to 2; dinner Tues-Sat, from 6 pm. Entrées-\$18-\$27.95. Res. highly sug. **Best of the Best '05 to '12, County Lines.**

☼ Foxfire at The Stone Barn, Rt. 842, 3 mi. N. of Rt. 1. 610-347-2414; TheStoneBarn.com. Casual elegant dining in the country features Chef Ray Maxwell's acclaimed Farm-to-Table cuisine, with freshly prepared dishes made with local produce, sustainable seafood, free-range chicken and farm raised game. Thurs-Sat, lunch, 11 to 2; dinner from 5:30; Sun brunch buffet, 10 to 3. BYO. Thursday Prix Fixe dinner \$32. Scenic weddings and banquets. Wheelchair accessible. **Best of the Best '08, to '12, County Lines.**

#### Villanova

Azie On Main, 789 East Lancaster Ave. 610-527-5700; AzieOnMain.com. Creative contemporary Asian cuisine with global influences. Outdoor dining, sake selections, wine and beer from

around the world make this the new "in" place. Lunch Mon-Fri, 11:30 to 3; Sun brunch, 11 to 2:30; dinner, Mon-Thurs, 5 to 10; Fri-Sat, 5 to 11; Sun, 5 to 9. Bar/lounge is open until 1 am. **Best of the Best '10, '12, County Lines.**

#### Wayne

A Taste of Britain With Easy Elegance, Eagle Village Shops, 503 West Lancaster Ave. 610-971-0390; EasyElegance.net. A charming, cozy tea shop offering Full Afternoon Tea and light fare lunches. Private parties on Sunday. Pasties, pot pies, scones, tea sandwiches and pastries plus much more are available for take out. BYO. Open Mon-Sat, 10 to 5. **Best of the Best '06 to '09, County Lines.**

Hana, 387 W. Lancaster Ave. 610-687-3320. Enjoy traditional favorites for lunch and dinner at the Main Line's original Japanese Restaurant and

Sushi Bar. Sashimi and sushi, prepared by a Tokyo-trained chef, served in an intimate dining room or Sushi bar. BYO. Prices vary; macrobiotic offerings. Open Tues-Thurs; closed Mon. D-\$13-\$26. **Best of the Best '06 to '12, County Lines.**

Margaret Kuo's Wayne, 175 E. Lancaster Ave. 610-688-7200; MargaretKuos.com. The ambience at this multi-floored restaurant is sophisticated Asian. Business casual. There are 3 bars and special menu offerings daily. Open 7 days. **Best of the Best '06 through '11, County Lines.**

The Paddock at Devon, 629 W. Lancaster Ave. 610-687-3533; DevonPaddock.com. Classic Continental menu with a casual setting in an Old-World rustic style. Daily chef and cocktail specials. Upscale casual dress. L-\$15; D-\$18; Brunch-\$20. **Best of the Best '10, County Lines.**

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☼ **Paramour**, 139 E. Lancaster Ave. 610-977-0600; [ParamourWayne.com](#). Serving modern American cuisine in a distinctive atmosphere at the iconic Wayne Hotel, which was built in 1906 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Paramour's affordable menu offers seasonally-inspired dishes, special offerings and a fixed price menu on holidays. Lunch, Mon-Sat, 11:30 to 3; dinner, Sun-Thurs, 5 to 10, Fri-Sat, 5 to 11. Brunch on Sun, 10 to 3. L-\$12-\$24; D-\$24-\$39; Brunch, \$12-\$28. Major Cards. **Best of the Best '12, County Lines.**

**Ristorante Primavera**, 384 W. Lancaster Ave. 610-254-0200; [RistorantePrimaveraOfWayne.com](#). The warmth of traditional Italian décor and northern Italian cuisine make this a pleasing adventure in eating. Veal, pasta, seafood, daily specials. Lunch, Mon-Fri; dinner, Mon-Sun. L-D: \$7.95-\$36.00. **Best of the Best '06 to '09, County Lines.**

**The Silverspoon Restaurant**, 503 W. Lancaster Ave., Eagle Village. 610-688-7646; [Silver-spoonWayne.com](#). Contemporary American cuisine in a casual, French bouchon-style atmosphere sun-drenched during the day and candle-lit at night. World Tour Wednesdays offers a 4-course dinner, \$35. The menu changes weekly. Daily chefs specials. BYO. Breakfast and lunch, Mon-Fri, 10 to 3; dinner, Tues-Sat, 5:30 to 10; brunch, Sat-Sun, 11 to 3. L-\$7-\$15; D-\$17-\$32; Brunch-\$7-\$21. **Best of the Best '11, County Lines.**

**Teresa's Café**, 124 N. Wayne Ave. 610-293-9909; [Terasas-Cafe.com](#). Italian bistro fare is served in a quaint, modern setting with dark walls and glowing pizza oven. BYO for wine only; wine and beer are available for purchase. Mon, 5 to 9; Tues-Sat, 5-10; Sun, 4-9. D-\$17-\$32.

**Teresa's Next Door**, 126 N. Wayne Ave. 610-293-0119; [Terasas-Cafe.com](#). This bistro-style restaurant serves food with a Belgian influence. Specials: Buck-A-Shuck Oysters on Mon, \$10 wine flights on Sun-Mon and Tasty Tuesday food/pairing menu. Happy hour, Mon-Fri, 4 to 6. Open Mon, 4 pm to 1 am; Tues-Sat, 11:30 to 1 am; Sun brunch at 11 am, open until 1 am. D-\$17-\$32; Brunch, \$6-\$15. **Best of the Best '08 to '12, County Lines.**

**White Dog Café**, 200 W. Lancaster Ave. 610-225-3700; [WhiteDog.com/Wayne](#). The chef buys only the freshest meat, poultry and fish from farms and fisheries guided by principles of sustainability. His menu changes with seasonal availability. Lunch, Mon-Fri, 11:30 to 2:30; dinner, Mon-Thurs, 5:30 to 10; Fri-Sat, 5 to 10:30; Sun, 5 to 9; brunch, Sun, 10:30 to 2:30. **Best of the Best '11, '12, County Lines.**

#### West Chester

**Avalon Restaurant**, 312 S. High St. 610-436-4100; [AvalonRestaurant.net](#). Neighborhood BYOB serving rustic Italian cuisine. The décor glows with backlit blue accents, a wood-burning fireplace and candles. Lush outdoor garden dining for 45 around a gurgling fountain and a romantic upstairs room that can be used as a private dining room for up to 35. Tues-Sat, 5:30 to 10. Main courses start at \$17. Cash only.

☼ **Blue Pear Bistro**, 275 Brinton Bridge Rd. 610-399-9812; [BluePearBistro.com](#). Adjacent to the Dilworthtown Inn, The Blue Pear Bistro is a modern American bistro that features playfully delicious comfort foods. Small and medium plates mirror the changing seasons with fresh, locally grown ingredients. Mon-Sat, 4 to midnight; dinner begins at 5. Res sug. Casual. **Best of the Best '09, '11, County Lines.**

**Capriotti's Sandwich Shop**, 607 E. Market St. 610-719-0270; [Capriottis.com](#). Serving gourmet sandwiches with the finest quality meats and cheeses and fresh delicious breads. Their motto, "We have a passion for sandwiches" has made them a household name in this area. (See Exton and Springfield) Open Mon-Sun for lunch and dinner. \$7-\$13.

☼ **Dilworthtown Inn**, Old Wilmington Pk. 610-399-1390; [Dilworthtown.com](#). This award-winning restaurant is known for candlelight dining and is listed by the *Zagat* Survey as an acknowledged "class" act where "elegance" is matched with "exquisite cuisine," a "superb wine list" and "unobtrusive" service. Banquets for up to 60. Proper attire. Res req. Dinner daily, 5:30 to 9:30; Sat, 5 to 10 pm; Sun, 3 to 9. **Best of the Best '05 to '11, County Lines.**

☼ **Gilmore's**, 133 E. Gay St. 610-431-2800; [Gil-moresRestaurant.com](#). A beautifully transformed 1890s townhouse sets the scene for a casual yet elegant dining experience highlighted by superb service. The creative menu features everything from steaks to seafood, all enhanced with outstanding sauces. BYO. Casual. Dinner, Tues-Sat. "As imaginative as it is spectacular" – *Zagat Guide*. **Best of the Best '05, to '12, County Lines.**

**High Street Caffé**, 322 S. High St. 610-696-7435; [HighstreetCaffe.com](#). Best recognized for its Cajun, Creole and exotic cuisine, the funky-eclectic atmosphere has been a favorite for nearly 15 years. Specials change often, and dishes range from seafood and meat to vegan. 3-course Prix Fixe dinner Sun-Thurs, \$30. Lunch Tues-Fri, 11:30 to 2:30. Dinner, Mon-Fri, Sun, 5 to 10, Sat, 5:30 to 2 am. Evening Jazz Dinner, 5 to 9. L-\$5.95-\$14.95; D-\$15-\$30. **Best of the Best '05 to '12, County Lines.**

☼ **i-Pasta Ristorante Italiano**, 134 E. Gay St. 484-887-0760; [www.i-Pasta.net](#). The dining room, characterized by simple elegance with marble tables has rustic red brick supporting walls, tin ceiling and original wood flooring. Homestyle, authentic Italian regional recipes with genuine sauces on freshly made pasta. Specials: Pesto Pistacchio, Puttanesca, Spezzatino. Lunch Tues-Sat, noon to 3; dinner Mon-Thurs, 5 to 9, Fri-Sat, until 10. L-\$9-\$15; D-\$10-\$18.

**Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant**, 3 W. Gay St. 610-738-9600; [IronHillBrewery.com](#). New American cuisine and award-winning handcrafted ales and lagers are served in a setting of rich mahogany walls, copper vaulted ceilings, iron accents and an open kitchen for a warm, comfortable atmosphere. Signature dishes: Tex-Mex egg-rolls, salmon specials, Shrimp Lejon gourmet pizza. Banquet room. Daily from 11 am. "Call-aheads" accepted. **Best of the Best '05 to '12, County Lines.**

**Limoncello Ristorante**, 9 N. Walnut St. 610-436-6230; [LimoncelloWC.com](#). Serving Southern Italian cuisine and featuring a full service bar and a charming atmosphere for private functions and banquets. Happy hour, Mon-Fri, 4 to 6:30. Prix fixe menu Mon-Wed; lunch buffet Mon-Fri, 11:30 to 2:30; BYO, Sun, Mon, Tues, \$5 corkage. Daily lunch and dinner, Sun, 4 to 9 for dinner. L-\$7.95-\$18; D-\$10-\$26. **Best of the Best '08, '10, '11, '12, County Lines.**

**Kildare's**, 18-22 W. Gay St. 610-431-0770; [KildaresPub.com](#). Authentic Irish pub with traditional Irish food, spirits and music. Entrée specialties include Salmon Boxty's, Guinness Beef Stew, Beer Bartered Fish & Chips and a Carvery. Seasonal outdoor dining on the street or patio. Open 7 days for lunch and dinner, Sun brunch starting at 10 am. L-D-\$5.95-\$25. **Best of the Best '05 to '12, County Lines.**

**La Tolteca**, 907 S. High St. 610-429-8101; [LaTolteca.net](#). Mexican and Tex-Mex cuisine is served in the bright and colorful BYO. Lunch and dinner specials; Fajitas and Ribs made with green salsa are popular items. Casual. Mon-Thurs, 11 to 10; Fri-Sat, 11 to 10:30; Sun, 11 to 9. L-\$5.50-\$7.75; D-\$7.99-\$15.75. **Best of the Best '07 to '12, County Lines.**

☼ **The Lincoln Room**, 28 W. Market St. 610-696-2102; [LincolnRoomWestChester.com](#). Classic American tea room fare served in an intimate and charming historic room, circa 1833. Specialties include: Tea for Two: 2 plates of tea sandwiches, a plate of sample desserts and a pot of tea. Signature dish: Croissant Bread Pudding. Tues-Sat 10 to 2. Res. rec. **Best of the Best '09 to '12, County Lines.**

**Más Mexicali Cantina**, 102 E. Market St. 610-918-6280; [masmexicali.com](#). Whether you're at the first floor Cantina, the second floor Velvet Lounge or "Más on the Roof" with a great view of West Chester, you'll find award-winning authentic Mexican cuisine with a rock-n-roll flare. Sun-Wed, 11:30 to 10; Thurs-Sat, 11:30 to midnight. L-D-\$8.99-\$16.99. **Best of the Best '12, County Lines.**

☼ **The Mediterranean Restaurant**, 150 W. Gay St. 610-431-7074; [TheMedWCPA.com](#). Quaint and cozy atmosphere in this 175-year-old building restored by the restaurant owners. Serving Lebanese and Italian cuisine, Tues-Sun; closed Mon. A health-conscious and vegetarian-friendly BYO, offering an express lunch menu and specials on locally grown vegetables in season. L-\$8-\$10; D-\$18-\$26. Res. requested on Fri-Sat. **Best of the Best '06 to '12, County Lines.**

**Mythos Restaurant**, 2 Waterview Rd. 484-887-0513; [MythosGreekRestaurant.com](#). Straight

from the heart, authentic Greek cuisine at a reasonable price. Mythos offers many options and warm service in a colorful setting. BYO. Open Tues-Thurs, Sun, 11 to 10; Fri-Sat, 11 to 11; closed Mon. L-\$6-\$12; D-\$12-\$18. **Best of the Best '11, '12, County Lines.**

**Northbrook Marketplace**, 1805 Unionville-Wawaset Rd. 610-793-1210; [NorthbrookMarketplace.com](#). Chef's Table dinners serving locally-inspired New American cuisine at a 22-seat farm table in the loft above the market. The 9-course tasting menus range widely. Res. req. Tues-Sat seatings, 6:30 pm. **Best of the Best '09, County Lines.**

☼ **Ryan's Pub**, 124 W. Gay St. 610-344-3934; [Ryans-Pub.com](#). Casual dining in a cozy pub atmosphere featuring unique appetizers, burgers, traditional Irish fare, steaks and seafood. They have 6

large TVs, 2 bars, a billiard room. Daily lunch and dinner until 10 pm. **Best of the Best '05 to '12, County Lines.**

**Señora's Authentic Mexican Cuisine**, 505 E. Gay St. 610-344-4950. This award-winning restaurant provides a warm, friendly atmosphere for the entire family. You'll love their authentic, fresh and delicious offerings. Casual. BYO. Daily specials. Mon-Thurs, 11 to 9; Fri-Sat, 11 to 10; closed Sun. **Best of the Best '05 to '12, County Lines.**

#### West Grove

☼ **Twelves Grill & Cafe**, 10 Exchange Place. 610-869-4020; [TwelvesGrill.com](#). Unique New American cuisine served in an 1883 building that was once a bank, post office, power station and jail. Modern dishes with local flair feature local and organic ingredients, plus

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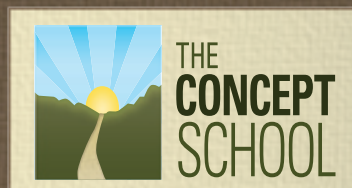
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espresso drinks and housemade baked goods. Specials on the 12th of each month. Open Tues-Sat, café at 9 am; lunch, 11:30 to 2:30; dinner, 5 to 9. L-\$8-\$20; D-\$17-\$29. **Best of the Best '10, County Lines.**

## West Marlborough

The Whip Tavern, 1383 N. Chatham Rd. 610-383-0600; WhipTavern.com. Nestled in the Chester County countryside, the warm and inviting atmosphere of this English Pub radiates at the heart of horse country. Relax by the fireplace where you'll enjoy traditional pub fare and American favorites. BYO for wine or choose from over 50 seasonal, local and imported beers. Weekend features. Lunch, 11 to 4; dinner Sun, Mon, Wed, Thurs, 4 to 9, Fri-Sat, 4 to 10; brunch, Sun, 11 to 2. Closed Tues. L-\$7.99-\$14.99; D-\$8.99-\$36.99; brunch-\$7.99-\$13.99. Major cards. **Best of the Best '07 to '12, County Lines.**

## DELAWARE

### Montchanin

⊗ Krazy Kat's, at the Inn at Montchanin Village, Rt. 100 & Kirk Rd. (4 mi. NW of Wilmington) 302-888-4200; KrazyKatsRestaurant.com. Known for its contemporary décor, creative cuisine specializing in local, fresh ingredients and excellent wine list. Group meetings and private dining. Also, 28 guest rooms and suites. Lunch, Mon-Fri, 11:30 to 2; dinner, Mon-Sun, 5:30 to 9:30. Breakfast daily and Sun brunch. **Best of the Best '05 to '12, County Lines.**

### New Castle

⊗ Jessop's Tavern & Colonial Restaurant, 114 Delaware St. 302-322-6111; Jessops-Tavern.com. This cozy, colonial English pub serves American and English fare with Dutch and Swedish influences. Their specialties are crab cakes, fish and chips, shep-

herd's pie, and smorgasbord. Casual. Mon-Thur, 11:30 am to 10 pm; Fri-Sat, 11:30 am to 2 am. \$6-25.

## Newark

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant, 147 E. Main St. 302-266-9000; IronHillBrewery.com. (See their listing under West Chester). **Best of the Best '05 to '12, County Lines.**

## Wilmington

Deep Blue Bar & Grill, 111 W. 11th St. 302-777-2040; DeepBlueBarAndGrill.com. A hot spot for seafood aficionados, featuring fresh fish and shellfish, raw oysters, a contemporary seasonal menu and award-winning wine list. Great pre-theater stop. Happy hour, Mon-Fri, 5 to 7. Lunch, Mon-Fri, 11:30 to 2. Dinner Mon-Fri, starting at 5:30, Sat, starting at 5. **Best of the Best '07, '08, '11, '12, County Lines.**

Domaine Hudson Wine Bar & Eatery, 1314 N. Washington St. 302-655-9463; DomaineHudson.com. Upscale wine bistro with focus on a wide assortment of reasonably priced wines for food and wine pairings. Small and large plate entrées for samplings. Dinner, Mon-Thurs, 5 to 10; Fri-Sat, 5 to 11; Sun, 4:30 to 9. Offering 3-3-3, daily 5 to 7: 3 select wines, 3-oz, \$3. Best Wine Bar 2006, *Philadelphia Magazine*; **Best of the Best '07 to '12, County Lines.**

Eclipse Bistro, 1020 N. Union St. 302-658-1588; EclipseBistro.com. New York-style bistro serving eclectic American fare in an intimate setting with tile floors and bright colors. Lunch, Mon-Fri, 11:30 to 2; dinner, Mon-Sat, 5:30 to 10; Sun, 5 to 9; late night menu, Fri-Sat, 10 to 1 am. L-\$8-\$16; D-\$19-\$25. **Best of the Best '08, County Lines.**

Harry's Seafood Grill, 101 S. Market St. 302-777-1500; Harrys-Savoy.com. This casual chic restaurant

is the area's big fish in the seafood world. The raw bar offers 10+ oyster varieties and sashimi/ceviche. Also 75 wines by the glass. Lunch, Mon-Sat, 11:30 to 4:30; dinner, Mon-Thurs, 4:30 to 10; Fri, 5 to 11; Sat, 4:30 to 11; Sun, 12 to 9; light fare menu. **Best of the Best '07 to '12, County Lines.**

Hotel du Pont, The Green Room, 11th & Market Streets. 302-594-3154; HotelduPont.com/Dining/Green-Room.com. Exquisite cuisine, impeccable service and lush décor combine to create a truly memorable dining experience. Serving breakfast, lunch, dinner and Sun brunch. L-\$11 to \$22; D-\$29 to \$45; Brunch-\$38. Res. rec. **Best of the Best '05 to '12, County Lines.**

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant, 710 S. Madison St. 302-472-2739; IronHillBrewery.com. See their listing under West Chester. **Best of the Best '05 through '12, County Lines.**

Mikimotos Asian Grill & Sushi Bar, 1212 Washington St., 302-656-8638; Mikimotos.com. The "Asian Grill" creations make up a broad menu of filet mignon, rack of lamb, roasted salmon and more. The sushi bar features fresh, inventive sushi, from rolls to sashimi. Extensive selection of sake and wine. Take-out. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner 7 nights: Mon-Thurs, 11 to 11; Fri, 11 to 12; Sat, 11:30 to 12; Sun, 4 to 10. **Best of the Best '06, County Lines.**

Moro, 1307 N. Scott St. 302-777-1800; MoroRestaurant.net. Superb New American/Italian cuisine is served in this stylish restaurant where the design is upscale and high on style. Specials include a Chef's Tasting Menu and an 800 label wine list. Upscale casual. Dinner, Tues-Sat, 5 to 11 pm. Entrée range: \$24. *Wine Spectator's* "Award of Excellence" 2006. **Best of the Best '05 to '12, County Lines.** ♦

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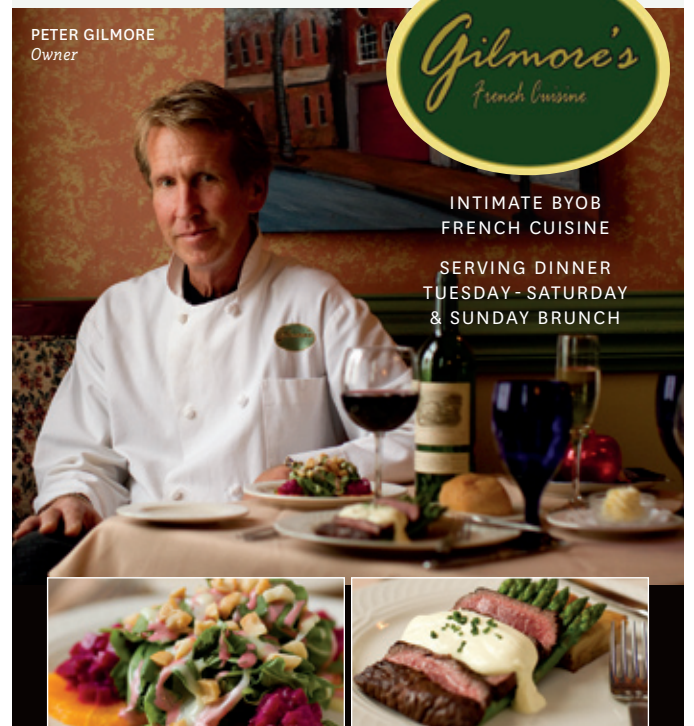
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# The Best of Intentions

Kirsten L. Werner, Natural Lands Trust

Invasive plants have spawned a special kind of following—**invasivores**, who make it their mission to stamp out invasive species, by eating them!

**O**n a snowy morning in early spring 1890, Eugene Schieffelin arrived in New York City's Central Park bearing 60 European starlings he'd imported from England at great personal cost. His breath curled around him as he bent to unfasten the latch on their cage and release the birds to the grey March sky, their iridescent feathers winking in the half light.

A wealthy aristocrat, Schieffelin belonged to the American Acclimation Society, which dreamed of introducing every bird mentioned in Shakespeare's works to North America. Many, such as the nightingale and skylark, did not survive. But the starlings thrived.

By 1928 starlings were found as far west as the Mississippi. By 1942 they'd made it to California and by the mid-1950s there were more than 50 million starlings in North America.

In the 1800s, nature's complex and delicate balance was not well understood. Today, with our knowledge of the often devastating impact of non-native species on local ecosystems, Schieffelin's 19th-century actions seem naïve and even foolish.

But the starlings are out of the bag, as it were. With numbers now topping 200 million, they are considered one of the most invasive species on the continent. And, as they have multiplied, so has their toll on agriculture, public health and native bird species. They join Asian carp, rabbits and kudzu on the list of top 10 invasive species.

## The Best of Plans

Starlings aren't the only species introduced with good intentions but disastrous results. Many of today's most pernicious weeds were once believed to be ben-

eficial additions to the environment. In the 1930s, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service touted multiflora rose for its use in erosion control and as "living fences" to confine livestock. State conservation departments encouraged its use by distributing free root cuttings to landowners before finding it crowds out native species.

European settlers brought garlic mustard to the continent to use as a flavorful cooking herb that doubled as a remedy for gangrene and ulcers. The garlic mustard pesto recipe in the sidebar may inspire you to join the invasivores who eat these pesky plants.

Also known for its medicinal benefits, purple loosestrife was popular in late 19th-century gardens. But even now this nox-

ious invasive weed can still be found at garden centers and mail order catalogs. Although it has attractive purple flowers and draws butterflies, purple loosestrife spreads voraciously through marshy areas and along stream corridors.

## More Invasive Plants

Whatever useful purpose the plants may have served, the consequences of their introduction have been severe. All considered to be "invasives," they seed prolifically, grow fast, spread rapidly and aggressively, or lack the diseases and predators that keep their populations in balance in their places of origin.

As a result, these invasive plants can out-compete other species and destroy diversity,

Starting with just 60 European starlings, these birds are now among the top 10 invasive species.

Purple loosestrife spreads voraciously in marshes and along streams.

## If you can't beat 'em, eat 'em!

"Invasivores" go a step further to protect the environment by creating new ways of eating invasive plants and animals. Check out [Invasivores.org](http://Invasivores.org) for lists of invasive species, recipes, videos and more. To learn more about invasive plants in Pennsylvania, check [DCNR.State.PA.US/Forestry/InvasiveTutorial/List.htm](http://DCNR.State.PA.US/Forestry/InvasiveTutorial/List.htm).

In the spring, try this tasty recipe to make good use of noxious garlic mustard, which threatens native wildflowers and butterflies. For the best flavor, pick the leaves before the plant has flowered (March-April). Be careful to ensure the garlic mustard you use is not chemically treated, and avoid plants growing along the road. Do you part to stamp out invasive species.

## Garlic Mustard Pesto

3/4 C. extra virgin olive oil  
1 garlic clove  
2 Tb. pine nuts  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1/3 C. freshly grated Parmesan cheese, about 1 ounce  
4 C. of garlic mustard leaves (*Alliaria petiolata*) or 2 C. garlic mustard with 2 C. basil leaves

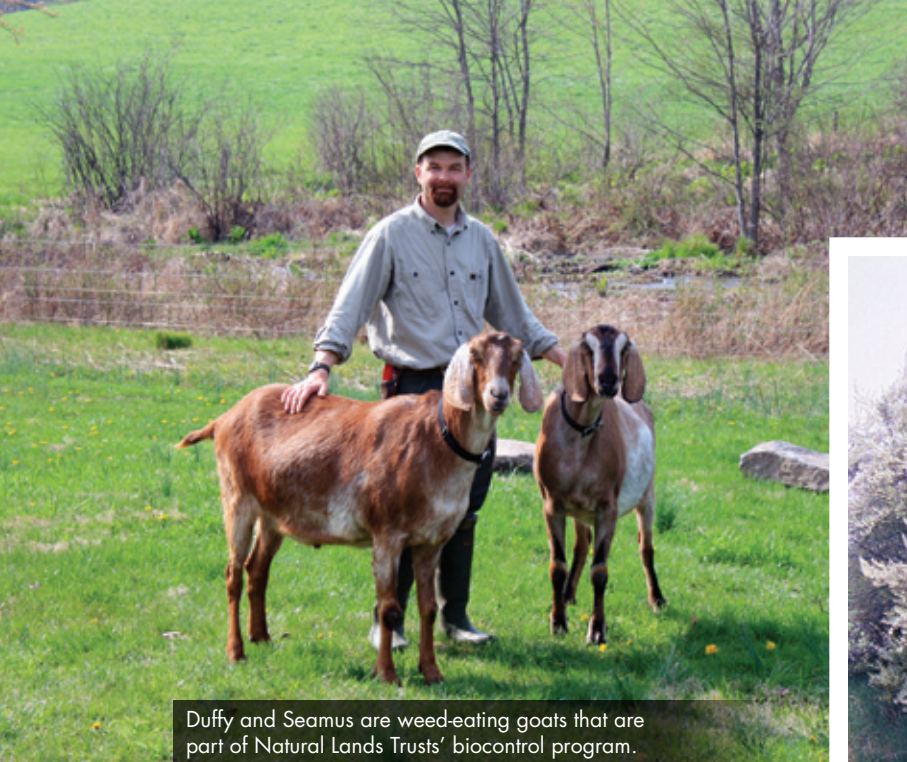
Place all the ingredients, except the garlic mustard/basil, in a blender or food processor. Blend until smooth. Then add the garlic mustard/basil, a handful at a time, blending until all of the greens are incorporated and the pesto is smooth.

Makes about 1 cup. Use as you would any other pesto. And feel happy that you've taken a small bite out of the scourge of one invasive species.

Garlic mustard can become pesto, with this recipe.

Bush honeysuckle is a colorful, though invasive plant.





Duffy and Seamus are weed-eating goats that are part of Natural Lands Trusts' biocontrol program.



Autumn olive berries can be used to produce jam. See our website for a recipe.

Photos by Dan Barringer, Denise Barringer, Denis Manchon.

causing a ripple effect throughout the ecosystem. In fact, invasive plants pose a threat to two-thirds of all endangered plant and animal species.

As owners and stewards of more than 21,000 acres of land, Natural Lands Trust spends countless hours working to control invasive plant species on our preserves. Woody species — such as autumn olive, Norway maple and bush honeysuckle — are good candidates for mechanical removal with pruners, handsaws, chainsaws and brush cutters. However, most of these plants will re-sprout — sometimes vigorously — without some additional attention. Mechanical methods are often paired with chemical ones to get the job done.

### Cultural Control

A less obvious approach — but one widely used at Natural Lands Trust — is called cultural control: essentially stacking the deck in favor of desirable species. For example, by replanting an old farm field with a diversity of native trees we “jump-start” the process of succession from field to forest and give the native trees a chance to shade out invasives — most invasive species need sun to thrive, so the shade slows their growth or keeps their seeds from germinating.

Minimizing unnecessary soil disturbance is another important cultural control because it limits the germination of invasive seeds.

Biocontrol, in the form of a pair of weed-eating goats named Duffy and Seamus (see photo), is yet another technique the organization uses. The goats are very good on uneven or wet terrain and other places not accessible to tractors, giving them a special advantage in fighting invasives.

And then, there's the option of eating the invasive plants. (See sidebar for more.)

### Balanced Approach

But even with concerted, sustained efforts to manage invasive plants, these species persist. “Natural Lands Trust takes a balanced approach to managing inva-

sive plants,” says Dan Barringer, invasives coordinator for NLT and manager of Crow's Nest Preserve in Warwick Township, Chester County. “We know they will always be with us, but we do what we can to minimize their impact.”

As daunting a task as it may seem, small victories help keep Dan and the other preserve managers motivated. One such triumph came in the form of an ephemeral wildflower.

For the last several years, Natural Lands Trust staff have been diligently pulling invasive garlic mustard from the woodlands at Crow's Nest Preserve. This noxious weed exudes a chemical into the soil that inhibits the growth of other plants. Recently, Dan discovered a patch of nodding trillium had emerged where the garlic mustard once grew.

A sweet success, indeed! ♦

*Natural Lands Trust is the region's largest land conservation organization, preserving open space throughout eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. Find further details about nature preserves open to the public, upcoming events, ways to support Natural Lands Trust, and more online at NatLands.org.*



Nodding trillium has returned to where garlic mustard once grew.

Photo: Donna Melton Just in Time! Communications



## Farmers Markets in Winter

Laura Muzzi Brennan

**The variety and activity at local farmers markets this winter just might surprise you.**

Until the last few years, the romance between many farmers markets and their devoted customers was strictly a May to November affair, fizzling as soon as the Thanksgiving turkey was carved. Now, more and more markets, including outdoor ones, are staying open during the winter months, making locavores and local producers so happy together.

“Farmers markets are no longer a novelty; they’ve become a necessity,” says Abby Morgan, manager of the **Kennett Square Farmers Market**. And to meet customers’ needs, the Kennett market as well as the **West Chester Growers** and **Bryn Mawr Markets** are simply braving the cold and staying in the same location, albeit with abbreviated hours and fewer vendors. Others, like the **East Goshen Market**, are moving to indoor locations close by. See sidebar for market days and times.

### Winter Market Wonderland

What you’re likely to find at a winter market might just surprise you. “A lot of people think eating local

during the winter means eating only meat, cheese and bread. Not so!” Abby Morgan assures me. Some nearby producers, like Countryside Farms and Down to Earth Harvest, use hoop houses and greenhouses to extend the growing season, thus making fresh, local produce available during winter months. Also, hardy crops that store well, like apples and root vegetables, are still available when temperatures plummet.

The best way to find out what producers are bringing each week is to subscribe to your favorite markets’ mailing lists. You might also want to check out their blogs, websites and Facebook pages, especially for the most up-to-date information on cancellations for bad weather. Some markets stay open if there’s just a dusting of snow, but don’t care to brave ice storms!

### Winter CSAs

If you like the idea of shopping before you shop, ask whether vendors at your favorite market run a winter CSA (community-supported agriculture). CSAs usu-



ally work like this: you pay a set amount at the beginning of the season to a farmer who then provides you with a box of locally produced goods every week or every other week. Often, you may pick up your CSA share at the vendor's stand at the farmers market. It's that easy.

When a CSA share is too much of a commitment, consider pre-ordering groceries week by week. Simply contact vendors in advance — contact information is generally on market websites — and ask them to set aside your order to pick up on market day. The East Goshen market is largely a pre-order market, but vendors also bring extra goods so non-planners can eat well too!

### Markets With Benefits

Besides providing healthy local food, winter markets — especially those held outdoors — offer other advantages: a few minutes of exercise, a much-needed dose of fresh air and maybe sunshine, and the chance for friendly conversation.

"It's easy to get isolated in the winter. Going to the market keeps people connected," remarks Molly Terlevich, who

co-founded the Bryn Mawr market, now in its second winter season.

Winter is also the time when farmers are making plans for spring and summer crops, explains Donna Levitsky, co-founder and co-manager of the East Goshen market. So if you've developed a love of English peas or peppery arugula, winter is the time to make your preferences known.

### Indoor Farmers Markets

A couple of farmers markets with deep roots in our region are held indoors all year round. **The Lancaster Central Market** in the heart of that city's downtown has been operating on the same spot since 1730. Now with 61 vendors in its newly renovated 1889 Romanesque Revival building, the market is a destination for both foodies and architecture buffs.

At the **Lancaster County Farmers Market** in Wayne, approximately 25 vendors have been providing Main Line cooks with some of the finest ingredients for decades.

"Food is medicine," declares Bryn Mawr market's Molly Terlevich. If so, I'll take a trip to the market over a doctor's visit any day. ♦

### Local Farmers Markets Winter Hours

**Bryn Mawr Farmers Market**, Lancaster Ave. at Bryn Mawr train station. 1st & 3rd Sat, 10 to noon. BrynMawrFarmersMarket.com.

**East Goshen Farmers Market**, E. Goshen Park, Paoli Pk., East Goshen. Thurs, 3 to 7. EastGoshenFarmersMarket.blogspot.com.

**Kennett Square Farmers Market**, downtown. Winter Market, 1st & 3rd Fri, 2 to 5. 610-444-8188; Historic-KennettSquare.com.

**Lancaster Central Market**, 23 N. Market St. Year-round, Tues, Fri, 6 to 4; Sat, 6 to 2. 717-735-6890; CentralMarketLancaster.com.

**Lancaster County Farmers Market**, 389 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne. Wed, Fri, Sat, 6 to 4. 610-688-9856; LancasterCountyFarmersMarket.com.

**West Chester Growers Market**, Chestnut and Church Sts. Dec-Apr, 1st & 3rd Sat, 9 to 1, weather permitting. 610-436-9010; WestChesterGrowersMarket.com.

# Food News

*A few of our favorite things to share this month about local food and drink.*



**Hard Cider.** Extend your appreciation of apples with a hit of hard cider. National brands are available at local Beverage Distributors (Spaz Beverage, on West Chester Pike, carries Magners, Woodchuck). To enjoy

local brands, you'll have to go restaurants and bars. For Boyertown's **Frecon Farm's hard cider**, get it in April at the farm and later at **Bryn Mawr Farmers Market**.

**Lunar New Year.** In China and Vietnam, Lunar New Year 2012 will begin January 23rd. For those who keep track, this will be the year of the dragon. Several of our excellent area restaurants plan celebrations, which allow you to observe and honor their traditions with them (and extend the Occidental holiday season).

**Yangming** and **Nectar** (Bryn Mawr, Berwyn) extend the celebration through Feb. 25 with a multi-course meal (\$49 last year). **Margaret Kuo's Restaurants** (Media, Wayne, Malvern) offered 9 courses last year, \$55. A Chinese New Year's parade in Media is sponsored by the Kuos.

This is an important occasion in my mixed Western/Asian family and a good time to seek perspective of the world, something that rarely simply "finds" you.



**Martini Magic.** I keep telling myself I should stop. They're too enjoyable, too alcoholic. But the water-brightness of gin, vodka and beautiful stemware beckon and the iciness inside somehow makes the weather outside bearable.

My family drinks both regular martinis (olive or lemon twist) or, preferably, Gibsons (cocktail onions). I favor Bombay gin and my wife Caroline likes Stolichnaya vodka. We're both willing to experiment with anything but shaking (too diluting) instead of stirring (cooling, polishing). You can easily test this preference at bars or, less expensively, at home: a shaken martini is simply a watery, cloudy abomination.

Excellent martinis are served at **Paramour, Nectar, Aneu and Fleming's**. I especially like Paramour's large, saucer-shaped glasses, making life easier and spilling less likely for server and customer.

**New Year's Noodles.** In China, noodles symbolize long life and are traditional New Year's cuisine. So are tangerines and oranges (wealth, prosperity) and whole fish (abundance, togetherness). If you've never prepared fresh Chinese noodles, you'll find it's as easy as cooking any fresh Italian pasta and conveys a propitious sense of auspicious authenticity. I buy mine at **Yang's Farmer's Market**, 573 Lancaster Ave., Berwyn, a wonderful, friendly small market carrying excellent Asian ingredients (plus Bassett's ice cream). If a trip to Berwyn isn't convenient, try **Springfield Pasta**, 86 Saxer Ave., Springfield, for fresh or dried spaghetti or spaghettini and ensure success and long life.

Why not celebrate the New Year by preparing Chinese long-life noodles (many meat, seafood or vegetarian variations) or, even better, recreate the **World's Oldest Pasta Dish** from China, one of my family's favorites, dating back to around 100 BC. Recipe on our website.

About Curtis Roberts. *I'm a lawyer who also does other things, including appreciate regional food. My family returned to the area to reclaim my wife's deep Chester County roots, educate our daughter in the right Philadelphia way, and enjoy the food. For more of my gastro-adventures, check my blog, ACravan, acravan.blogspot.com, which is so varied, there may just be something you'll find interesting.*





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*Best of the Best* continued from page 33

orangey Aztec brick and passion plum colors. The expanded list of spirits includes high-end scotch, bourbon, vodka and gin choices. Great martinis, too. For dinner: Curried Cauliflower Soup and Seafood Ravioli; “Graze” choices like Grilled Rib-Eye Cap Steak, Pan-Roasted Quail.

### BEST WINE TASTING

**Brandywine Valley Wine Trail**

*Various Locations in Chester County*

*BVWineTrail.com*

A Brandywine Wine Trail Passport lets you taste the terroir of regional wines using a one-price ticket as your admission to days of tastings at award-winning wineries located within a 50-mile radius. Earning increasing recognition at regional and national competitions, the wineries host events in March and September for wine lovers to taste the developing wines or fruits of the harvest. The Sip and Stay option combines a visit to a charming B&B. Can't wait? Try Wine and Chocolate events in February.

### BEST MICROBREWERY

**Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant**

*3 W. Gay St., West Chester / 610-738-9600*

*30 E. State St., Media / 610-627-9000*

*620 S. Justison St., Wilmington / 302-472-2739*

*130 E. Bridge St., Phoenixville / 610-983-9333*

*781 Harrisburg Pk., Lancaster / 717-291-9800*

*Newark / North Wales / IronHillBrewery.com*

Raise a mug of handcrafted, full-flavored brew and toast these masters of keeping customers happy. Each restaurant is informal yet classy and serves consistently tasty New American food. Staffers are knowledgeable and courteous, and, of course, the quantity and quality of beer runneth over with lagers, ales and porters freshly brewed on site, plus special brews. Their blogs cheer when old favorites like Salmon Spring Rolls and Shrimp Lejon Pizza return to the menu, and they even share the recipe. A few selections: Beer-braised Brisket and frites and Fish Soft Taco appetizers; several egg roll choices; lots of pizza; and for entrées: Pan-seared N.Y. Strip, Pan-roasted Chicken Breast; and Hawaiian-spiced Ahi Tuna. Keep on brewing!

### BEST BREWPUB

**Victory Brewing Company**

*420 Acorn Ln., Downingtown*

*610-873-0881 / VictoryBeer.com*

Victory Brewing is about the beer, and what great beer it is: category finalists in

### NEIGHBORHOOD FAVORITES

PENNSYLVANIA

**Alfredo Italian BYO, Berwyn**

**Victory Brewing Co.**

*Downingtown*

**Brickside Grille, Exton**

**Kennett Square Inn**

*Kennett Square*

**Lancaster Brewing Co.**

*Lancaster*

**Flying Pig Saloon, Malvern**

**The Whip, West Marlborough**

**Towne House, Media**

**Mendenhall Inn, Mendenhall**

**Great American Pub, Paoli**

**Bistro on Bridge, Phoenixville**

**Teresa's, Wayne**

**Avalon, West Chester**

DELAWARE

**Centreville Café, Centreville**

**Pizza by Elizabeths, Greenville**

**Capers & Lemons, Wilmington**

the “Good Food Awards” for HopDevil Ale and Helios Ale, plus praise from beer bloggers. The 300-seat brewpub with 60-foot bar next to the working brewery is perfect for enjoying solid brewgrub. Wings of Victory, pizzas, burgers, BBQ and tacos continue to satisfy, as do the growlers. There's Chester County cheese selections and the Nebraska (flat iron steak) for more substantial fare, all with suggested beer parings. Exactly what you'd expect from this “green” business that donates a portion of the proceeds from its Headwaters Pale Ale. Drink local!

### Another Favorite

**Sly Fox Brewhouse & Eatery**

*520 Kimberton Rd. (Rt. 113), Phoenixville*

*610-935-4540 / SlyFoxBeer.com*

With its closing of the Royersford location, Sly Fox is shaking up things and will triple production of the golden elixirs at a new Pottstown brewery. Phoenixville attracts a thirsty crowd drawn primarily for the love of the beer: 12+ on tap, plus rotating, seasonal, occasional and one-time selections. Give them props for putting heart-healthy dishes and veggie options on the menu!

### BEST BEER SELECTION

**Teresa's Next Door**

*126 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne*

*610-293-9909 / Teresas-Cafe.com*

A beer destination with great food is

what TND offers. With over 25 beers on tap, 200 in bottles from around the world — some Victory and Sly Fox, but more from Belgium and places with long beer-making traditions — and the biggest selection of beer-appropriate glassware, it's impressive enough to pull beer geeks from Center City. The menu includes cheese and charcuterie plates — international selections, no ChesCo cheese here. Tasty starters, a section just for mussels, and options like Waterzooi (Flemish stew), Bunny Bites (rabbit loin), wings (love the cinnamon) and exotic game burgers. Don't miss fantastic frites and specials like Reindeer Stew (braised antelope shanks in Troegs Mad Elf). Beerlicious.

### BEST BAR FOR OVER 30s

**Firecreek Restaurant & Bar**

*20 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown*

*610-269-6000 / Firecreek-Restaurant.com*

For a sophisticated bar scene (what we mean by over 30), you'll want amiable ambiance, solid wine and beer lists, interesting cocktails, tasty appetizers, and a good menu if you choose to linger. The top-notch restoration to the 19th-century mill at Firecreek created an upscale interior space with comfy bar area and two-level patio over the Brandywine River. Music Wednesdays make for easy listening and sipping. Daily drink specials, plus specialty martinis, mojitos, margaritas and more for your pleasure. New plans for the New Year, so keep posted.

### BEST BAR FOR UNDER 30s

**Ryan's Pub**

*124 W. Gay St., West Chester*

*610-344-3934 / Ryans-Pub.com*

The warm, friendly atmosphere draws more than the under-30 crowd, but you'll see that demographic well represented in this Irish pub with drink specials seven nights a week and student-friendly prices. Appetizer menu (a.k.a. munchies) includes everything — nachos, wings, calamari, mozzarella sticks, quesadillas, sliders (Kobe, crab cake, BBQ pork) and more. Plus substantial entrées (Irish whiskey short ribs), pub platters (Fish and Chips), pastas, salads (West Chester Wedge) and burgers to satisfy all appetites. Big screen TVs, live entertainment, a quiet second floor, roof top deck and patio dining on Gay Street mean fun for all ages.

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**BEST IN LANCASTER COUNTY**  
**Gibraltar Restaurant**

931 Harrisburg Ave., Lancaster

717-397-2790 / [KearesRestaurants.com](http://KearesRestaurants.com)

Consistently getting top marks for food, ambiance and flawless service, Gibraltar may be the best restaurant in all of central Pennsylvania, not just Lancaster County. *Wine Spectator* gives the 350+ wine list an Award of Excellence, and *Zagat* has raved for years. Chef Vitale (French CIA and with Mario Batali) cooks up new American cuisine with Mediterranean influences, perfect for a special occasion or really anytime. Seafood is the star here but carnivores are happy with local organic chicken or rack of lamb (pistachio crust, cherry port wine sauce). Try Sicilian Style Tuna Tartar, Red Snapper Cioppino or whole Branzino cooked Mediterranean style. Facebook posts name oysters available at the raw bar. How fresh is that?

**Another Favorite**

**Restaurant Mazzi & Osteria Avanti**

38 Deborah Dr., Leola

717-656-8983 / [RestaurantMazzi.com](http://RestaurantMazzi.com)

The elegant, award-winning Restaurant Mazzi has spawned a rustic, casual yet classic Italian counterpart in Osteria Avanti, sharing space at the Inn at Leola Village. For lighter fare, try Osteria's small bites (arancini with mozzarella, spicy tomato sauce), small plates (roasted sausage with peppers, tomato sauce, creamy polenta), starters, panini ("Giambotte" with broccoli rabe, aioli fennel) or pastas (penne with chocolate, braised beef, dusted with Wilbur's chocolate). An extensive wine list, fully stocked bar and weekly specials make a rising star worthy of Mazzi's AAA four-stars.

**BEST NEW AMERICAN**

**Catherine's Restaurant**

1701 W. Doe Run Rd., Unionville

610-347-2227 / [CatherinesRestaurant.com](http://CatherinesRestaurant.com)

This classy/country BYO is a destination restaurant for those not fortunate enough to live in beautiful horse-country. Snappy striped awnings and blooming planters mark its corner location with style. Inside, flickering candlelight adds romance to the charmingly converted country store. The kitchen is totally up-to-date, working magic with local ingredients and transforming comfort foods to contemporary tastes. Recent winners include the Blackened Sea Scal-

lops appetizer with blackberry jalapeño coulis; Duck Breast, pan roasted, with tart cherry reduction. House-made desserts to-die-for include Blueberry Bread Pudding and Tiramisu Mousse Bombe.

**BEST AMERICAN NOUVELLE**

**Krazy Kats Restaurant**

*Inn at Montchanin Village*

528 Montchanin Rd., Wilmington

302-888-4200 / [KrazyKatsRestaurant.com](http://KrazyKatsRestaurant.com)

While the décor is whimsical, the dining is eclectic, enticing and earnest. Housed in a renovated blacksmith's shop, complete with original forge, this stylish charmer is part of the highly rated Montchanin Inn. As you settle into your tiger-print chair, check the look-at-me portraits of cats and dogs in formal military dress. Enjoy elegant appetizers like Poached Maine Lobster Terrine with cognac panna cotta and shaved fennel mache salad. Typical French-kissed entrées include Roasted Prime Pork Delmonico Cassoulet with braised cabbage, apple molasses; Grilled Rack of Lamb with roasted root vegetables, grilled trumpets, veaujolais mint reduction. Sunday Brunch is the cat's meow.

**BEST AMERICAN/INTERNATIONAL**

**The Orchard Restaurant**

503 Orchard Ave., Kennett Square

610-388-1100 / [TheOrchardBYOB.com](http://TheOrchardBYOB.com)

The Orchard's accolades — Best Restaurant, Best BYO, Best-Kept Secret — foreshadow Chef Gary Trevisani's food, with its formal French foundation that's evolved into an eclectic fusion of continental cuisine. The simply elegant interior creates a special-occasion feel, with attentive service to match. A changing, seasonal menu is beautifully presented and full of surprises, including a prix fixe Bistro Night menu (\$35) and Chef's Tastings for 5, 7 or 9 courses (\$75, \$95, \$125). A recent sampling: Pan Seared foie gras on brioche, pomagranate gastrique; Breast of Duck with braised red cabbage, watercress, fennel purée, blood orange glaze. Plus amuse bouches and palate cleansing sorbets, like lime coriander. Oo la yum.

**BEST ASIAN FUSION**

**Nectar**

1091 Lancaster Ave., Berwyn

610-725-9000 / [TasteNectar.com](http://TasteNectar.com)

Nectar's apt self-description as "a sensuous, sumptuous, savory experience,

featur[ing] the Asian-inspired-French-infused signature cuisine of star chef Patrick Feury" conveys the confidence of this suburban stunner. Still the place to be seen at the scene drinking signature martinis, Nectar pleases palates as well, now emphasizing sustainability. Sourcing through Clean Fish, Lancaster's Common Folk and Chester County cheese makers, plus adding solar panels, makes Nectar green as well as great. Most opt for seafood choices: Bento for Two includes lobster crab cakes, tuna tartar, lobster sliders, shrimp spring roll (\$26), or select from the sushi, sashimi or specialty rolls. Leave room for the famous desserts: mini-donuts are on most foodie's life lists. And a \$12.95 prix fixe lunch. What's not to love?

**Another Favorite**

**Bunha Faun**

152 Lancaster Ave., Malvern

610-651-2836 / [BunhaFaun.net](http://BunhaFaun.net)

Shhh! Don't tell anyone but your BFF about this Malvern marvel that consistently gets high food marks from *Zagat* diners (same 24/30 as Nectar). For 20 years Bunha Faun has served exquisite French/Asian cuisine in a former Dairy Queen. A quiet BYO with tablecloths, candlelight and a menu ranging from escargot to oriental noodles, the faithful return to enjoy the favorites (rack of lamb) and exceptional specials (try the trout). A jewel in the suburbs.

**BEST CAJUN & CREOLE**

**High Street Caffe**

322 S. High St., West Chester

610-696-7435 / [HighStreetCaffe.com](http://HighStreetCaffe.com)

Want a little Mardi Gras tonight? The warm tastes and party ambiance are as close as West Chester, at High Street Caffe and Vudu Lounge. For 15 years, this funky-eclectic, purple party scene has served up great Cajun/Creole fare to the faithful. Chef Wenner's menu starts with classics like Andouille Gumbo and Creole Seafood Bisque, moves on to Jambalayas and Etouffees, then adds exotic game choices like Rack of Wild Boar and alligator, ending with Bananas Foster. Check out the new bar and renovated dining room, stop by for a lunchtime Po' Boy (love the shrimp), sample the 3-course prix fixe (Sun-Thurs, \$30), or sip from the many martinis or beer selection. Jazz on Wednesdays and Sunday Jazz dinners. Good times roll on High Street!

**Another Favorite**

**Daddy Mims' Creole BYOB**

154 Bridge St., Phoenixville

610-935-1800 / [DaddyMims.com](http://DaddyMims.com)

Fans of Chef John Mims celebrated when from the ashes of Carmines Creole Cafe, this BYO in Phoenixville arose in 2009. And it's been going strong, serving up spicy Creole treats — grilled andouille sausage, blackened shrimp remoulade, seafood court bouillon, Cajun style fish — and adding signature twists like crabmeat and smoked gouda cheesecake appetizer, Boursin grits. The Chef's Tasting Menus get special raves: 4-courses (\$35) as well as the lobster tasting menu (\$45), and change weekly. Check their Facebook page for updates.

**BEST CHINESE**

**Yangming**

1051 Conestoga Rd., Bryn Mawr

610-527-3200 / [YangmingRestaurant.com](http://YangmingRestaurant.com)

This Main Line mainstay continues to please. With sophisticated fusion cuisine and high-style décor, it masterfully blends Asian and Western flavors and attitudes. Savor a perfect Peking Duck, carved tableside, try a wickedly good French dessert like Cappuccino Crème Brûlée. Or enjoy Mu Shu Pork while your companion indulges her love of crab cakes, wine-sauced and wonderful. Other options: traditional Spicy Crispy Orange Beef, Veal Escallops with black bean sauce, or Wok-tossed Mustard Coconut Shrimp. Two autonomous kitchens, each with its own chef, make this possible. At the popular bar, mean martinis have earned a good rep, as has the wine list. Yangming's long list of kudos include nods from *Wine Spectator* and *Chinese Restaurant News* and a multitude of "Best" awards.

**Another Favorite**

**Margaret Kuo's Restaurants**

175 E. Lancaster Ave., Wayne / 610 688-7200

190 Lancaster Ave., Malvern / 610-647-5488

4-6 W. State St., Media / 610-892-0115

Granite Run Mall, Media / 610-566-4110

[MargaretKuos.com](http://MargaretKuos.com)

For almost 40 years, Margaret Kuo's quarter of area restaurants have satisfied diners from Media to Malvern. Whether in the original location in the Granite Run Mall, sleek spot on State Street in Media, two-story stunner in Wayne, or the more casual BYO in Malvern, authentic Chinese and Japanese cui-

sine are available no matter your location or mood. Known for Peking Duck, signature items include Hot and Sour Soup, Steamed Beef Dumplings, Imperial Shrimp and Provincial Pork Shoulder. Four great choices to celebrate the Year of the Dragon.

**BEST FRENCH**

**Gilmore's**

133 E. Gay St., West Chester

610-431-2800 / [GilmoresRestaurant.com](http://GilmoresRestaurant.com)


Good news for fans of the polished, contemporary/classic French cuisine that

has long distinguished this elegant BYO: Sunday Brunch is now served. Enticing options include House Smoked Salmon Rilletes, Pizza au Foie Gras, Stuffed French Toast (caramelized cinnamon apples, cream cheese) and those dreamy desserts. Chef/owner Peter Gilmore's culinary talent continues to shine with superb dinners, including popular theme dinners focusing on crab, foie gras, truffles and more. Samples from the regular dinner menu say it all: Scallop Mousse with Crabmeat in puff pastry and sauce beurre rouge; Burgundy Snails with

**Best of Delaware**  
**1933-1999 & 2002-2010**  
**-Delaware Today Magazine**



**Best Mexican Restaurant**  
**1994-1996 & 1998-2006**  
**Wilmington News Journal**

**LA TOLTECA**  
  
**Mexican Restaurante**  
**Authentic Mexican Food**

**Bienvenidos Amigos**  
**(Welcome Friends)**

**907 S. High Street,**  
**West Chester, PA**  
**610-429-8101**

**2209 Concord Pk,**  
**Rte 202 & Silverside Rd.**  
**Wilmington, DE**  
**302-478-9744**

**4015 S Concord Pk, Rt 202**  
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crimini mushrooms and edamame in garlic sauce; Longe de Porc en Croûte — pork loin encased in pepper-scented mousse wrapped in puff pastry with roasted garlic sauce. Tuesday wine classes are another treat.

#### BEST GREEK Mythos Restaurant

2 Waterview Rd., West Chester  
484-887-0513 / [MythosGreekRestaurant.com](http://MythosGreekRestaurant.com)  
Local Greeks go here when they crave a taste of home — a good sign. But you don't have to be Greek to enjoy the sunny flavors of food served at this

family-owned restaurant. Expert char-grilling and judicious seasoning (olive oil, lemon, a few herbs) make dishes shine. Exhibit A: Whole fresh fish, cooked perfectly with its flesh moist and imbued with subtle smokiness, or lamb chops. Also recommended: Boneless Chicken Breast with tomatoes, onions, feta and Broiled Salmon with lemon oregano sauce. Traditional dishes like Moussaka and Pastichio (think Greek lasagna) are comfort food with personality. Tempting dips like salty/creamy Taramosalata are perfect to share. The Baklava — fit for the gods!

#### BEST INDIAN Shere-E-Punjab

208 W. State St., Media / 610-891-0400  
5059 State Rd., Drexel Hill / 484-452-8140  
[ShereE-Punjab.com](http://ShereE-Punjab.com)

There's no denying the popularity of this restaurant's fresh, vibrant cuisine with hints of exotic spices and deliciously distinctive sauces. Grand opening plans are in place for a third Shere-E-Punjab at the Concordville Town Center in March. You'll find lamb dishes are best sellers, including Karahi Lamb, boasting ginger and garlic flavors, Roganjos prepared with a light tomato sauce, and Korma with herbs and nuts in a creamy sauce. Also popular: Vegetarian choices like Vegetable Somosas, tasty pastry packages. Just-baked garlic naan and Tandoori Chicken barbecued in a clay oven have broad appeal, as do Coconut Soup and Shrimp Vindaloo. Beers, including organic and India's own Kingfisher, go well with dinner. BYO service, at no charge.

#### BEST IRISH PUB Kildare's Irish Pub & Restaurant

18 W. Gay St., West Chester / 610-431-0770  
Philadelphia, Manayunk, Scranton, PA  
[Newark, DE KildaresPub.com](http://Newark, DE KildaresPub.com)

Old country spirit flavors everything at these lively watering holes. As you wait for your pint of Guinness to settle, check out the historic photos, scenic murals and castle-heavy dining tables that make you feel like you're at a public house in Dublin. Kildare's state-of-the-art bar and beer system assures the service and drinks flow smoothly. Burgers and pubwiches share menu space with Celtic faves like Bubble & Squeak (potato cake, sautéed leeks, cucumber sour cream), BFG Wings (Baked, Fried & Grilled) with a tangy Jameson glaze. Hearty entrées include Guinness Stew, Shepherds Pie, Bangers & Mash, Corned Beef and Cabbage, and comfort food like Homemade Meatloaf and Chicken Pot Pie.

#### BEST CLASSIC ITALIAN Moro

1307 N. Scott St., Wilmington  
302-777-1800 / [MoroRestaurant.net](http://MoroRestaurant.net)  
Foodie sophisticates love Chef/Owner Michael DiBianco's rustic Italian/Mediterranean creations and excellent wine list — Wilmington's best, some say. They relax in comfortable banquettes at the welcoming townhouse restaurant on a

neighborhood street. Amazing Antipasti selections with artisanal cured meats always score, as does the Whole Grilled Fish, simply and deliciously prepared. Popular Italian-inspired choices include Florida Rock Shrimp Capellini with spicy tomato sauce, Butternut Squash Risotto with cranberries and fried sage, and Filet Mignon with Gorgonzola potato pie and mushroom Marcella demi-glace.

#### More Favorites i-Pasta Ristorante Italiano

134 E. Gay St., West Chester  
484-887-0760 / [i-Pasta.net](http://i-Pasta.net)

For the love of pasta, head for i-Pasta, a new family-owned and operated small but busy BYO, where the specialty is semolina-based, homemade fresh pasta. With ten pasta varieties and over a dozen sauces — from Amatriciana to Walnut Sauce, Carbonara to Calabrese — you can mix and match as you carbo load. Salads, soups, and desserts imported from Italy (limocello truffle) make you grateful for these pasta-bilities.

#### Floga Bistro

826 E. Baltimore Pk, Kennett Square  
610-444-6500 / [FlogaBistro.com](http://FlogaBistro.com)

A broader Italian menu is available at Floga Bistro, with classic pastas from heavy cream to heart-healthy options, seafood and meat entrées (Saltimbocca gets praise), and plenty of brick-oven, thin crust pizzas. Owners, Sissy and George Konstantopoulos, show their Greek roots with choices like Scallop Saganaki, in tomato sauce with feta flambéed in ouzo (Floga means flame in Greek!). Family-friendly atmosphere, gluten-free and whole-wheat pasta options, and takeout make this a popular Kennett stop.

#### BEST JAPANESE Margaret Kuo's Restaurants

175 E. Lancaster Ave., Wayne / 610 688-7200  
190 Lancaster Ave., Malvern / 610-647-5488  
4-6 W. State St., Media / 610-892-0115  
Granite Run Mall, Media / 610-566-4110  
[MargaretKuos.com](http://MargaretKuos.com)

The legendary beauty of Japanese cuisine is celebrated with style at these fine-dining restaurants, the presentations enhancing the excellent preparations. To enrich your appreciation, watch for tutorials on Japanese cuisine and sake tastings by Margaret Kuo. Signature

offerings include traditional favorites meant for sharing, like Kobe Beef Sukiyaki with noodles and vegetables in soy broth cooked at your table. Longtime favorites include Teriyaki and Tempura choices and homey noodle dishes. Entrée options: Grilled Chilean Sea Bass, Black Sesame Tuna, and Kinoko Filet Mignon Teriyaki. For an over-the-top Japanese dining experience, try the Omakase 5-course master chef dinner or the Kaiseki tasting menu. The Akari Room in Wayne is sleek and inviting, dimly lit to create a calming ambiance.

#### Another Favorite Hana Japanese Restaurant

387 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne / 610-687-3320  
Hana's array of authentic Japanese specialties beautifully presented has kept customers happy for more than 25 years. Feast on traditional sushi or contemporary rolls like the salmon/cream cheese Philadelphia version in the small, streamlined restaurant. The Bento boxes are popular at lunch. At dinner, Sukiyaki, Chicken Teriyaki and Udon Noodle specialties star on the extensive menu. If you want something special, call ahead. They're eager to please.

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## BEST MEDITERRANEAN

### The Mediterranean

150 W. Gay St., West Chester  
610-431-7074 / [TheMedWCPA.com](http://TheMedWCPA.com)

Among the international dining choices in West Chester, don't overlook this family-owned and operated Mediterranean BYO in a cozy, two-story building on Gay Street. Blending Lebanese and Italian influences for over 10 years to cook up fresh, heart-healthy fare, the menu includes classic Greek dishes and an ample assortment of veggie-friendly options, plus super fresh specials. Homemade hummus and the appetizer samplers get the nod to start, then every kind of kabob (shrimp, ahi tuna, lamb, beef, chicken, veg) for entrées. Top it off with the best baklava or Margaret's deep-dish apple pie, with Turkish coffee. Good for you!

## BEST MEXICAN

### Señora's Authentic Mexican Cuisine

505 E. Gay St., West Chester  
610-344-4950

Third-generation restaurateur Carmen

Lytle presides over this sunny Mexican BYO in a strip mall outside the bustle of downtown West Chester, where authentic is part of the name and the cooking ethos. Freshness of ingredients (handmade taco chips and salsas) sets Señora's apart and allows a balance of spice and flavor to shine through in food that's not overwhelmed with heat. First-timers should order their favorites and see what a difference an experienced hand in the kitchen makes. Returning locals, students and visitors enjoy the special Mole Poblano, Dueling Tacos (white and blue corn), and to-die-for flan. Deeply satisfying.

## Another Favorite

### La Tolteca

907 S. High St., West Chester  
610-420-8101 / [LaTolteca.net](http://LaTolteca.net)  
4015 Concord Pk., Wilmington  
302-478-9477 / [LasToltecas.com](http://LasToltecas.com)

With several locations in Wilmington and West Chester, it's easy to satisfy your craving for Mexican food with lunch or dinner served fast and friendly at these locally owned favorites. The busy parking

lots attest to the repeat business — not just West Chester students looking for great value, but they've discovered La Tolteca. You'll find all the classics here with every combination of soft or crispy, open or folded, corn or flour, beef or chicken, beans or rice, and all the guac, sour cream and salsa you can handle. Check the new vegetarian specials. Note: West Chester is BYO.

## BEST PUB

### The Whip Tavern

1383 N. Chatham Rd., West Marlborough  
610-383-0600 / [TheWhipTavern.com](http://TheWhipTavern.com)

The place for British pub spirit ... and spirits, attracting hunt-country folks visiting the scenic countryside and area residents alike. The menu mixes classic English pub food and American favorites created from local ingredients. Dig into Bangers and Mash, Scotch Eggs, soups and the best Welsh Rarebit in town, made with Stilton cheese and Smithwick's Irish Ale. Fish and Chips rock, as does the daily curry special. Dinner entrées range from Lancaster County Chicken Breast with Stilton/

fruitwood-smoked bacon cream sauce to Talluto's Lobster-stuffed Ravioli with a sauté of local mushrooms and tarragon-sherry blush sauce. Desserts like Crème Brûlée and Sticky Toffee Pudding gallop with glee.

## BEST SANDWICH

### Sarcone's Deli

230 W. Market St., West Chester  
610-430-2023 / [SarconesDeliWC.com](http://SarconesDeliWC.com)

"Hoagies made on the best bread in the world." That's the simple claim of the new offshoot of the Italian Market's temple of bread, with 90 years of experience behind them. Fans of the crusty crust, dense interior rolls complemented by Deitz & Watson cold cuts and garnishes agree. Try the Italian Market (hot coppa, turkey breast, roasted peppers, sharp provolone), Junkyard Special of Food Network fame (turkey, prosciutto, sautéed spinach, roasted peppers, sharp provolone, fresh mozzarella), Philly Cheesesteak, or get a hoagie tray for variety. Homemade soups — from Italian wedding to Chester County mushroom — sides of potato salad, roasted peppers and more. Pick up an extra loaf to go.

## Another Favorite

### Capriotti's Sandwich Shop

Various locations including Exton, Glen Mills, Kennett Square

607 E. Market St., West Chester  
610-719-0270 / [Capriottis.com](http://Capriottis.com)

Starting in Wilmington 35 years ago, now with franchises in 12 states (7 stores in PA, with West Chester's opening in 1997), Capriotti's will give you Thanksgiving on a roll with The Bobbie (homemade turkey, cranberry sauce, stuffing, mayo). Known for freshly prepared, slow-roasted pulled turkey and roast beef subs, their cheesesteaks also get raves. Even vegetarians smile with the 100% meatless turkey sub. Sandwiches that have you singing their praises and picking your next choice.

## BEST SEAFOOD

### Harry's Seafood Grill

101 S. Market St., Wilmington  
302-777-1500 / [HarrysSeafoodGrill.com](http://HarrysSeafoodGrill.com)

From its perch on the banks of the Christina River, Harry's is a main attraction

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on Wilmington's Riverfront. It's easy to get hooked on everything here, from its casually chic ambiance to the extensive array of superb seafood. Premium oysters and varieties of Sashimi and Ceviche appeal. Lobster lovers can crack and pick their own or dig into a super Cioppino. Typical fish entrées: Coconut-crusted Black Grouper, Pan-roasted Red Snapper, Cajun-seared Rainbow Trout. Specials surprise and delight: During Florida Seafood Month, for example, stone crab claws appeared. Views of the river enhance dinner, so weather permitting, choose the patio next to the Riverwalk and watch the parade of walkers and boats.

**Another Favorite**  
**Deep Blue Bar and Grill**

111 W. 22th St., Wilmington  
302-777-2040 / DeepBlueBarandGrill.com  
The self-described "modern American fishhouse" caters to all seeking creative, pristinely fresh seafood. A few examples: Cumin-rubbed Yellowfin Tuna with black bean and roast pepper cake; Caramelized-onion Crusted Cod,

and Monkfish Scallopine with potato gnocchi, chanterelles and lobster sauce. The popular Saturday Lobster Feast returns in June.

**BEST STEAKHOUSE**  
**Stockyard Inn**

1147 Lititz Pk., Lancaster  
717-394-7974 / StockyardInn.com  
Here's the beef! And so much more, beginning with an on-premise butcher shop where steaks are hand-cut and trimmed. Nothing pre-packed here. But then, it's been in business for the past 100+ years, maturing from an inn for cattlemen to an upscale restaurant rich with historic charm and Old World elegance. The best-selling Filet Mignon is all melt-in-your-mouth goodness with pinot noir reduction, 10- and 7-ounce portions. More joy for beef lovers: Sirloin and Delmonico Steaks and the Prime Rib, certified Angus beef. Rack of Lamb and the Porterhouse Pork Chop also score. Delicious seafood offerings include signature dishes: Colossal Maryland Crab Cakes and Baked Jumbo Shrimp

with Lump Crabmeat. Sumptuous desserts, too.

**BEST SUSHI - TIE**  
**Azie**

217 W. State St., Media  
610-566-4750 / Azie-Restaurant.com  
**Azie On Main**  
789 E. Lancaster Ave., Villanova  
610-527-5700 / AzieOnMain.com  
**Teikoku**  
5492 West Chester Pk., Newtown Square  
610-644-8270 / TeikokuRestaurant.com  
The pleasure of eating sushi depends on the quality of the ingredients and skill of the chef, so it makes sense to head for the experts when the craving hits. Over 20 years of restaurant experience by the Soomboonsong owners and the guidance of star Chef Iinuma (Morimoto, Iron Chef Japan) make this trio top picks — hip Azie, zen-like Teikoku, Main Line's Azie on Main. From traditional to specialty rolls and samplers and chef's picks, you'll find creative selections. Try the Azie (spicy tuna, scallion, avocado tempura crunch, eel sauce) and the Teikoku (boiled shrimp

crab meat, masago, avocado, crunch in cucumber) rolls. Early bird specials are sushi-perlative.

**Another Favorite**  
**Lily Asian Cuisine, Sushi & Grill**

104 W. State St., Kennett Square  
610-925-3700 / LilySushiAndGrill.com  
This summer's excitement when Kennett Square got its first pan Asian restaurant was topped by news that Lily would offer all-you-can-eat sushi on Tuesdays for \$24.99. Suki and Tony Li's charming BYO entices with fresh fish, well prepared, with intriguing names like Million Dollar Roll, Out of Control Roll, Spicy Las Vegas Roll and many more. Find your own favorite or try their Japanese, Chinese or Thai entrées.

**BEST THAI**  
**Thai Orchid Restaurant**

556 W. Lancaster Ave., Berwyn  
610-651-7840 / ThaiOrchidBerwyn.com  
When it's time for Thai, Thai Orchid has you covered seven days a week, lunch and dinner, eat-in or take-out. A surprisingly charming BYO set in the Berwyn

Shopping Center (near a State Store) has been attracting fans with its 3-course \$10.95 lunch special and bringing them back for more with exceptionally balanced flavors. Perfect lemon grass soup, Tulip, Thai and Buddha's dumplings, and all the standards are available at any level of heat you want (stimulating kick to very hot, yet bearable). An extensive list of chef's specials — Lamb au Siam, Love and Passion (Cornish hen), Tutti Fruity Duck (with Chambord) are Thai-riffic.

**Another Favorite**  
**Thai L'Elephant**

301 Bridge St. Phoenixville  
610-935-8613 / ThaiLElephant  
So many things to love about this Phoenixville BYO serving up excellent Thai food with French flair. The new location on Bridge Street is conveniently across from Black Walnut Winery's tasting room, the better to grab a quick bottle. The \$8.95 lunch special and other "freebies" are popular, as are extensive veggie and vegan options (yes, a separate vegan section). Thai Treasures appetizer combo

and Phuket Fantasy (sautéed seafood with lobster tail in spicy garlic chili basil sauce) get raves.

**BEST VIETNAMESE**  
**Le Saigon**

82 E. Lancaster Ave., Paoli  
610-889-4870 / LeSaigon.com  
The joy of Vietnamese cuisine — from homey noodle dishes to sophisticated French-influenced creations — is delivered with style at this BYO with flowers and candles in the inviting dining room. Crispy Boneless Tangerine Duck, an enduring favorite, hits several flavor points — citrusy, tangy, earthy, sweet. Also popular: Soft-Shell Crab in Tamarind Sauce and Crispy Spicy Calamari. Fried rice and noodle dishes shine as Vietnamese comfort food. Vegetarian choices range from Curry Vegetable Fried Rice to Asian Eggplant with Crispy Tofu. Recommended: Snow Rolls (greens, shrimp and vermicelli wrapped in rice paper with peanut sauce); and Shrimp Sautéed with Lemongrass. Corn Pudding with coconut crème will satisfy your sweet tooth. ♦

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