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FINANCIAL TIMES

2015

Top 400 Financial Advisors
in the Nation

FORTUNE

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Independent Advisors

Worth

2009 – 2011

One of Nation's
Top Wealth Managers

Wealth Manager

2010

The 50 Top Women
in Wealth



Wealth Manager

2009

50 Most Influential
Women in Wealth

BARRON'S

2006 – 2015

Top 1,200
Financial Advisors

PHILADELPHIA
BUSINESS JOURNAL

2010

#2 Top Wealth Advisor

Patricia C. Brennan, CFP®

Internationally recognized, but close to home

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 as the first Chairwoman 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, The Chester County Hospital and Health System, and for the Brandywine Valley YMCA.

Patricia Brennan in 2015 –
“A Top 400 Advisor in the Nation”

FINANCIAL TIMES



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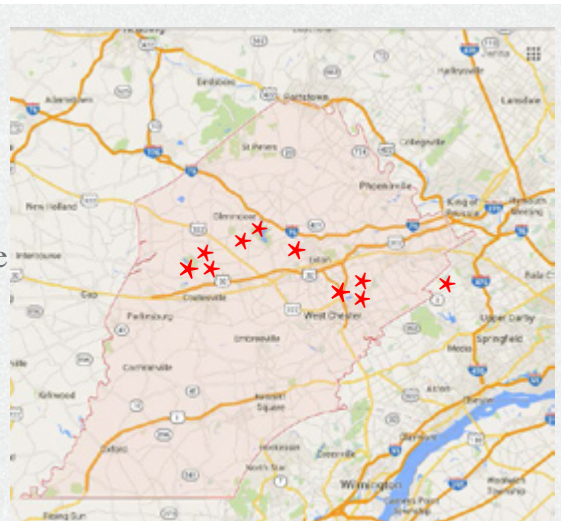
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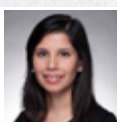
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from the EDITOR

Happy New Year! We launch another year with great anticipation as we publish our annual Dining Guide—your best source for what and where to eat and drink in our area.

Our 12th Best of the Best selections guide you to 100 new restaurants, dining experiences, craft breweries and even a few craft distilleries. Use our 2016 Restaurant Guide to start planning now because there's so much to explore this year.

For West Chester, Malcolm Johnstone suggests “Ringing in the New Year With New Eateries.” And don't forget the old favorites there, too! Our map may help you navigate your many dining choices.

Our food editor Laura Muzzi Brennan talks to seven top chefs to learn “What's New in Your Kitchen,” and beer expert and author Bryan Kolesar guides you to “Tasting Your Way to Better Beer.” Plus we highlight four tasty events in “Sweet Events,” compile even more in “2016 Food Events,” and give you a short guide to “Food Truck Nation”—much more than kitchens on wheels.

If your New Year's resolutions included a better diet, Kim Knipe from Chester County Hospital helps with “Tips on Healthy Winter Eating.” Consider exploring more winter veggies, glorious citrus and healthy frozen fruits this year. You'll be glad you did.

And in addition to our monthly Best Local Events coverage (in print, online and in our events newsletter), we've added “Senior Happenings” with activities open to the public at our local senior communities. And finally, we feature highlights from the fall sports season at area independent schools. You'll want to watch this impressive group of student-athletes when they head off to college.

Wishing you the best for a wonderful 2016! Thank you for reading *County Lines*.

Jo Anne
Jo Anne Durako
Editor

COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

January 2016

Volume XXXIX, Number 5

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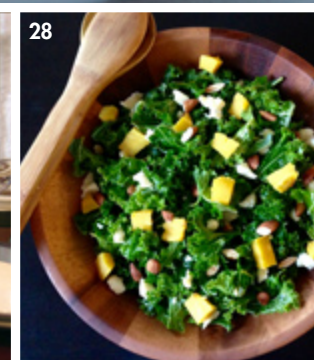
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[Good to Know] *Just A few things we'd thought you'd like to know this month*

Better Ways. Next time you're stuck in traffic, forget your default GPS and give **Waze** a try. The world's largest free community-based traffic and navigation app, Waze helps save time and gas on your daily commute or vacation road trip. Connect with other drivers to avoid accidents and rush hour madness with this hands-free technology. Share your updates with fellow commuters and sync up with friends heading for the same destination. You'll wonder how you lived without it! More at Waze.com.



Organized Apps. Want to be more put together in 2016? Let technology help! All you need is your handy smartphone loaded with these free apps to save the day. Try **Evernote** to keep track of every cool thing you come across—music, pictures, screen shots, spreadsheets, links and more. **LastPass** securely keeps your passwords in one place so you have to remember just one. And **reQall** can remind you of your family's schedules with a quick text or email. Who knew being organized could be so easy?



Continuing the Tradition. We all know about the **Times Square New Year's Eve Ball**, but how much do you really know? That the first lowering celebration was in 1907 and the ball was originally made of iron and wood and weighed a whopping 700 pounds? It's gone through many changes including converting to LED lights—now with over 16 million different colors!—and putting on some weight—11,875 pounds to be exact. More fun facts at TimesSquareNYC.org.



Pop In and Talk. If you love discussing things that matter with people who care, **The Colonial Theatre's Indie Lens Pop-Ups** are right up your alley. Local enthusiasts come together to talk about featured documentaries from PBS's Independent Lens series, all while making friends and exchanging stories. Come out Saturday, January 9, for "In Football We Trust," a heartfelt story of four Polynesian high school football players struggling to overcome obstacles as they train for the pros. For more, visit TheColonialTheatre.com and PBS.org/IndependentLens.



Rededicate Your Reading.

This January, in honor of **National Book Month**, promise yourself to rekindle the habit of reading regularly. Curling up with an engaging story helps relieve stress, keep your mind active and strengthen your imagination. Check out locally owned book stores with page-turning magic—like **Chester County Book Company** for the latest bestsellers or **Baldwin's Book Barn** for used books and rare texts. Or head for your library. Visit CCBMC.com, BookBarn.com, CCLS.org.



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[January Picks]



Philadelphia Auto Show

January 29–February 7

Catch a glimpse of the industry's latest models at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Black Tie Tailgate, Jan. 29, 7 p.m. Benefits the

Division of Neurology at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Tickets from \$225. 1101 Arch St., Phila. Check website for show hours. \$7–\$14. 215-418-2000; PhillyAutoShow.com.

The 9th Annual Robert Burns Memorial Whisky Tasting

January 29

Enjoy an evening of fine whiskeys, artisanal cheeses and outrageous chocolates paired in the screening room at The Colonial Theatre. Guests will receive the fine whisky tasting glass they used for the evening's festivities as a keepsake. Seating is limited. Silent auction items available for public bidding. Benefits the Colonial Theatre's classic film series. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 6 p.m. \$125; you can sponsor a bottle for \$175. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

14th Annual Taste of Phoenixville

January 21

Calling all food lovers! Bring friends and family to this worthy event featuring great local food, lively music and dancing, with all funds raised aiding the homeless



of Chester County through The Good Samaritan Shelter of Phoenixville. *Phoenixville Foundry*, 2 N. Main St., Phoenixville. 6 to 10 p.m. Tickets \$100–\$500. 610-933-9305; TasteOfPhoenixville.com.



Chicago—The Musical

January 12–17

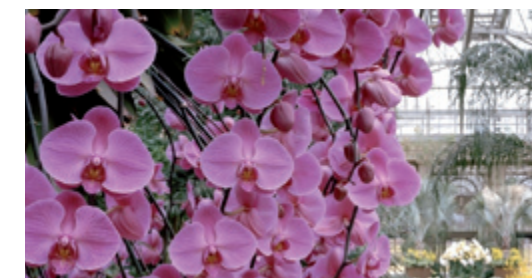
Winner of six Tony Awards, two Olivier Awards and a Grammy, this tale of fame, fortune and all that jazz holds one show-stopping

song after another and the most astonishing dancing you've ever seen. *The Playhouse on Rodney Square*, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. Tues.–Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Fri.–Sat., 8 p.m.; Wed, Sat., Sun., 2 p.m. \$40–\$95. 302-888-0200; ThePlayhouseDE.org.

Longwood Gardens Orchid Extravaganza

January 23–March 27

Put a burst of color in your day this winter. The conservatory transforms into a tropical oasis featuring an astonishing display of orchids. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 9 to 6. Timed admission tickets req., \$10–20. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.



best Local Events

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THROUGH JANUARY 3

A Brandywine Christmas.

From the spectacular O-gauge model train display with trains to a collection of rare antique dolls dressed in beautiful period clothing, lights, holiday shopping events, music and more. *Rt. 1, Chadds Ford.*

Open daily 9:30 to 4:30 (closed Christmas Day). \$6-\$15. 610-388-2700; BrandywineMuseum.org.



THROUGH JANUARY 4

Morris Arboretum's Holiday Garden Railway. Thousands of sparkling lights adorn a miniature village surrounded by a 1/4-mile track with model trains. *100 E. Northwestern Ave., Phila. 10 to 4. \$7-\$16. 215-247-5777; MorrisArboretum.org.*

THROUGH JANUARY 10

Longwood Gardens Garden Railway. This whimsical display is set into motion with G-scale model trains traveling in and out of bridges, tunnels and special water features. *1001 E. Baltimore Pk., Kennett Square. Timed admission tickets required. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.*



THROUGH JANUARY 10

Delaware Museum of Natural History Presents "Tiny Titans: Dinosaur Eggs and Babies." Remarkable hands-on exhibit fea-

turing authentic dinosaur eggs and nests collected from all over the world. *4840 Kennett Pk., Wilmington. Mon-Sat, 9:30 to 4:30; Sun, noon to 4:30. \$7-\$9. 302-658-9111; DelMNH.org.*

JANUARY 9-10, 16-17, 23-24

Schuylkill Valley Model Railroad Club Open House. Fun for kids of all ages with four different railroads, hundreds of buildings, vehicles, people and trees to create realistic scenes. Thomas the Tank Engine and a scavenger hunt, too. *400 S. Main St., Phoenixville. 1 to 5. Free. 610-935-1126; SVMRRC.com.*

JANUARY 20

29th Annual Main Line Camp Fair. Representatives from day and overnight camps are on hand to answer questions and discuss programs. *Conestoga High School, 200 Irish Rd., Berwyn. 5:30 to 8:30. Snow date, Jan. 27. Free. 610-989-3832; MainLineCampFair.org.*

JANUARY 22, 27

Performances at The Grand. Jan. 22, *I Have A Dream*, recommended for grades 3-8, a compelling dramatization of the life and times of Martin Luther King, Jr. Jan. 27, *Freedom Train*, recommended for grades 3-9, the thrilling story of Harriet Tubman, one of the most celebrated 'conductors' of the Underground Railroad. *818 N. Market St., Wilmington. 9:30 and noon. 800-37-GRAND; TheGrandWilmington.org.*

JANUARY 23, FEBRUARY 6

For Young Audiences at The Colonial Theatre. Jan. 23, *The Cat's Pajamas* make cool music using puppets and props and a big band sound. Feb. 6, *Balloon Freak John Cassidy*. *227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 2 pm. \$5. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.*



ART & CRAFT SHOWS.....

THROUGH JANUARY 30

2015 Craft Forms & Craft + Technology. Craft Forms: A juried, international exhibition of fine contemporary craft with over 100 works by 100 craft artists. **Emergence: Craft + Technology:** Over 30 professional craft artists whose work exemplifies the intertwining of advanced digital processes with traditional handmade craft. Wayne Art Center, 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. Mon-Fri, 10 to 5; Sat, 10 to 4. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.



THROUGH JANUARY 31

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. 484-596-5710; MainLineHealth.org/ArtAbility.

JANUARY 15-FEBRUARY 14

Professional Artist Members Exhibition at Main Line Art Center. Juried exhibition with opening reception Jan. 15, 5:30 to 7:30. Painters, photographers, sculptors and mixed media artists display. 746 Panmure Rd., Haverford. Mon-Thurs, 9 to 9; Fri-Sat, 9 to 5. Free. 610-525-0272; MainLineArt.org.

JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 6

Academy of Notre Dame 43rd Annual Fine Art Show & Sale. The exhibition features nearly 100 artists' works in a variety of mediums. Jan. 29, preview reception, 6 to 9, 45-\$50. Academy Mansion, 560 Sproul Rd., Villanova. Daily, noon to 4. 610-977-0807; NDAPA.org.



FEBRUARY 3-7

Malvern Retreat House Art Show. Mark your calendar for this show, where you'll find original juried artwork by more than 100 professional artists. Special feature of the show: "Glass Art." Malvern Retreat House, McShain-Horstmann Family Life Ctr., 315 S. Warren Ave., Malvern. Benefits the Retreat House. Feb. 4, Complimentary wine and cheese reception to meet the artists, 5 to 8. Wed-Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 4. 484-321-2562; MalvernRetreat.com/ArtShow.



AUTO & BOAT SHOWS.....

JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 7

Philadelphia Auto Show. See January Picks.

FEBRUARY 3-7

The Atlantic City Boat Show. Celebrate life on the water. Climb aboard hundreds of boats for every budget and lifestyle. Atlantic City Convention Center, One Miss America Way, Atlantic City, NJ. Wed-Fri, 11 to 8; Sat, 10 to 8; Sun, 10 to 5. \$16. 718-707-0716; ACBoatShow.com.

DESIGN HOME SHOWS.....

JANUARY 8-10

Greater Philadelphia Spring Home Show. Designed for those who are in all stages of remodeling, landscaping and decorating their homes. Valley Forge Casino Resort, 1160



First Ave., King of Prussia. Fri, 11 to 8; Sat, 10 to 8; Sun, 10 to 6. Free. 855-449-3714; GreaterPhillyHomeShows.com.

FEBRUARY 5-7

Historic Home Show. For anyone who wants to learn more about restoring, renovating, decorating or furnishing a historic (or traditional new) house. Homeowners and professionals will find valuable tools and products. Valley Forge Casino Resort, 1160 First Ave., King of Prussia. Preview, Fri, 6 to 9, \$20. Show hours, Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 11 to 4. \$12. 610-354-8118; Historic-HomeShows.com.

FUNDRAISERS.....

JANUARY 16

Alex's Lemonade Stand Annual Lemon Ball. The annual "Yellow Tie" Gala and Alex's Lem-



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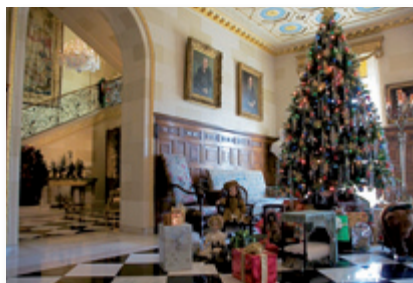
175 North Whitehorse Road, Phoenixville, PA 19460 | Minutes from Valley Forge

BBB

onade Stand Foundation's annual fundraiser, which features a lively evening of cocktails, dinner, raffle, silent and live auctions, dancing and entertainment. Benefits research projects to find a cure for childhood cancer. Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market St., Philadelphia. 6:30 pm. \$275. 610-649-3034; TheLemonBall.org.

GARDENS.....
JANUARY 23–MARCH 27
Longwood Gardens Orchid Extravaganza.
See January Picks.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS.....
THROUGH JANUARY 3
Nemours Mansion & Gardens Holiday Tours.



Rooms are beautifully decorated with historical artifacts. Enjoy Christmas trees decked out with hand-painted ornaments and decorations from the early 1900s to the present. Res. req. Alapocas Dr. & Rt. 141, Wilmington. Tues–Sat, 9:30, noon and 3; Sun, noon and 3. \$15. 302-651-6912; NemoursMansion.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 3
Yuletide at Winterthur. Tour Henry Francis du Pont's home decorated in holiday style. Enjoy visions of holidays past and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the dried-flower tree, featuring 60 varieties of flowers. 5105 Kennett Pk., (Rt. 52), Winterthur, DE. Tues–Sun, 10 to 5. \$5–\$20. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 10
Holiday Tours & Victorian Christmas at Pennypacker Mills. Old-fashioned Christmas traditions and decorations light up the mansion with an added holiday touch of a bell choir and Santa. 5 Haldeman Rd., Schwenksville. Tues–Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 1 to 4. 610-287-9349; Montcopa.org/PennypackerMills.



MUSEUMS.....

THROUGH JANUARY 3
Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library Exhibits. Colorful folk art, in “A Colorful Folk: Pennsylvania Germans & the Art of Everyday Life,” and “Tiffany Glass: Painting with Color & Light,” some of Tiffany's most iconic works. 5105 Kennett Pk. (Rt. 52), Winterthur, DE. Tues–Sun, 10 to 5. \$5–\$20. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 31
Brandywine River Museum of Art Exhibits & Events. *Through Nov. 15,* “Things Beyond Resemblance: James Welling Photographs.” *Through Jan. 31,* “Natural Selections: Andrew Wyeth Plant Studies.” Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Daily 9:30 to 4:30. \$6–\$15, free Sun mornings. 610-388-2700; BrandywineMuseum.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 31
The Delaware Art Museum. *Through Jan. 3,* “Reconstructed Elements: Richard H. Bailey,

Helen Mason, Stan Smokler,” regional contemporary sculptors. *Through Jan. 10,* “Helen Farr Sloan, 1911–2005,” painter, printmaker, and art instructor. *Through Jan. 31,* “Poetry in Beauty: The Pre-Raphaelite Art of Marie Spartali Stillman.” 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed, 10 to 4; Thurs, 10 to 8, free after 4 pm; Fri–Sun, 10 to 4; \$6–\$12. Free on Sun. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.



MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT.....

JANUARY 8
Vox Ama Deus Ensemble Presents More Awesome Americans—Gershwin, Bernstein, Williams, Joplin. British virtuoso, Peter Donohoe, performs. Kimmel Center, Perelman Theater, Broad & Spruce Sts., Philadelphia. 8 pm. \$10–75. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.



JANUARY 13–FEBRUARY 6
Performances at The Grand. *Jan. 13,* Bands of the Royal Marines; *Jan. 16,* Manhattan Transfer; *Jan. 17,* The Musical Box: The Exclusive, Authorized Re-creation of Genesis' “Foxtrot;” *Jan. 26,* The Delaware Symphony Orchestra Serenade to Winter; *Feb. 6,* Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes. 818 N.



Experience the best of both worlds.

- 30 minutes from Center City Philadelphia
- Steps to The Shoppes at Brinton Lake including Pottery Barn, Williams-Sonoma, J. Jill, Anthropologie, J. Crew, and Lululemon
- Close to supermarkets and local eateries like Trader Joe's, Target, Big Fish Grill, and P.F. Chang's
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Kendal is all about VALUE



With the renowned “Kendal spirit,” together we transform the experience of aging. This means giving and sharing the things that we *value*—a culture of community and collaboration with a focus on continuing contribution and caring for our natural surroundings.

Kendal-Crosslands Communities offers affordable residential options and a full continuum of care, including 5-star rated health care, all on a 500 acre certified Wildlife Habitat and Arboretum!

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Communities
Together, transforming the experience of aging.®



Not-for-Profit Continuing Care Retirement Community Serving Older Adults in the Quaker Tradition



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Market St., Wilmington. Check website for times and tickets. 800-37-GRAND; TheGrandWilmington.org.

JANUARY 15

Point Entertainment Presents Holy Holy Performing “The Man Who Sold the World.” Tony Visconti, Woody Woodmansey and Glenn Gregory perform David Bowie’s album as well as a selection of early Bowie favorites. The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 8 pm. \$25–\$42.50. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

FEBRUARY 4

Delaware Art Museum Presents Concerts on Kentmere. “Harmonizing with the Murals of Howard Pyle,” celebrating the landmark murals of Howard Pyle, Pyxis Piano Quartet will present music from that era. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Pre-concert talk, 7:30; performance at 8 with complimentary desserts and coffee served at intermission. \$40. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.



FEBRUARY 7

Vox Renaissance Consort Renaissance Candelmas. This evening is a perfect remedy for the “February blues” featuring Renaissance Masterworks for voices and period instruments. Daylesford Abbey, 220 S. Valley Rd., Paoli. 6:30 pm. \$10–\$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.



FEBRUARY 12

WCU Live! Presents FLY Dance Company. A cross between street dance and classic choreographic principles. Very high-energy performance.



Local Farm Markets

* Eagleview Farmers Mkt., Town Ctr., Wellington Sq. *Thurs, 3 to 7.* 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

* East Goshen Farmers Mkt., E. Goshen Park, 1580 Paoli Pk. *Thurs, 3 to 7.* EastGoshenFarmersMarket.org.

* Kennett Square Farmers Mkt., E. State St., between Broad and Union Sts. *Fri, 2 to 6.* 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

* Lancaster County Farmers Mkt., 389 W Lancaster Ave., Wayne. *Wed & Fri, 8 to 6; Sat, 8 to 4.* 610-688-9856; LancasterCountyFarmersMarket.com.

* Malvern Farmers Mkt., Burke Park, Roberts Rd. & S. Warren Ave. *Sat, 9 to 1.* 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

* Phoenixville Farmers Mkt., 200 Mill St., under Gay St. Bridge. *Sat, 9 to 1.* PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org.

* Rosemont Farmers Mkt., 1149 Lancaster Ave. *Wed–Sat, 9 to 7.* 610-527-4800; RosemontFarmersMarket.com.

* West Chester Growers Mkt., Chestnut & Church Sts. *Sat, 9 to 1.* 610-436-9010; WestChesterGrowersMarket.com.

* These are winter markets and are open at least once a month during the off-season or are indoors. Check their websites for details.

ances. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, S. High St. & University Ave., West Chester. 7:30 pm. \$13–\$20. 610-436-2266; WCUPA.TicketLeap.com.

THEATER.....

THROUGH JANUARY 3

Billy Elliot: The Musical. Based on the hit film and featuring a score by Elton John, this is the story of a boy’s passion for ballet rather than the boxing ring. A Philadelphia professional premiere at The Media Theatre, 104 E. State St., Media. Check website for show times. \$25–\$42. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 10

The Three Musketeers (The Later Years): A Musical Panto. The panto tradition continues in this swashbuckling musical adventure

QUARRYVILLE INTRODUCES THE COMMONS



For 67 years, Christ-centered living has been our hallmark. While our neighborhood is expanding, our commitment to uncompromising standards of security and care for every resident continues uninterrupted.

Another example of Quarryville meeting and exceeding the needs of our residents is the newly-constructed Commons gathering place.



Featuring an indoor pool, a walking track, a fitness center, a café, and a terrace with an outdoor fireplace and pizza oven, the Commons is a place where our residents can come together to meet, eat, exercise and relax.



With the Commons, the list of what to love about Quarryville—our ideal location, great value, spacious apartments, award-winning cottages, and outstanding medical care—just got longer.

Topping the list is our commitment to helping each resident live life to the fullest.

RETIRE the ORDINARY. *Live the Extraordinary!*®



QUARRYVILLE
PRESBYTERIAN
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

625 Robert Fulton Highway, Quarryville, PA 17566
quarryville.com 888-786-7331
www.facebook.com/QuarryvilleRetirement



at People's Light, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. \$35-\$50. For curtain times, 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.



JANUARY 12-17
Chicago—The Musical. See January Picks.

JANUARY 28-31
Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Chester County Present *The Mikado*. Set in a fancy hibachi



restaurant, this modern staging offers a new twist on an old favorite. Madeline Wing Adler Theatre, Swope Music Bldg., 817 S. High St., West Chester. Thurs-Sat, 8 pm; Sat-Sun, 2 pm. \$10-\$23. 610-269-5499; GSSChesCo.org.

FEBRUARY 20-MARCH 20

Sense and Sensibility. Full of passion, wit and soaring emotions, this is a new adaptation of Jane Austin's novel. People's Light, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. \$27-\$47. For curtain times, 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

FEBRUARY 20

The Playhouse on Rodney Square Presents TAO: Seventeen Samurai. This new show brings audiences athletic bodies and contemporary costumes combined with explosive Taiko drumming and innovative choreography. 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. 8 pm. \$33-\$39. 800-338-0881; ThePlayhouseDE.org.



TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS.....

JANUARY 9, 21, FEBRUARY 5

First Fridays, Second Saturdays Third Thursdays. Stroll through scenic and event-filled area towns to find exhibits, galleries, restaurant specials, entertainment and extended hours. *Feb. 5, First Fridays: Kennett Square,* 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. *Lancaster City,* 717-509-ARTS; LancasterArts.com. org. *Oxford,* 610-998-9494; Downtown-OxfordPA.org. *Wayne,* 610-687-7698; FirstFridayWayne.com. *West Chester,* 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com; *Wilmington,* 302-576-2100; ArtLoopWilmingtonDE.com. *Jan. 9, Second Saturday: Media,* 484-445-4161; MediaArtsCouncil. *Jan. 21, Malvern Stroll,* MalvernBusiness.com. ♦

Stay in the know with everything going on in *County Lines* country. Sign up for our monthly Events Newsletter at Newsletter@ValleyDel.com

Send a description of your activity to Info@ValleyDel.com by the first of the month preceding publication.

For more events visit:

CountyLinesMagazine.com



Bayada Home Health Care hosts its annual Bayada Regatta.



Servant Stage Company performs at area retirement communities.



Kendal-Crosslands Arboretum is open 7 days a week to the public.

SENIOR HAPPENINGS

So many retirement communities in our area host events that are open to the public. Take a walk through an arboretum, watch a fantastic show, take part in health screenings, regattas, antiques shows ... the list goes on.

ONGOING

Kendal-Crosslands Communities

1109 E. Baltimore Pk., Kennett Square
610-388-1441; KCArboretum.org

The certified, accredited Arboretum here is open to the public 7 days a week. Visitors check in at the front desk, pick up a map and walk the Arboretum's paved pathways and enjoy over 70 species of trees on the 500+-acre campus.

JANUARY 8, 15, 22, 30

Quarryville Presbyterian

Retirement Community

625 Robert Fulton Hwy., Quarryville
888-786-7321; Quarryville.com

Visit during a drop-in open house of the new building, The Commons, featuring an indoor pool, walking track, expanded fitness area, cafe, large gathering room and a terrace with an outdoor fireplace and pizza oven. 1 to 3 p.m.

JANUARY 12

Wellington at Hershey's Mill

1361 Boot Rd., West Chester
484-653-1200

Free glaucoma screenings provided by Eye to Eye Ophthalmology. Wellington Hall, 2 to 4.

JANUARY 15

Exton Senior Living

600 N. Pottstown Pk., Exton
610-594-0200; FiveStarSeniorLiving.com

Rover Community Transportation Service Information Session and sign-up. 10 to 11:30.

FEBRUARY 9

Wellington at Hershey's Mill

1361 Boot Rd., West Chester
484-653-1200

Brown Bag Prescriptions—bring your prescriptions and questions for a local pharmacist to answer. 2 to 4 p.m.

FEBRUARY 11

Exton Senior Living

600 N. Pottstown Pk., Exton
610-594-0200; FiveStarSeniorLiving.com

Ladies Night Out Chocolate Social and Hand Messages. Come and enjoy. 4 to 6 p.m.

FEBRUARY 18 & 19

Pleasant View Retirement Community

(performance on the 18th, see below)
544 N. Penryn Rd., Manheim
717-665-2445; PleasantViewRC.org

Quarryville Presbyterian

Retirement Community (on the 19th)

625 Robert Fulton Hwy., Quarryville
888-786-7321; Quarryville.com

Servant Stage Company performs a song and dance tribute, *Embraceable You: Rhapsody in Gershwin*. 7 p.m.

MARCH 8

Wellington at Hershey's Mill

1361 Boot Rd., West Chester
484-653-1200

Nutrition Awareness Presentation, 2 to 4 p.m.

MAY 27

Quarryville Presbyterian

Retirement Community

625 Robert Fulton Hwy., Quarryville
888-786-7321; Quarryville.com

Servant Stage Company performs with hand-clapping, foot-stomping harmonies, *Old-Time Gospel Radio Hour*. 7 p.m.

AUGUST

Bayada Home Health Care

King of Prussia, 610-992-9200

Main Line, 610-658-7150

Media, 610-891-9400

Newtown Square, 610-353-5000

Bayada.com

An adaptive rowing event for athletes with physical disabilities, sponsored by Bayada. Exciting races, medal ceremonies, music, entertainment plus kids activities. St. Joseph's University Boathouse, 2200 Kelly Dr., Phila. 8 to 4. 888-995-0788; Bayada.com/Regatta.

OCTOBER

Surrey Services for Seniors

Devon, Broomall, Havertown, Media
610-647-6404; SurreyServices.org

Coming up to its 20th year, the Main Line Antiques Show features fine art and antiques offered by many dealers. Benefits Surrey Services for Seniors. Cabrini College, Dixon Center, 610 King of Prussia Rd., Radnor. MainLineAntiquesShow.com.

Souperbowl

2016



Recognizes these local beer purveyor's and breweries for their sponsorship and participation.

IRON HILL, McKenzie's, Buzz Club, Round Guys, Victory, Sly Fox, Evil Genius, Artisan HomeBrew, Levante, BlueRidge Brewing, Neshaminy Creek, Yards Brewing

February 5th 7:00-10:00 PM
Good Will Fire Company 552 E Union Street West Chester

Tickets are \$50.00 in advance or \$60.00 at the door.

Contact Dennis Wallace, Greater West Chester Sunrise Rotary Club
dennis.wallace@lpl.com or 484.888.2001 for more information.



The Greater West Chester Sunrise and Westtown Goshen Clubs
www.rotary7450.org/GWCSR
www.wegorotary.org

Friends Home
in Kennett

Where friends
become family.



Friends Home in Kennett is a premier non-profit senior living community that offers a variety of living options to help residents remain independent and active.

For more than 100 years, Friends Home in Kennett has been a special part of historic Kennett Square. We offer no buy-in with many amenities and activities. All of this with our compassionate, experienced staff.

- Independent Living
- Personal Care
- Skilled Nursing
- Short-Term Respite Care

Call (610) 444-2577 for more information or to schedule a personal tour.

Friends Home in Kennett | 147 West State Street | Kennett Square, PA 19348
Phone: (610) 444-2577 | Fax: (610) 444-9129 | www.friendshomeinkennett.org



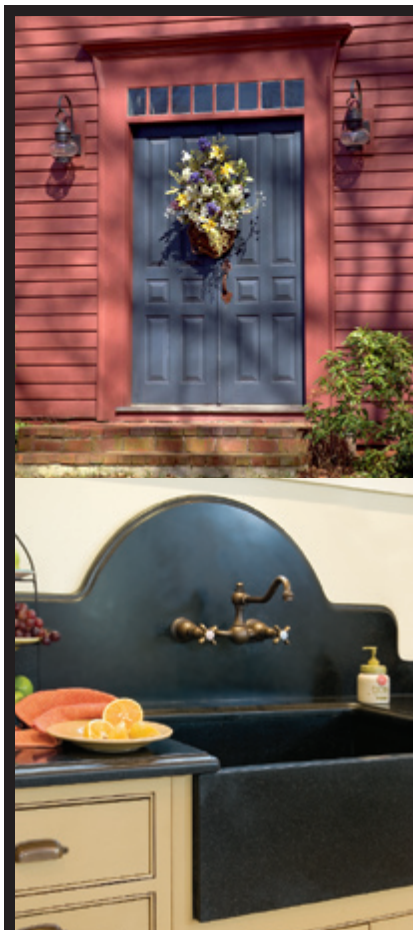
Quarryville's new building, "The Commons," is open to the public to visit.



Surrey Services hosts the annual Main Line Antiques Show in October.



Five Star Senior Living hosted a "Chef Barbecue" event honoring first responders.



HISTORIC HOME SHOW

FEBRUARY 5-7, 2016
VALLEY FORGE CASINO RESORT
CONVENTION CENTER
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA

The only national event dedicated to restoring, renovating, and furnishing traditional and historical homes

OLD HOUSE UNIVERSITY
Friday, February 5
1:30-5:30 pm
Editor Patricia Poore and three esteemed presenters focus on house styles and interiors: design cues, decorating approaches historical to eclectic, interior woodwork & trim, wall treatments by era, and period-inspired kitchens. Bring your pictures and questions!
Admission: \$89/\$129 for two (price includes Reception + Show Sat./Sun.)

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION
Celebrating the Beauty of the Historic Home
Friday, February 5
6-9 pm
Admission: \$20 per person, \$30 for two; \$5 off admission when you pre-register

EXHIBITS, CRAFT DEMONSTRATIONS & WORKSHOPS
Saturday, February 6
10 am-5 pm
Sunday, February 7
11 am-4 pm
Admission \$10 when you pre-register, \$12 on-site

For more information visit www.historichomeshows.com

DELAWARE ART MUSEUM

We're open until 8 pm on Thursdays!

Stop by after work, meet a friend, or take a stroll in the galleries after dinner in the Thronson Café. Admission is free 4 pm - 8 pm every Thursday.

2301 Kentmere Parkway
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302.571.9590 | delart.org

Photography by Glen Rolfe.

2016 FOOD EVENTS

FOR FUN AND FUNDRAISING—THERE ARE SO MANY IN *COUNTY LINES* COUNTRY. WE CAN ONLY LIST SOME HERE ... BE SURE TO CHECK OUR MONTHLY EVENTS COLUMN IN OUR MAGAZINE, ONLINE AND IN OUR EVENTS NEWSLETTER FOR MORE EVENTS AND FOR MORE DETAILS.

JANUARY

21 A Taste of Phoenixville. Good Samaritan fundraiser. 610-933-9305; TasteOfPhoenixville.com.

29 Annual Robert Burns Memorial Whisky Tasting. Fundraiser for Colonial Theatre, Phoenixville. 610-917-1228. TheColonialTheatre.com.

FEBRUARY

21 Kennett Chocolate Lovers Festival. United Way of So. Chester County fundraiser. 610-444-4357; KennettChocolate.org.

27 Kennett Winterfest. Craft beer fest plus food. 610-444-8188; KennettBrewFest.com.

MARCH

7-13 King of Prussia Restaurant Week. Craft beer fest with food. 484-681-9452; VisitKoP.com/DineKoP.

10 Emergency Aid's Taste of the Main Line. Radnor. Benefits Emergency Aid of PA. 610-896-7588; TasteOfTheMainLine.com.

11 Team CMMD Food Fight. Radley Run, West Chester. Vote for best food prepared by volunteers. Benefits American Cancer Society. Team-CMMD.org.

21 Chester County Community Foundation's Sweet Charity. Chadds Ford. Fundraiser. 610-696-8211; ChesCoCF.org.



APRIL

1-14 Media Restaurant Week. 610-566-5039; VisitMediaPA.com.

9, 10 Annual Muttini Mixer. Wilmington. Fundraiser. 302-571-0111; DeHumane.org.

14 Dining Out For Life. Fundraiser for AIDS organizations in the Delaware Valley. DiningOutForLife.com.

17 19th Annual Celebrity Chefs' Brunch. Wilmington. Benefits Meals OnWheels. 302-656-3257; MealsOnWheelsDE.org.

MAY

4-Sept. 28 Wed. Media's Dining Under the Stars. Outdoor dining along State Street, Jackson to Orange Sts. 610-566-5039; VisitMediaPA.com.

Mid-May-Nov. Taste Kennett Food Tours. 484-734-0740; Taste-Kennett.com.

7 Phoenixville Food & Food Truck Festival. PhoenixvilleFoodFestival.com.

14 BrewFest at Mount Hope. PA Renaissance Fairgrounds, Manheim. 717-665-7021; PAREnFaire.com.

28-29 The Great PA FlavorFest. Renaissance Fairgrounds, Manheim. Wineries, food and craft vendors. 717-665-7021; PAREnFaire.com.

*** Brandywine Valley Craft Beer Festival.** Media. Benefits Media Youth Center. 610-627-9000. IronHill-Brewery.com/Media.

JUNE

3 Morris Arboretum's Moonlight & Roses Gala. Philadelphia. 215-247-5777. MorrisArboretumGala.org.

3-12 Philly Beer Week. Philadelphia and suburbs. PhillyBeerWeek.org.

4 West Chester's Annual "Up On the Roof." Fundraiser. 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com.

7-11 Greek Festival at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. Wilmington. GreekFestDE.com.

25-26 New Castle County Ice Cream Festival. Wilmington. Great food, ice cream and music. Rockwood-IceCream.com.



*** Longwood Gardens Wine & Jazz Festival.** Kennett Square. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

*** Annual Great Chefs Event for Alex's Lemonade Stand.** Fundraiser in Philadelphia. 610-649-3034; AlexsLemonade.org.

*** Rotary Clubs of Thorndale & Downingtown's Mac-n-Cheese Cook-Off.** Benefits Rotary. MacNCheeseCookoff.com.

JULY

*** Blues & Brews.** PA Renaissance Fairgrounds, Manheim. All-you-can-eat crabs & brisket, plus music, beer, wine. 717-665-7021; PAREnFaire.com.

*** Willistown Conservation Trust Annual Tomato Tasting.** Newtown Square. 610-353-2562. WCTrust.org.

AUGUST

13, America on Tap Beer Festival. Wilmington. AmericaOnTap.com.

*** Lancaster Craft Beerfest.** LancasterCraftBeerFest.Com.

SEPTEMBER

10-11 31st Annual Mushroom Festival. Kennett Square. Fundraiser for local nonprofits. 610-444-8188; MushroomFestival.org.

10 Historic Odessa Brewfest. Odessa, DE. 302-378-4119. Odessa-Brewfest.com.



18 37th Annual Chester County Restaurant Festival. 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com.

*** Restaurant Week in West Chester.** 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com.

*** Brandywine Valley Restaurant Week.** Northern DE and S. Chester County, PA. BrandywineTaste.com.

*** Malvern's Harvest Oktoberfest.** Malvern-Festivals.com.

*** Annual "Taste of the Town".** Wallingford. 610-566-1713. CommunityArtsCenter.org.

*** Taste of Trolley Square.** Wilmington. TasteOfTrolley.com.

OCTOBER

1 Phoenixville Food & Food Truck Festival. PhoenixvilleFoodFestival.com.

2 Annual Media Food & Crafts Festival. VisitMediaPA.com.

6, 8 King of Prussia Beer Fest Royale. KoPBeerFest.com.

9 14th West Chester Rotary Chili Cookoff. Fundraiser. 484-343-4577; WestChesterChiliCookoff.com.

*** A Taste of Berwyn.** Fundraiser for Daemion Counseling Center. 610-647-1431; TasteOfBerwyn.com.

*** Chester County Futures Wine Tasting Dinner.** Paoli. Fundraiser for disadvantaged youth. 610-458-9926; CCFutures.org.

*** Dilworthtown Inn Wine Festival & Crush Cancer Event.** Benefits Chester County Hospital. 610-431-5329; Dilworthtown.com.



*** Kennett Brewfest.** Craft beers, food and music. 610-444-8188; KennettBrewFest.com.

*** Vendemmia da Vinci Wine & Food Festival.** Wilmington. 302-631-1556; SocietaDaVinci.com.

*** Philadelphia Taste—Food & Wine Festival.** Valley Forge. GourmetShows.com.

*** Chocolate Walk in Lititz.** LititzChocolateWalk.com.

*** Take a Bite Out of Autism Fundraising Event.** Paoli. TakeABite-OutOf-Autism.com.

*** West Chester Food Tours.** 484-301-2396; WestChesterFood-Tours.com.

NOVEMBER

1-14 Restaurant Week in Media. VisitMediaPa.com/RestaurantWeek.

*** Taste of Chester County.** West Chester. Fundraiser for Safe Harbor. SafeHarborOfGWC.org.

*** Notable Kitchen Tour & Chef Showcase.** Fundraiser for the Phila. Orchestra. NotableKitchens.com.

DECEMBER

*** Valley Forge Beer Festival.** Oaks. ValleyForgeBeerFest.com.

* - Dates To Be Determined.

SWEET EVENTS

Colleen Cummings & Jenny Miedwig

FOUR TASTY EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A CONNOISSEUR of all things sweet? Always skipping the appetizers to save room for dessert? If so, mark your calendar for the sweetest events in *County Lines* Country! From chocolate to ice cream and everything in between, you'll feel like a kid in a candy store—all while raising money for good causes.

CHOCOLATE LOVERS HEAD FOR KENNETT SQUARE

Everything's better with chocolate. And no one knows this better than the United Way of Southern Chester County, which is hosting the fourth annual Kennett Chocolate Lovers Festival, February 21. Chocoholics can rejoice and taste hundreds of chocolate treats like brownies, cakes, candies, cookies and cupcakes.

Last year 1,300 guests tasted more than 240 chocolate recipes including the creatively named Clara's Famous Frog Brownies and Chocolate Mousse Bomb. Attendees also sampled delectable treats from local restaurants and pastry shops—with The Gables and Rosa's Cupcakery contributing.

Participants are welcome to enter as many chocolate dishes as they'd like. The main requirement—chocolate in your recipe, of course! Professional chefs, area bakers and students (12 and up) are invited to compete in their categories for bragging rights, ribbons

and prizes. Entering the competition is free and recipes need not be original. Judging is done before the festival begins.

If you're more of a taster than a baker, remember to buy tickets. Connoisseur tickets (\$25) include professional tastings and free parking. General admission tickets (\$10) are available at the door.

What's even sweeter is that your tasting helps the local community. Proceeds benefit the United Way, which supports local health and human service programs. Last year, one in seven neighbors in Chester County turned to United Way for help.

So come on out and bring your sweet tooth!

Feb. 21., 1 to 4 p.m. Kennett High School. KennettChocolate.org.

FOR THE LOVE OF ALL THINGS SWEET: 12TH ANNUAL SWEET CHARITY EVENT

For those who take their love of sweets seriously, Chester County Community Foundation's annual Sweet Charity fundraiser on March 21 is a must. Guests meet, mingle and sample delectable desserts created by local chefs and bakers, all in the name of philanthropy.

Professional judges make awards in four categories: Best Dessert, Most Creative, Most Popular and even Healthiest Dessert. Last year, John Serock Catering took home Best Dessert with a Spiced Apple and Rhubarb Taco. Craving more details? Other

winning dishes included S'mores Brownies (Most Creative), Citrus Triple Play (Most Popular) and Tequila Lime Ice Cream & Double Chocolate Avocado Ice Cream (Healthiest).

The event will be held again at Bunch Auctions showroom in Chadds Ford, so when guests aren't tasting desserts, they can browse antiques and collectables. This year about 12 restaurants—including Gemeli Artisanal Gelato, Carlino's and The Lincoln Room—will compete for the top prizes.

The Chester County Community Foundation continues to bring together those who believe that positive change occurs through effective charitable giving. The Foundation grows legacy philanthropy in the region and connects people who care with causes that matter.

As they say: giving never tasted so good.

Mar. 21., 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bunch Auctions, 1 Hillman Dr., Chadds Ford. Tickets \$125 and up. ChesCoCF.org.

WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM FESTIVALS

When school is out and the weather gets hot, we all want to celebrate with ice cream! Cool down this June at The New Castle County Ice Cream Festival at Rockwood (formerly the Old Fashioned Ice Cream Festival at Rockwood).

Beginning in 1979 and revived in 2012 after a five-year hiatus, this festival lets you spend an entire day at Delaware's largest family picnic with vendors, live music, local restaurants, crafts and, of course, local creameries—over a dozen to sample!

The Rockwood Estate was built in 1854 and the property covers 72 acres in suburban Wilmington. It includes the Rockwood Museum, park, gardens and trails—all perfect to roam on a warm summer day with a cone in your hand. So, pick out your favorite ice cream treat and enjoy the grounds and kid-friendly and pet-friendly environment.

Two days may not seem like enough time to explore and try all the delectable desserts. But be sure to taste the Best Sundae on Sunday, awarded in 2015 to The Ice Cream Shoppe for its Rockwood Fire Blazing Sundae.

Over 25,000 ice cream fans turned out last year, and this year promises another delicious and entertaining weekend. Put on your sunscreen when you head out to Rockwood Park for a sweet treat this June.

June 25 & 26. \$5 admission, plus cost of food. 4651 Washington St. Extension, Wilmington. RockwoodIceCream.com.

CALLING ALL CHOCOHOLOGICS

Stroll along the streets and tour shops on the happiest day of the year in downtown Lititz this October as the Chocolate Walk returns for its 15th year. One ticket buys you a punch card for sampling chocolate treats from over 25 stops along the walk.

You'll taste more than just Wilbur buds here. Samples will be donated from the area's best chefs, bakers, ice cream shops and candy stores, for tastes of chocolate in all its glorious forms. Scooter's Chocolate Sandwich and the Mexican Chocolate Coffee featured at the General Sutter Inn last year were special favorites.

Since 2002, the Chocolate Walk has raised over \$350,000 for children-focused charities in Lancaster County. The event continues to grow, attracting more chocolate-lovers every year to try the mouth-watering goodies—from as far as Florida and Alaska!

Savor irresistible treats the Saturday before Columbus Day, and let your sweet tooth guide you as you indulge in chocolate bliss. Surrender to your chocolate addiction, chocoholics, and eat your way across town—literally!

October 8. Tickets \$32 and up. LititzChocolateWalk.com. ♦



New Castle County Ice Cream Festival



Lititz Chocolate Walk



Sweet Charity Event

Tips on Healthy Winter Eating

Kimberly Knipe, Chester County Hospital

A LITTLE PLANNING MAKES A HAPPIER, HEALTHIER NEW YEAR.

THE WEATHER IS COLD, THE DAYS ARE SHORT, WE'RE spending more time inside, and we've been through a long, food-filled holiday season. Sounds like a recipe for disaster for your health and waistline? Add in fewer farmers markets, less exercise and more cookies and comfort food while watching more reality TV.

Americans tend to eat fewer fruits and vegetables than we should for the best vibrant health. And when our short growing season ends, we eat even less of those rich nutrition sources. Pale grocery store produce from thousands of miles away just doesn't call to us like those gorgeous summer tomatoes, spring asparagus and fall apples at the farmers markets.

But, maybe we can sail through winter a little healthier and happier this year with a few tweaks and a little planning for our diets.

LEARN TO LOVE LEAFY GREENS

Believe it or not, there are some vegetables that call late fall and winter their prime season! We can actually find fresh locally grown veggies here in Pennsylvania through early winter. And plenty of other veggies store well enough that they stay fresh and nutritious until spring.

Check out winter veggies like kale—a rock star of nutrition. While some people are intimidated by this leafy green, you can enjoy it in lots of ways that have nothing to do with a blender. Any kind of green leafy veggie will be delicious with a little olive oil and garlic and tastes even better with a small shot of a flavorful balsamic vinegar. These veggies add some color and nutrition to a hearty winter soup, too.

Kale's cousin, the lowly cabbage, is in season when it's cold. Low in calories, high in fiber and often a bargain, use it in your grandmother's recipes—many ethnicities feature cabbage in popular dishes.

Another great addition to winter soup is the leek—try it in casseroles, too!

ROOT FOR ROOT VEGGIES AND SQUASH

Root vegetables are great to enjoy in the winter since they grow late into the season and keep well. For example, radishes are popular salad ingredients, but did you know you can braise, sauté, roast, steam or boil them for a hot side dish, too? And there are more varieties than the ubiquitous red globes, like the daikon winter radish.

Rutabaga and turnips may not be popular, but that should change. These root veggies can be roasted or mashed or braised

for a surprisingly tasty alternative to potatoes. And let's be honest—everything tastes better roasted!

Speaking of potatoes, don't lump them into the same category as white bread and Oreos. They're chock full of fiber, vitamin C and potassium. Be sure to eat the skin to get the most nutrition from them.

A discussion of cool weather vegetables wouldn't be complete without winter squash. Acorn squash, butternut squash, delicata, pumpkin and the list goes on! Bake them or microwave them, and they repay you with tons of vitamins and fiber.

BEWARE THE ADD-ONS

The trick with all these great winter veggies is not to load them up with butter, syrup, sugar and cream. You can enjoy an acorn squash without a stick of butter, butternut squash soup doesn't need heavy cream, and a small sprinkle of brown sugar and cinnamon is plenty to bring out the sweetness of most winter squash.

FRUITS OF WINTER

How about fruits in the winter? Although we don't grow winter fruits in the Mid-Atlantic, you don't have to rely on tasteless strawberries from Mexico. Citrus fruits are picked at the peak of ripeness in Florida and California, have a pretty long shelflife, and are at their best in the late fall and winter months. Packed with vitamin C, folate, fiber and potassium, oranges, grapefruits and tangerines are a sweet treat on a cold day!

If you really have a hankering for strawberries or green beans in the winter, is it okay to head to the frozen food aisle? Absolutely!

Frozen veggies are picked at the peak of ripeness, blanched and flash frozen. That

means they weren't picked before they were ripe and didn't sit on a couple of trucks and a plane losing nutrition before they made it to your plate.

When it's possible to get in-season produce, buy it local. During the off-season, frozen fruits and veggies are a convenient and nutritious option.

WINTER BLUES

All those fruits and veggies will help you combat an issue many of us face when the weather turns colder and the days get shorter—winter blues. It's not all in your head, because many people suffer from SAD, or seasonal affective disorder.

This form of depression occurs when the lack of light results in lower levels of serotonin, a mood-enhancing chemical that regulates hunger and the feeling of well-being. All you feel like doing is eating and napping, you don't sleep well, and you feel like snapping at everyone.

Fortunately, there are ways to feel like yourself again. Talk to your doctor about light therapy or even medication. You can also try exercise. Even though it might be difficult to motivate yourself, get in a quick walk, a session of Wii dancing, or a trip to the gym. A little sweat will boost your mood. Even better, get outside in the sunlight.

As for those fruits and veggies? The complex carbohydrates in produce and whole grains are better than the carbs in cookies and donuts. The fiber in those healthier choices will keep your blood sugar levels steady so you don't crash and give in to cravings. And try not to OD on caffeine, which suppresses serotonin.

Along with produce, add a few servings of seafood to your diet each week. Fatty fish like salmon, tuna and mackerel are an excellent source of omega-3 fatty acids, which



Try daikon radishes



Healthy cabbage salad



Eat citrus in Winter



Potato & leek soup



Baked acorn squash is a tasty treat

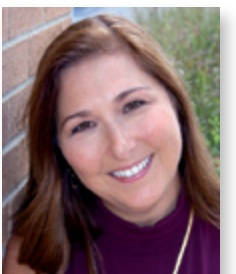


Salmon has omega-3 fatty acids

have been shown to improve the symptoms of depression from lack of sun exposure.

Stay healthy this winter with enough sleep, activity and colorful fruits and veggies. Try to enjoy the cold weather and dream of spring flowers just waiting to burst—along with asparagus and strawberries! ♦

Kim Knipe has degrees in Business Administration from Bucknell University, Nutrition and Dietetics from West Chester University and a Master's in Business Administration from West Chester University. Now, she devotes her energy toward helping others live healthy lifestyles as the Coordinator for Community Nutrition and Outreach at Chester County Hospital. ChesterCountyHospital.org.



Ringing in the New Year with New Eateries

Story by Malcolm Johnstone
 Photos by Timlyn Vaughan Photography

WALK AROUND WEST CHESTER AND YOU'RE SURE TO FIND YOUR NEW FAVORITE SPOT FOR A SNACK, A DRINK, A MEAL OR SOMETHING QUICK.

IF THERE'S ONE THING DOWNTOWN WEST CHESTER IS NOTED for, it's that there are restaurants of nearly every flavor that meet every budget—including plenty of BYOB options—all within easy walking distance. In fact, it's easy to create your own progressive dinner by sampling one restaurant for appetizers, another for dinner and yet another spot for desserts—essentially your personalized food tour of the borough. You can even hit a fourth spot for an after-dinner drink.

Now the range of choices is getting even wider as eateries get more diverse in their offerings. So, take a walk and enjoy a meal at West Chester eateries, old and new.

COFFEE, TEA AND MORE

Drinking tea has a calming effect that helps us get through a hectic day. At **T'Ever Café** (124 E. Market St.; T-Evercafe.com) there's a wide selection of teas—from chamomile to rooibos—reflecting a range of the tea-loving cultures. For the adventurous, Bubble Tea brings new meaning to sip and chew. You'll also find plenty of espresso drinks if you need a caffeine hit. Try slow drip coffee—eight hours of dripping—for a smoother, less acidic, more flavorful beverage that's worth the wait. The menu covers morning, noon and night and offers soups, salads, skewers and nibblers (pho, gyoza, samosa) in small portions for mixing and matching. Try them all.



La Baguette Magique



Saloon 151 Whiskey Bar & Grill



Tsunami Bistro



T'Ever Café



West Chester Coffee & Ice Cream Bar

West Chester Coffee & Ice Cream Bar (8 E. Gay St.; on Facebook) offers coffee and light breakfast—granola, oatmeal, fresh donuts—along with espresso drinks and craft coffee from vendors such as ReAnimator and Green Street. Later in the day, stop back in and try an ice cream treat or milkshake prepared by a roster of vendors, most of them local—like Scooped and Little Baby's.

Food fans are happy Catherine Seisson, an authentic French baker, re-located her art to downtown West Chester at **La Baguette Magique** (202 W. Market St.; MagicBaguette.com). Starting with the best quality local flour and pre-ferments, the final products are artisan breads that are crusty, chewy and delicious—the way French breads are meant to taste. No imports here, everything—including exquisite French pastries—is made on-site. Sip coffee, tea or hot chocolate with your taste of France. Magnifique as well as magique.

SOMETHING STRONGER

Saloon 151 Whiskey Bar & Grill (151 W. Gay St.; Saloon151.com) is the latest creation from long-time West Chester restaurateur Frank Herron. True to its name, Saloon 151's décor is rustic Americana, a.k.a. saloon-style. You'll enjoy the menu featuring slow-cooked meats, hand-cut fries and an extensive whiskey and craft beer list. The popular shredded brisket sandwich is made with tangy house-made BBQ sauce and topped with cole slaw—a little messy but very yummy. Next door you'll find **The Crafty Dog**, where you can mix and match craft beers to go.

Hardwood floors, historic old windows and exposed brick walls give the **Split Rail Tavern** (15 N. Walnut St.; SplitRailTavern.com) the perfect blend of a funky/classic feel. Menu items like eggplant fries and a hummus plate, offered for starters, are exciting diners with a preference for casual quality. Vegetarian options are also available and often appear as specials. But the hamburger is the king of the menu, with lots of toppings and soul-satisfying taste. The full bar offers a great selection of craft beers alongside well-crafted cocktails.

A MEAL WITH INTERNATIONAL FLAVORS

The first thing you notice at **Nagasaki Japanese Noodle House** (113 W. Market St.; NagasakiSushiRamenNoodles.com) is the modern décor reflecting their contemporary Asian cuisine. Owner Hung Ngai's menu shows that good ramen can be a tasty alternative to more conventional Eastern cuisine. Sushi



Split Rail Tavern



Nagasaki Japanese Noodle House



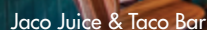
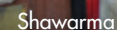
i-Pasta



Though you may know it as Baco Taco (8 West Gay St.; BacoJuiceAndTaco.com), now they're taking this popular spot to new levels—renaming it **Jaco Juice And**

There's nothing ordinary about **Calios** (237 E. Gay St.; CaliosPhiladelphia.com) a new calzone restaurant. They've rebranded the food and now make it nearly every way

For more about West Chester dining, check *DowntownWestChester.com* and West Chester winners in our “Best of the Best” article and Restaurant Guide in this issue. ♦



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OTHER DINING OPTIONS IN WEST CHESTER

BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND MORE

Buddy's Burgers, Breasts & Fries (11 W. Gay St., 484-631-1006; BuddySBBF.com) makes great burgers, boardwalk-quality fries, amazing chicken sandwiches and thick milkshakes.

The Classic Diner (16 E. Gay St., 484-947-0809; TheClassicDinerPA.com) serves generous portions of breakfast and lunch, that's not your typical "diner food."

The Couch Tomato Café (31 W. Gay St., 484-887-0241; TheCouchTomato.com) offers soups, sandwiches, pizza and snacks that are organic, all-natural and non-GMO.

De Starr's Restaurant & Bar (112 E. Gay St., 610-692-4160) is where locals go for a good meal and a good deal. Greek dishes, a specialty.

Gramm's Kitchen, (557 E. Gay St., 610-429-3903; GrammsKitchenFR.com) serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, from home-made healthy selections to sweets and fresh-baked goods.

The Lincoln Room (28 W. Market St., 610-696-2102; LincolnRoomWestChester.com) in one of West Chester's most famous historic structures. Enjoy a mid-day meal served in the classic style of fine American tea rooms.

Market Street Grill (6 W. Market St., 610-429-5328; MarketStreetGrillWC.com) is a popular breakfast and lunch café getting raves for their avocado omelettes and breakfast burritos.

Nudy's Café (300 W. Market St., 610-696-4550; NudysCafes.com) is a popular local breakfast and lunch chain

Penn's Table (100 W. Gay St., 610-696-0677; PennsTableRestaurant.com) serves breakfast and lunch in a warm, comfortable atmosphere.

Rams Diner (907 S. High St., 610-701-8080; RamsDiner.com) offers breakfast, lunch and dinner 24-hours/day with a children's and senior citizen menu.

Roots Café (133 E. Gay St., 610-455-0100; RootsCafeWC.com) makes great food while supporting a sustainable environment, using local produce from nearby farms.

Smoked Tex-Mex (13 W. Gay St., 610-692-0699; SmokedTexMex.com) serves it all—sandwiches, salads, burritos, tacos, Tex-Mex BBQ.

Three Little Pigs (131 N. High St., 610-918-1272; ThreeLittlepigsWC.com) offers a wide selection of sandwiches and salads. Homemade soup, breads and desserts made daily.

BARS, PUBS AND MORE

Barnaby's of West Chester 15 S. High St., 610-696-1400; BarnabysWestChester.com) serves comfort food, ice cold drafts, perfect cocktails.

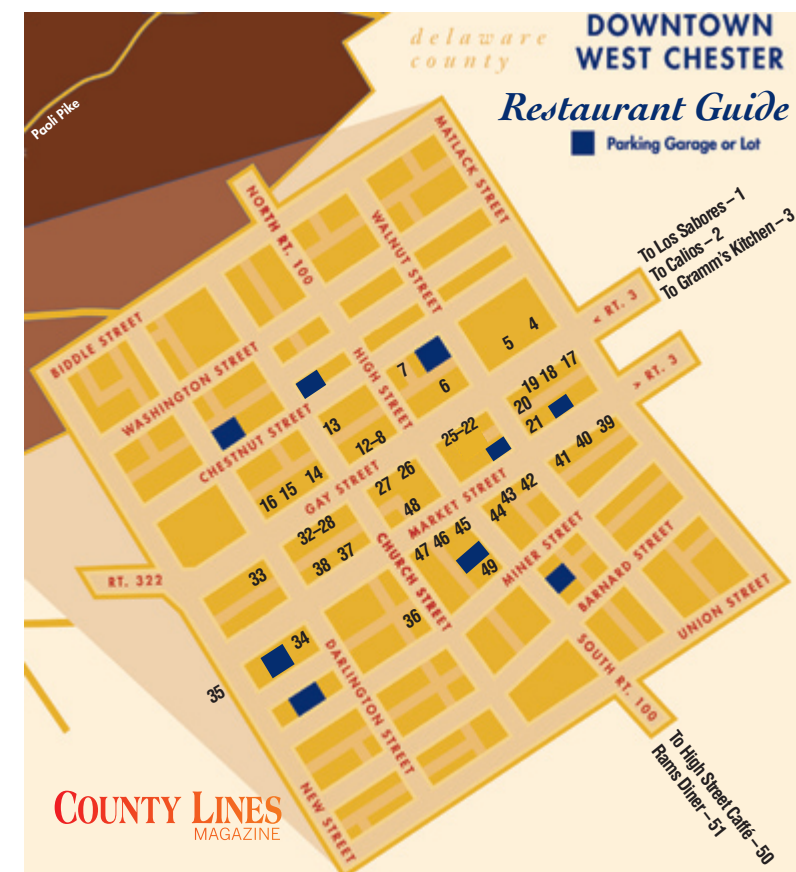
Boxcar Brewpub (142 E. Market St., 484-947-2503; BoxcarBrewingCompany.com) brews fine crafted beer and serves food that's sourced locally and made from scratch.

Doc Magrogan's Oyster House (117 E. Gay St., 610-429-4046; DocMagrogans.com) is an Oyster House that transports you to a simpler time of food and fun in a local watering hole.

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant (3 W. Gay St., 610-738-9600; IronHillBrewery.com/WestChester) is known for a great selection of beer and fresh, delicious food.

Kildare's Irish Pub (18-22 W. Gay St., 610-431-0770; KildaresPub.com) brought an entire Irish pub here, piece by piece, plus great beer and a menu to delight any Dubliner.

Landmark Americana (158 W. Gay St., 610-701-9900; LandmarkAmericana.com) brings cuisine nouveau to town with contemporary design and a menu to match.



RESTAURANT GUIDE

1. Los Sabores de Mexico
2. Calios
3. Gramm's Kitchen
4. Roots Café & Sprout Music
5. Doc Magrogan's Oyster House
6. Social Lounge & Bar
7. Three Little Pigs
8. Iron Hill Brewery & Rest.
9. Buddy's Burgers, Breasts and Fries
10. Smoked Tex-Mex
11. The Couch Tomato Café
12. La Mamba Mexican Rest.
13. Kooma Japanese Restaurant
14. West Chester Deli
15. Saloon 151 Whiskey Bar & Grill
16. Star of India Restaurant
17. i-Pasta
18. Avalon
19. DeStarr's Restaurant & Bar
20. Split Rail Tavern
21. Limoncello Ristorante
22. Teca
23. The Classic Diner
24. Side Bar & Restaurant
25. WC Coffee & Ice Cream Bar
26. Jaco Juice & Taco Bar
27. Kildare's Irish Pub
28. Penn's Table
29. Ryan's Pub & Restaurant
30. Olive Branch Rest.
31. The Mediterranean
32. Landmark Americana
33. Bon Bon Sushi
34. La Baguette Magique
35. Nudy's Café
36. Mumbai Bistro
37. Nagasaki Noodle House
38. Pietro's Prime
39. Boxcar Brewpub
40. T'Ever Café
41. Más Mexicali Cantina
42. Rams Head Bar & Grill
43. Shawarma
44. Barnaby's of West Chester
45. Market Street Grill
46. Tsunami Bistro
47. The Lincoln Room
48. Mercato Ristorante & Bar
49. RapiDOUGH Pizza Pies
50. High Street Café
51. Rams Diner

Rams Head Bar & Grill (40 E. Market St., 484-631-0241; RamsHeadBarAndGrill.com) is an American bar & grill with a comfortable atmosphere and a menu you're sure to like.

Ryan's Pub & Restaurant (124 W. Gay St., 610-344-3934; Ryans-Pub.com) is an enjoyable neighborhood pub where you can relax and enjoy good food in a comfortable setting.

Side Bar & Restaurant (10 E. Gay St., 610-429-8297; SideBarAndRestaurant.com) is a popular place for after-work drinks and appetizers, followed by a great dinner.

Social Lounge & Bar (29 E. Gay St., 610-738-3948; TheSocialWC.com) is known for food, fun and fabulous entertainment.

Sprout Music Collective (130 E. Prescott Alley, behind Roots Café, 610-696-6006; SproutMusic.org) has live music Wed-Sat, serving craft beers, organic food and seasonal cocktails.

INTERNATIONAL CHOICES

Avalon Restaurant & Catering (116 E. Gay St., 610-436-4100; AvalonRestaurant.net) is a neighborhood restaurant and bar serving modern Italian cuisine.

Bon Bon Sushi (22 N. Darlington St., 610-696-3069; BonBonSushi.com) offers simple, affordable food made with the freshest ingredients to eat in or take out.

High Street Caffé & Vudu Lounge (322 S. High St., 610-696-7435; HighStreetCaffe.com) has a funky-eclectic atmosphere, plus specialties like Cajun gator and gumbo.

Kooma Japanese Restaurant (123 N. Church St., 610-430-8980; KoomaRestaurants.com) is a hip fusion sushi bar with stylish décor, serving fresh sushi, sashimi, maki and more.

La Mamba Mexican Restaurant (39 W. Gay St., 610-344-7784) lets you enjoy authentic Mexican cuisine in a casual BYOB atmosphere to eat in or take-out.

Limoncello Ristorante (9 N. Walnut St., 610-436-6230; LimoncelloWC.com) offers authentic, home-cooked, southern Mediterranean cuisine, plus a great patio. Try the lunch buffet.

Los Sabores de Mexico (503 E. Gay St., 610-696-4393) is a Mexican BYOB offering orders to go, a private party room, house specialties and traditional dishes.

Más Mexicali Cantina's (102 E. Market St., 610-918-6280; WestChester.MasCantina.com) hip cantina ambiance sets the stage for family favorites like spicy tacos, plus veggies and tofu, too. With great roof-top views.

The Mediterranean (150 W. Gay St., 610-431-7074; TheMedWCPA.com) is a comfort-

able BYOB known for authentic ethnic dishes in what feels like the chef's home.

Mercato Italian Ristorante & Bar (33 W. Market St., 610-701-6326; Mercato33.com) offers casual dining with a southern Italian influence.

Mumbai Bistro (18 S. Church St., 484-887-0114; MumbaiBistro.com) serves freshly cooked homestyle Indian food.

Olive Branch Restaurant (142 W. Gay St., 610-431-7141; OliveBranchWC.net) is a tapas restaurant that's small but friendly with lots of attention to detail.

Pietro's Prime (125 W. Market St., 484-760-6100; PietrosPrime.com) serves only Pureland Premium Black Angus Beef. Try their Martini Bar before or after dinner.

Star of India Restaurant's (155 W. Gay St., 610-429-0125) simple décor sets the mood for exotic meals of aromatic masalas, vindaloos, curries and biryani of northern Indian fare.

Teca (38 E. Gay St., 610-738-8244; TecaWC.com) offers a light fare tapas-style menu, great paninis and has now developed into a full-service restaurant serving Italian specialties. ♦

See the 2016 Restaurant Guide in this issue for many more dining destinations in County Lines Country.



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What's New in Your Kitchen?

Laura Muzzi Brennan

SEVEN AREA CHEFS TELL US WHAT TO START CRAVING FOR 2016.

A RESTAURANT KITCHEN IS NO PLACE for a slacker. It's equal parts think tank, artist's studio and assembly line—a place where on a daily basis, chefs balance tradition with innovation and attempt to stay true to their vision, all while getting plates to the table on time.

As 2016 gets underway, we checked in with seven dynamic local chefs to ask about the latest news from their kitchens and plans for the upcoming year.

Even with different perspectives, a few intertwined themes rang out. Most chefs spoke of their relentless search for stellar ingredients, their desire to do right by diners in terms of health and wellness, and their support of local farms. And on a more concrete but related note, almost every one of them reveled in the increasing popularity of previously under-loved vegetables. (Yes, Brussels sprouts, it's finally your turn.)

FARM CONNECTIONS

At **Talula's Table** in Kennett Square, owner Aimee Olexy talked about deepening her restaurant and retail shop's commitment to “having things wholesome.” For her, that translates to a self-described obsession with hunting down the highest quality ingredients, espe-

cially local ones. She's serving only American fish and shellfish, most from the East Coast, and is in the process of researching local wines and spirits for use in cooking.

As her business has evolved, she's become even more attentive to the quality and provenance of “the little touches” like sea salt and honey that can have a big impact on a dish. What's more—and

Aimee Olexy, Talula's Table



this is no small feat—with chef Josh Behm who, she jokes, has a way with the unsung vegetables, she’s helping kohlrabi, turnips, parsnips (even rutabagas!) find a place in diners’ hearts.

Since opening in 2007, she’s sourced from nearby farmers, but in the past few years, the relationship has become more collaborative in ways large and small. Starting in summer 2015, all food scraps from Talula’s kitchen go to feed the pigs at Rambling Roots Farm. She’s also focused on working with farmers and vendors that do “good work” like supporting conservancy efforts and mentoring new farmers. And while Olexy used to ask farmers what they had available, now she has a say in what they grow.

Like Olexy, Andrew Wood, executive chef at **Wyebrook Farm** in Honey Brook, takes pride in his ever stronger connections to Chester and Lancaster County farmers. “Just as important as buying local food is knowing the people who grow it,” explains Wood. “Now we have a dialogue with the farmers. They can tell us whether a vegetable went into the root cellar or not and that influences how we prepare it.”



Andrew Wood,
Wyebrook Farm

In 2016, this BYOB restaurant-market-butcher-shop plans to expand its own onsite vegetable garden. (It already raises all of its own meats.) Wood is especially looking forward to cultivating more root stock—onions, potatoes, squashes—to supply his kitchen throughout the winter.



Drew Conant, Sovana Bistro

He’ll also amp up pasta making. Last year, Wyebrook added a pasta boiler and other pasta-making equipment to its kitchen, and Wood says he’s always experimenting with shapes and fillings. Two favorite pastas to look for in early 2016: agnolotti stuffed with pumpkin and almond and rigatoni with chicken livers, grilled onion, balsamic vinegar and Parmesan.

The rediscovered art of preserving is on the mind of Drew Conant, **Sovana Bistro’s** sous chef since early 2013. Conant says that when executive chef/owner Nick Farrell visited Italy in 2015, he was inspired by the Italian method of locking in the flavor of fruits and vegetables at their peak.

Now, the menu at this upscale Kennett Square favorite reflects Farrell’s newfound passion. Sun-dried tomatoes preserved in

olive oil accompany the baked ricotta soufflé, and cumin-jalapeno pickled cabbage tops lamb tacos while preserved lemon adds brightness to Rioja-glazed Spanish octopus.

Continuing its commitment to farm-to-table, Sovana uses many ingredients grown nearby, some within a mile of the restaurant. This winter, Conant looks forward to plating fettuccine with prosciutto and Swallow Hill Farms’ butternut squash. In the spring, look for lamb and all manner of lettuces from nearby growers.

NEW CHEFS IN THE KITCHEN

Besides marking its 10th anniversary in 2015, **The Whip Tavern** in West Marlborough made news last year when acclaimed chef, Anne Coll, formerly of Susannah Foo Gourmet Kitchen and Meritage, took over as executive chef in June. Building on the The Whip’s solid foundation of traditional English dishes and American favorites, Coll plans to place an even greater emphasis on seasonal, local ingredients including meat and produce from nearby farms—including their own kitchen garden.



Anne Coll,
The Whip Tavern



Andrew Patten,
Spence 312

The Whip’s clientele are a diverse group, says Coll, so she’s focused on creating a more innovative menu approachable for everyone. That means refining classic dishes like shepherd’s pie—it’s now gluten-free, lighter on the butter and cream and packed with fresh herbs—and designing more plates to share. (Braised rabbit with citrus-coconut polenta, anyone?) Vegetarians and dessert lovers are also on Coll’s radar, and in 2016, she’ll expand options in those two categories as well.

Spence 312 chef/partner Andrew Patten offers a few answers to “What’s new?” In late fall 2015, this West Chester favorite celebrated its one year anniversary in its new space on South High Street. (Patten’s original Spence was on Gay Street from 1995 to 2010.)

Among the new features, there’s sous chef John Banes who started at Spence in mid-2015. Formerly of General Warren Inn and Duling-Kurtz House & Country Inn, Banes brings with him an extensive understanding of classic techniques. That’s essential to a BYOB that prides itself on making real food—from demi-glaces to desserts—from scratch.

In early 2016, diners should look for duck breast and braised short ribs on the menu as well as accompaniments featuring fennel and Brussels sprouts and a cauliflower-parsnip purée, a satisfying low-carb alternative to mashed potatoes.

What’s not new (but still great): Spence 312 continues to specialize in fish and shellfish, offers classic desserts including crème brûlée and cheese-cake, and makes sure no one goes home hungry.

At **Christopher’s Neighborhood Place** where comfort food reigns, new

chefs are also the big news. At the Malvern location, which opened in spring 2015, Cody Todd (owner Chris Todd’s “much younger brother”) brings ideas fresh from his stints in Nashville and California. His fried sushi rice burrito stuffed with filet tips, cheddar onions and peppers sells out every time it’s on special.

Now heading the Wayne kitchen is Will Tankeloff, formerly of Blue Pear Bistro, whose depth of food knowledge, says Chris Todd, makes him a real asset. In 2015, Christopher’s sourced all eggs and sausage from Malvern’s Canter Hill Farm. The goal for 2016: to buy even more ingredients from local farms.



From left, Chef Anthony Speller, Chef Chris Todd & Chef Will Tankeloff
Christopher’s Neighborhood Place

NEW SPINS ON OLD FAVORITES

Beginning his 26th year in Exton, Ron Inverso, owner of **Ron’s Original Bar & Grille** remains steadfast in his mission to serve “Real Food for the Health of it.” He hunts down the most natural ingredients, reads labels with the eye of a detective, and makes almost every dish from scratch, all with the aim of keeping his customers happy and healthy.

Recent improvements include installing a non-GMO, gluten-free fryer and serving only hormone- and antibiotic-free burgers, chicken and nitrite-free bacon. (Most lunchmeats are also nitrite-free at Ron’s.) He also switched from domestic to “00” Italian flour so many gluten-intolerant diners may now be able to enjoy his pastas, pizzas and the wildly popular Ovals (oval-shaped pizza dough topped with creative combinations too numerous to name).

As for new dishes, Ron just added a crab and sausage amatriciana to his pasta menu and Shrimp Oscar to the appetizer menu.

If these seven kitchens are any indication, 2016 promises to be a great year for dining out. ♦



Ron Inverso,
Ron’s Original Bar & Grille



OUR
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BEST of the BEST *selections*

OUR 12th ANNUAL ROUNDUP of the best local dining offers a huge helping of great tastes. Local, sustainable, farm-to-table cooking continues to be served up at local restaurants. As does craft brewing, now complemented with local spirits at new area distilleries.

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And, keeping it local, we've got the best local wines and local cookbooks, too.

Enjoy dining out in 2016!

Check our website for more on restaurants, food news, recipes, beer, wine and more. CountyLinesMagazine.com.

RISING STAR

Junto

100 Ridge Rd., Chadds Ford
484-547-8041 / JuntoBYOB.com

Not even two years old and a 2015 Best Newcomer, this modern farmhouse BYOB has established itself as a foodie destination. In the 40-seat dining room, Chef MacGregor Mann offers dishes at once familiar—lots of Pennsylvania Dutch influences and locally sourced, seasonal ingredients—yet entirely new. Free range chicken with sunchoke succotash, slow cooked beef cheek accompanied by sugarkraut, and charcuterie plate where Lebanon bologna rubs shoulders with chicken liver mousse—all show the depth of Mann's vision. Other stand-outs include alder grilled sturgeon, egg yolk ravioli and warm cornbread with apple butter that welcomes guests on arrival. While Junto racks up awards (3 bells from Craig LaBan, Open Table's Diners' Choice Winner) and Philly-centric diners make the pilgrimage to Glen Mills, we're feeling lucky Junto is right here in our own backyard.

PLACES TO WATCH

Wyebrook Farm Café & Restaurant

150 Wyebrook Rd., Honey Brook
610-942-7481 / WyebrookFarm.com

When we wrote in 2012 about what Dean Carlson planned for Wyebrook Farm's 360 acres, we were impressed. Now

we're enthralled. From the original concept of raising grass-fed beef, heritage breed pigs and free-pastured chickens and butchering them onsite, to farm-to-fork chef's tables, summer concerts, and then on to props from Martha Stewart, Craig LaBan and Open Table's Top 100 al fresco dining spots, this rustic and refined gem keeps getting better. The seasonal menu changes, so check the website, but prepare for meat-centric options—pan seared pork chop, smoked beef shoulder, grass-fed beef burger—plus pasta perfection with house-made campanelle, pappardelle, conchiglie. All complemented with local produce and capped off with artisanal cheese plates, reflecting Carlson's book, *Field and Feast, Sublime Food from a Brave New Farm*.

Malvern Buttery

233 E. King St., Malvern
610-296-2534 / MalvernButtery.com

John and Silenia Rhoads invented it, and the rave reviews are in. Fresh, local, green, organic, welcoming. The rich aromas of coffee and made-on-site breads greet you. You choose your breakfast, lunch or snack from the daily chalkboard and serving table, selecting from soups, sandwiches, salads, quiches, flatbreads, baguettes, croissants, pastries, cookies and more. Modern and bright, filled with long wooden communal tables, as well as comfy couches and chairs, the space and food make you want to linger as you look out on King Street. Pay at the door as you leave. For now, though, relax, chat and watch the world go by.

Cornerstone Cheese & Charcuterie

1 West Ave., Wayne
610-688-1888 / CornerstoneWayne.com

After Wayne's 2012 dining explosion, new additions are now curated—like the careful selections at Cornerstone, opened in October as the passion project of Christine and Nick Kondra. The shop sells prepared foods, cheese from around the world, as well as house-made pate and sausages, and offers a 14-seat, U-shaped table for BYOB sampling from seasonal lunch and dinner menus. It also hosts bi-monthly chefs tastings and classes: coming soon, David Punch from Boston's Sycamore, plus Gabriel Frasca and Amanda Lydon from Nantucket's Straight Wharf. Enjoy to-die-for cheese and charcuterie boards and recommended pairings—from a memorable Spanish blue cow/goat/sheep cheese heavenly paired with honey to a local Doe Run Farm selection soaked in Victory's Hop Devil Beer. Say cheese, please.

Devon Yards

Former Waterloo Gardens property, Devon

This is just to say we have a plum of a place to anticipate in Devon. Plans are progressing for two restaurants from James Beard winning Chef Marc Vetri at the six-plus-acre, mixed-use (apartments, Terrain, Anthropologie) project from Urban Outfitters. Look for Pizzeria Vetri, named Best Pizza Restaurant in America, and Vetri's more upscale, yet rustic Amis, a *Bon Appetit* winner for Top 10 Places for Pasta. No date set yet, but it will be sweet.

NEW VENTURES

LP Steak

1160 First Ave., King of Prussia
610-768-5003 / VFCasino.com

Filling the former Pacific Rim space at Valley Forge Casino, is LP Steak, the latest from chef-centric Luke Palladino Hospitality Group. Cooking at the Borgata, in Las Vegas, and around this country and northern Italy, the Culinary Institute grad's red-meat talent was noticed when Palladino's on Pas-sayunk earned 3 bells from Craig LaBan, who identified the "sure hand of a chophouse vet who knows the mass-appeal of a great steak." With five steaks (10-oz. fillet to 32-oz. Porterhouse for eight, I mean, for two), over-the-top apps (chilled seafood tower for \$80), chops, seafood and signature sides, including Millionaire's Maccheroni (black truffle, poached egg, gold leaf), it's a special event spot worth checking out.

Harvest Seasonal Grill

555 E. Lancaster Ave., Radnor
HarvestSeasonalGrill.com

Main Liners no longer need a road trip to experience restaurateur Dave Magrogan's take on farm-to-table. In March, a sixth Harvest is scheduled to open in the Radnor space formerly occupied by Susannah Foo Gourmet Kitchen. With a 50-seat bar, large dining area and two patios, plus private dining spaces, seating options abound. As at other locations, Radnor's Harvest promises a seasonally changing menu that checks off all the healthy boxes—organic, sustainable, local—and most dishes come in at under 500 calories. Diner favorites include scallops with seasonal accompaniments, flatbreads, local cheese plate, spicy shrimp noodle bowl and cedar-roasted salmon. Good craft beer selection, too.

DiFabio's Market & Tap

1243 N. Providence Rd., Media
484-444-0850 / DiFabiosEvents.com

Last summer Media's Rose Tree Restaurant became the new location for DiFabio's Market and Tap, with the usual take-out and catering. Now there are an expanded marketplace and bakery, plus happy hour in the tap room, sit-down lunch or dinner, Rose Tree Room event venue—they've got it all. The modern, new interior is a welcome change, too. You can satisfy every craving—a quick meal to take home, classic Italian specialties to stock the freezer, fresh bread or delish cakes, a pizza (new item and a big hit) or being waited on as you enjoy long-time favorites like pistachio chicken tenders, beef braciola and 9th Street chicken. Become a DiFabio's fan.

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT - BEER

Levante Brewing

208 Carter Dr. Ste. 2, West Chester
484-999-8761 / LevanteBrewing.com

For beer with a very local, low-key vibe, try Levante (means rising in Italian, hence "Elevate your craft"). You can request an owner-led brewery tour, bring your dog or your own food



Cornerstone Cheese & Charcuterie



LP Steak



Stable 12



Beer Garden at Longwood Gardens



Junto



Wyebrook Farm



Malvern Buttery



RapiDough Pizza Pies



Saloon 151



Bluebird Distilling



Painting With a Twist



Tired Hands Fermentaria



Roots Cafe

(BYOF), or nosh from food trucks parked outside. Started by home brewers whose fans demanded more than 5-gallon batches, Levante delights local hopheads with clean, crisp beers, ranging from solid ales to seasonal specials. Shout outs for the Kolsch and ESA. The industrial park location near West Chester University launched in August and is open Thursday through Saturdays. Or ask for it at SideBar, Saloon 151 or Station Taproom. A Tap Takeover at Teresa's Next Door says it all.

Stable 12

368 Bridge St., Phoenixville
610-715-2665 / Stable12.com

"From barn to barrel, beer with a kick." Part of that kick was the successful Kickstarter campaign that brought Stable 12 Brewery to Phoenixville last July. Three beer-loving friends started brewing together in a horse barn with 12 stables before moving to their open space with rustic details on Bridge Street. Sample flights from about 10 beers—four flagship brews, seasonals, specialties—plus light fare. Munich Helles and porter get thumbs up from the beernocenti.

Chatty Monks

1 Main St., Phoenixville
ChattyMonks.com

The oxymoronically named Chatty Monks Brewing Co.—which opened its brewpub mid-2014 in West Reading, specializing in Belgium-styled ales—plans a second location for this spring in Phoenixville, as if there weren't enough places to drink there. The 13,000-square-foot, long-vacant Superior Beverage Co. space on Main Street will have 250 seats where folks can "chew, chat and chill," plus greater brewing capacity. Chatty Monks' 40-some beer recipes feature in-house yeasts and home-grown hops—hops that even show up sprinkled on the French Friars (a French fry variation). Named a Top 50 Brewpub

Nationwide and Top 10 in the Northeast by CraftBeer.com, it's worth watching.

Beer Garden at Longwood Gardens

1001 Kennett Rd., Kennett Square
610-388-1000 / LongwoodGardens.org

Last summer's *Nightscape* multi-sensory exhibit wasn't enough to delight eyes and ears, adding a taste treat of a beer garden was a reminder of how lucky we are to have this local treasure. Partnering with Victory Brewing Company, the four-month beer garden offered pub fare and a triplet of beers on tap, including a saison beer getting its citrus kick from Longwood lemons and a wheat ale featuring Longwood honey. There are plans for an encore this summer—both the Beer Garden and *Nightscape*!

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT - PIZZA

RapiDough Pizza Pies

30 S. High St., West Chester
484-266-0681 / RapiDoughPizzaPies.com

Rapid means iPad ordering, a credit card swipe, and your personal pizza five minutes later. The Farrell brothers (Sovana Bistro, Classic Diner) promise locally sourced, fresh ingredients—no frozen dough here, though there is gluten-free and charred, thin crust. Sample pizzas, calzones, farm-fresh salads and natural drinks from a menu emphasizing customized dishes, like red, white or green pizza and with your choice of house-made cheeses, meats and vegetables to have it your way ... so to speak. Try seasonal options like apple and prosciutto or Brussels sprouts and bacon. Trust the crust!

Pica's Restaurant

1231-1233 West Chester Pk., West Chester
Picas-Restaurant.com

2014: Upper Darby native Tina Fey declares her undying love for Pica's pizza on *The Tonight Show*. Mid-2016: This third-generation, old-school Italian eatery opens a second location in West Chester, bringing its signature square pizza (cheese on bottom, sauce on top) to our neck of the woods. Whether veggie, meat lovers, white or plain, Pica's pizza consistently elicits love. Its pasta, sandwiches and classic Italian dishes also have transplanted Philadelphians yearning for home. Look for these dishes and many new ones at the West Chester location. We can't wait! Cent'anni, Pica's.

Lorenzo's

27 N. High St., West Chester
LorenzoAndSonsPizza.com

Excitement built as the South Philly-based pizzeria planned a Thanksgiving opening ... in 2014. The High and Gay Streets location (formerly Spazzo) was carefully watched by pizza fans for over a year. Here's hoping plans come through now for the promised stromboli, calzones, cheesestakes, sandwiches and LARGE pizzas—the 28-inch special! *Daily Meal* named Lorenzo's in the 2014 Top 101 Best Pizzas in America, so West Chester should cheer.

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT - HARD LIQUOR

Manatawny Still Works

320 Circle of Progress Dr., Ste. 104, Pottstown
484-624-8271 / ManatawnyStillWorks.com

From wine to beer to spirits. That got us to craft spirits and the growth of distilleries in Pennsylvania (think Bluecoat, Dad's Hat). Named after the local creek and Lenape word for "the place we meet to drink," Manatawny Still Works' recent awards got our attention. August 2015 saw triple gold medals at the MicroLiquor

Spirits Awards (that's really a thing) for their small batch whiskey, with Odd Fellows Gin No. 241 snagging Best in Show honors. A rustic tasting room across from Sly Fox Brewery provides the scene for sipping cocktails or American whiskey, rum and gin—unaged and aged—plus wheat vodka as you watch the action at adjacent stills. Take a tour or join a bottling workshop and earn a "Will work for whiskey" t-shirt.

Bluebird Distilling

100 Bridge St., Phoenixville
BluebirdDistilling.com

Not the bluebird of happiness but a snowboarder's perfect day after a snowfall—that's what inspired the name of Phoenixville's house of spirits, opened by Jared Adkins in May. Producing small batch whiskey, bourbon, vodka, gin, rye and rum, they'll sell you bottles, sips and handcrafted, natural cocktails, including the popular Firebird and the summer hit, blackberry smash, in an industrial-chic space. Small batch (5-to-30-gallon barrels instead of 53-gallon) means faster aging and more flavor. Come now for the un-aged spirits, return for aged elixirs. Also available in local restaurants and PA Fine Wine & Good Spirits stores.

Saloon 151 Whiskey Bar & Grill

151 W. Gay St., West Chester
610-701-8489 / Saloon151.com

Slow-cooked meats, hand-cut fries, mix and match craft beers to go, and of course, an extensive whiskey and craft beer list. That's the spot-on description of this hopping new spot in the heart of West Chester. The wood interior, banks of TVs and happy hour specials on apps (our fave, Saloon Fries with short rib, Monterey Jack, scallions), sandwiches (like roast pork) and beers had the place packed on a Sunday afternoon. Too many choices to list—pages of whiskeys—with options for sipping local: Levante

IPA on tap and Manatawny Small Batch whisky. A cocktail menu for those who prefer something that's more than neat.

The Whip Tavern

1383 N Chatham Rd., West Marlborough
610-383-0600 / TheWhipTavern.com

Blue Marble Beverages

333 Morgan St., Suite B, Phoenixville
484-393-5345 / Cysery.com

Our founding fathers' go-to drink takes hold in our area once again. For Fox Sake (say it out loud) is a fruit-forward, off-dry English-style cider available exclusively at The Whip Tavern. The brainchild of The Whip's K.C. Kulp and Big Hill Ciderworks, it pairs beautifully with Whip specialties like Welsh rarebit and roasted pork bangers. And drinking up means doing good: a portion of sales goes to the Brandywine Conservancy to preserve open space.

Over in Phoenixville, Blue Marble Cysery joins in the cider game with Easy-Eve Cysers and Hillside Ciders. Find them at local restaurants and bars or drop by Blue Marble's informal tasting room on Friday evenings.

The Barrel Wine Bar

222 Bridge St., Phoenixville
610-933-3399 / [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TheBarrelWineBar) & [Twitter](https://twitter.com/TheBarrelWineBar)

Maybe not hard liquor, but The Barrel does pour from the top shelf ... of the barrel room. At this family business—brothers Matt and Mike use wine from their parents' A'Dello Vineyard and Winery—wine flows from bottles and 10 taps of rotating choices by the glass or in flights. Opened last June, a big draw on Wine Wednesday are the imaginative cocktails, all wine-based with fruits, juices and herbs creating variations on mojitos, margaritas and a seasonal pumpkin pie winetini. The galvanized metal bar's concrete top is suitable for doodling

while enjoying food for pairing—think cheese plates, flatbreads and more. Music and ladies nights up the draw.

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT - PAINTING & DRINKING

Research shows we speak foreign languages more fluently after drinking a bit. [citation needed] Apparently the same effects of alcohol for lowering inhibitions help novice Picassos. At least that's one explanation for the surge of new places for pairing painting with sipping. Phoenixville's BYOB and Paint (*BYOBAndPaint.com*), Kennett Design with a Splash of Wine (*Kennett-Design.com*), and West Chester's Painted Plate (*PaintedPlatePottery.com*) are a few examples. Painting With a Twist (in Exton, Media, Wayne, West Chester, *PaintingWithATwist.com*.) sums it up well: A little bit of paint, a little bit of wine, a whole lot of fun. Fun for singles, friends and corporate groups that eschew ropes courses. Most are BYOB, with art supplies, snacks and an instructor provided.

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT

Yangming Restaurant

1051 Conestoga Rd., Bryn Mawr
610-527-3200 / YangmingRestaurant.com

People have been talking about Yangming since this Main Line institution closed down temporarily last summer. Opened in 1991 in a hundred-year-old building in Bryn Mawr, the restaurant has accumulated armloads of regional and national accolades. After an extensive renovation—reported to total \$500,000—Yangming invited the public to a November 1 open house, with a tour of the facilities. Many diners are happy to have an old favorite reopen. Thanks-

giving dinner was served for the first time last year and a full calendar of wine tastings, classes and gourmet dinners is posted for 2016.

BEST DESTINATION RESTAURANTS

Tired Hands Fermentaria

35 Cricket Terrace, Ardmore
484-413-2983 / TiredHands.com

Ardmore as beer mecca? Craft beer fans—and Craig LaBan—rave about this latest venture of brewmaster Jean Broillet IV, whose nearby Tired Hands Brew Café is still going strong. Twelve beers are on tap: two mainstays—HopHands and SaisonHands—and an ever-changing menu of quirkily named IPAs and saisons: Ardmorean and Reincarnated as a Cloud. The concrete bar, open kitchen, brewing tanks and cavernous dining space make Fermentaria hum with a hip, industrial vibe. From the menu's innovative snacks, tacos and sandwiches, shout outs go to carnitas tacos, a shisito pepper creamy grits appetizer, and burger. Come for the unveiling of new tacos and \$2 off taco plates on Mondays. Or the beer.

Birchrunville Store Café

1403 Hollow Rd., Birchrunville
610-827-9002 / BirchrunvilleStoreCafe.com

A reservation is hard to score, the location defies GPS, it's BYOB without a nearby state store, and no credit cards. Yet once you settle at your table in the candlelit former country store, prepare to be amazed with a sensory treat. Chef Francis Trzeciak will delight with French and Mediterranean-inspired delicacies worth it all. For appetizers—escargot, lobster bisque and a "love pillow" with arugula, porcini cream and pecorino. Main dishes feature venison, duck breast and Chilean sea bass. The desserts, by Jane Urban, include warm butterscotch cake, chocolate covered peanut butter cheesecake, and a blackberry cabernet sauvignon sorbet with fresh fruit. In a class by itself. There's simply nothing more to say.

BEST CHEF'S TABLE EXPERIENCE

Talula's Table

102 W. State St., Kennett Square
610-444-8255 / TalulasTable.com

Both the heady anticipation and the actual experience of dinner at this farm-to-table BYOB make it clear why CNN put Talula's among "Nine Restaurants that are almost harder to get into than Harvard." Reservations for the

celebrated farm table (for 10 to 12) must be made by phone one year to the day ahead of time. For the chef's table in the kitchen (for 4 to 8), it's a mere three months wait and via email. At both, you're treated to 10 courses highlighting uber-seasonal ingredients and the artistry of owner Aimee Olexy and Executive Chef Josh Behm. Whether it's the season for maple and sage scented pork loin or honey glazed donuts with buttermilk ice cream and lavender-rhubarb compote, you'll dream of your Talula's experience for years.

MOST INNOVATIVE CHEFS

Majolica

258 Bridge St., Phoenixville
610-917-0962 / MajolicaRestaurant.com

Creative, meticulous, artful—just three accolades diners lavish on Chef Andrew Deery and his New American BYOB. Deery never tires in his quest for new ways to tease out the essence of each ingredient: dipping into his white corn soup with Maine lobster is akin to biting into a just-picked cob. His grilled octopus and short ribs define tender. And in Earl Grey tea ice cream paired with shortbread and lemon curd, Deery plays with classic teatime flavors. We also love that, between courses, he surprises diners by sending out samples from the kitchen. Whether you order a la carte, from the six- or eight-course tasting menu, or attend a Majolica cooking class, Deery's consistent skill and imagination keep your palate engaged.

Amani's BYOB

105 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown
484-237-8179 / AmanisBYOB.com

The menu at Chef Jonathan Amann's BYOB reflects his pioneering spirit and farmer's awareness of the seasons. Diners marvel at his ability to marry ingredients that, in another kitchen, would be destined for bachelorhood. Think porcini dusted grouper in a beet cider broth, salmon with a lime-agave glaze and hazelnut grits, and pumpkin fritters with smoked chicken and cayenne maple glaze. In 2015, Amann put his own spin on BYOB with a creative selection of mixers. No wonder he's a three-time winner of the Chester County Restaurant Festival's best chef title.

BEST LOCAL, SEASONAL

Restaurant Alba

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

Earthy and authentic, the dishes at this upscale, unpretentious contemporary

Italian gem draw us back season after season. Chef/owner Sean Weinberg insists on cooking with at-their-peak local ingredients, often grown by farmers he calls family. His wood-burning grill, visible from the main dining room, lends deep flavor to dishes that consistently earn kudos, including octopus with tonnato sauce and Pennsylvania trout with hazelnut brown butter. His bruschette come in five varieties—try sheep's milk ricotta with local honey and sea salt. Late fall pasta dishes like pappardelle with a wild boar ragu boast robust flavors. Or choose the five-course chef tasting menu or special menus for Lazy Afternoon and Hours of Happiness.

Roots Café

133 E. Gay St., West Chester
610-455-0100 / RootsCafeWC.com

Organic, natural, local, but not self-righteous about its sustainable ethos. Take a look at the grape, grains and cocktails menu if you're in doubt: the home-made Bloody Mary will wake you up. Breakfast and brunch get raves, with eggs everywhere—omelettes, quiches, French toast, Benedicts, frittatas. At lunch, inventive sandwiches—often involving melted cheese and fresh sourdough—and seasonal salads, plucked from their local garden. It can get crowded at dinner, but worth it for the smoked gruyere fondue, black bass or rabbit confit. Even the art on the walls is local.

BEST AT THE FARMER'S MARKET

Vera Pasta

319 Westtown Rd., West Chester
610-701-5400 / VeraPasta.com

Birchrun Hills Farm Cheese

2573 Horseshoe Trail, Chester Springs
610-827-1603 / BirchrunHillsFarm.com

Choosing our farmers market' favorites was like choosing a favorite child, so with a high five to many, we give you our top two. Joe D'Andrea of Vera Pasta uses traditional Italian methods to create dried and fresh pastas—fusilli and rigatoni, ricotta gnocchi and seasonal favorites like harvest ravioli filled with fairytale pumpkin and butternut squash. Along with his homemade sauces, these pastas meet our nonna's exacting standards.

We also applaud the raw cows' milk cheeses handcrafted by Sue Miller and family at Birchrun Hills Farm. Always in our market basket: Fat Cat (semi-soft, earthy, tangy) and Birchrun Blue. Look for both artisans at Phoenixville, Bryn Mawr and other markets.

BEST AMBIANCE

Terrain Garden Café

914 Baltimore Pk., Glen Mills

610-459-6030 / ShopTerrain.com/Glen-Mills-Restaurant

Since we eat with our eyes first, we felt sated immediately. Upon entering this antique greenhouse café. Worn, grey brick patio underfoot, lush ferns suspended above, rain tapping on the greenhouse roof (or sun but rain's more atmospheric) make Terrain the ideal place for brunch with BFFs or a cozy dinner for two. We love all the homey touches—Ball jar drinking glasses, terra cotta pots holding warm bread, miniature cast iron skillets filled with berry cobbler. Highlights from the local, seasonal menu include mushroom soup, trout with arugula and the Farm House platter with house-made charcuterie and cheeses from The Farm at Doe Run.

The Gables at Chadds Ford

423 Baltimore Pk., Chadds Ford

610-388-7700 / TheGablesAtChaddsFord.com

Care to match the ambiance to your mood? The Gables, a historic, converted dairy barn whose recent updating retained every bit of charm, offers choices—cozy bar with comfy banquettes; airy, white-walled main dining room with wood beams; or, our favorite, the outdoor patio set amid the remains of the stone foundation of that aforementioned barn. With a greenhouse cover to let in sun and starlight and a water feature providing the soundtrack, this space is a longtime favorite for drinks from the martini menu, a meal or even a wedding or private event. Dishes like shrimp and grits, crawfish beignets, and bourbon pecan pie hint at owners Ann and Dan Kolenick's past in the Carolinas.

BEST AL FRESCO DINING

Third Thursdays on State Street

101 E. State St., Kennett Square
610-444-8188 / HistoricKennettSquare.com

Who doesn't love summer outdoor dining? Especially at tables set along a town's main street, with live music, and kids entertained by roving magicians. Started in summer 2014 to help Kennett businesses recoup after the tough winter, Third Thursdays grew to four months in 2015, with calls to extend to September and beyond. State Street was closed from Broad to Center Streets for outdoor dining, extended shopping hours and family fun. And a feel-good bonus: the Summer Stock Up program to fight local hunger collected food donations in months without school lunches for hungry kids. Question: why doesn't every town do this?

BEST ROOFTOP DINING

Up On the Roof Event

Chestnut Street Garage, West Chester
DowntownWestChester.com

Come June 4th, it will happen atop the Chestnut Street Parking Garage. Listen for the music. If you're lucky—400 people were last year—the sun will shine across the borough's



The Gables



Third Thursdays in Kennett Square



Amani's BYOB





Couch Tomato



La Fia Market Bistro



Spasso Italian Grill



General Warren



Domaine Hudson Wine Bar



Faunbrook Harvest Dinner

rooftops, bathing West Chester's glitterati in the evening's glow. (Beware, though, last year, it sold out early.) Catered by Limoncello Ristorante, with appetizers and desserts by Barnaby's, Cakes and Candies by Maryellen, The Couch Tomato, D'Ascenzo's Gelato, i-Pasta, Kildare's Irish Pub, Landmark Americana, Olive Branch and Yori's Bakery, with drinks by Manatawny Still Works, Box Car Brewery and Tally Ho Coffee. Benefits the West Chester Downtown Foundation, so feel good about all the fun you'll have!

BEST COMFORT FOOD

Dixie Picnic

215 Lancaster Ave., Malvern
484-320-8024 / [DixiePicnic.com](#)

Southern hospitality marries scratch cooking at this eat-in or take-to-a-picnic casual breakfast and lunch favorite in Malvern. Tracey Deschaine and her staff make everyone feel like a regular while serving up generous helpings of dishes from Deschaine's Virginia childhood. French toast a l'orange, southern sticky bun French toast, and the My Oh My! omelet top the list of breakfast bests. For lunch, get a box lunch (sandwich, side, deviled egg and upcake). The Thanksgiving sandwich, nutty chicken salad and Georgia BBQ smoked pork elicit raves and nostalgia. And upcakes—upside down cupcakes iced all over for maximum satisfaction. Well now, there's a picnic in every bite.

BEST HEALTHY FOOD

Couch Tomato

31 W. Gay St., West Chester
484-887-0241 / [TheCouchTomato.com](#)

In West Chester for just a year, Couch Tomato has found a legion of fans for its fresh, wholesome, organic fare, with vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options galore—all more customiz-

able than a Wawa sandwich. Healthy choices like the Food Pyramid, Holy Chipotle and seasonal salads (roasted butternut squash, pomegranate seeds, chevre, chipotle maple dressing), the Dirty Bird sandwich (chicken, mozzarella, red peppers), and hearty soups get raves. Plus kudos for the pizzas—with fresh, organic white, wheat or gluten-free crust—complete with house-made mozzarella and fresh roasted tomatoes. Pizza as a health food? Maybe. Sip a Peloton cold-brewed coffee on the rooftop and contemplate.

BEST FAMILY RESTAURANT

Ron's Original Bar & Grille

74 E. Uwchlan Ave., Exton
610-594-9900 / [RonsOriginal.com](#)

Whisk a "something for everyone" mission with a commitment to healthy ingredients and scratch cooking. Bake for 25 years. That's owner Ron Inverso's secret recipe and the reason folks from knee-high to full-grown love this casual Italian eatery. Friendly waitstaff serve generous portions of pasta from spaghetti and meatballs to crab and sausage amatriciana. Ron's got pizza with toppings galore—try his signature Ovals. Plus classics like chicken parmigiana along with American favorites, and gluten-free options. With its well-stocked bar (lots of beer options), school night value menu, live music, trivia night, and above all, delicious food, Ron's draws a crowd, so call ahead to get your name on the waitlist.

BEST DRIVE-THRU DINNER

Farmer's Road Drive Thru

210 A. Painters Crossing Village, Chadds Ford
610-558-2220 / [FarmersRoadDriveThru.com](#)

At the intersection of 202 and U.S. 1 in Chadds Ford—you've been trained to expect a McDonald's. But you realize the drive-thru window, and maybe you, have matured

when you choose a Green Dog—"all-natural grass-fed beef hot dog, avocado, watercress, rice cakes on whole-wheat bun" (can substitute vegetarian hot dog). Or an Apple Sandwich—local cheddar and American cheese, Granny Smith apple, raw honey, maple sourdough. Chef Ryan Sulikowski and Courtney Rozsas (of Media's Lotus Farm to Table) have masterminded the marriage of fast food and natural, organic and heart-healthy. Beat the traffic. Stop here!

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD SPOT

Hank's Place

1625 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford
610-388-7061 / [Hanks-Place.net](#)

The *Washington Post* says Andrew Wyeth—they called him Andy—ate here every week. Now there are Wyeths on the walls and later-generation Wyeth sightings continue. Settle into a cozy booth, like a local. Eye the ample menu. In the spring, you can sit outdoors, amidst hanging petunias and impatiens. Voula and Peter Skiadas offer homemade food, including sandwiches, Italian and Greek dishes, seafood, steaks, chicken, burgers and hot dogs. It's like a diner, but much, much better. For breakfast, served all day, they offer pancakes, waffles and eggs. Nothing fancy but everything you want.

BEST PRE-THEATER DINNER

La Fia Market Bistro

421 N. Market St., Wilmington
302-543-5574 / [LaFiaWilmington.com](#)

Across from The Queen and World Café Live, three blocks from The Grand, and a bit farther to The Playhouse on Rodney Square, La Fia is well situated for Wilmington's pre-theater dinner crowd. Go for small plates (grilled octopus, mushroom tart), rustic entrées

and world-class bread on the inventive, seasonal menu from Chef/owner Bryan Sikora, James Beard Foundation semi-finalist and past winner of 4 bells from you-know-who. This market-café-bistro continues to delight with dishes like seafood fra diavolo, duos of pork or lamb and rabbit ragu (recipe available online for the bold). Only 35 seats, so book early.

Spasso Italian Grill

1 W. State St., Media
610-565-7803 / [SpassoItalianGrill.com](#)

While there are many choices along Media's State Street, we're fans of Spasso, the suburban offshoot of this Philly fave, just steps from the Media Theatre. It can get packed on summer Wednesdays during Dining Under the Stars, but for other weeknight or weekend performances, you can enjoy a solid selection of Italian favorites or sample the specials—a different choice every night. The pasta is house-made and perfectly cooked, so the paccheri gets raves, as does the calamari. Choose the upscale dining rooms for a big night out or sit at the bar and nibble happy hour specials. Either option will fill you with satisfying memories as you head for the show.

BEST PLACE TO CELEBRATE

Duling-Kurtz House & Country Inn

146 S. Whitford Rd., Exton
610-524-1830 / [DulingKurtz.com](#)

Long the choice for birthday, anniversary or other special occasion dinners, the consistent excellence of the food, service and ambiance make a meal at the 1830s Duling-Kurtz farmhouse a celebration. With accolades from Open Table, *Zagat* and more, the menu is heavy on classic dishes, while still venturing a bit—wild boar, seared alligator, python. Most come for the pleasure of popovers with lemon curd, shrimp

cocktail, escargot, Caesar salad prepared table-side, and entrées like rack of lamb, pheasant, duck and perfectly cooked steak. There's a prix fixe menu (\$40) and warm strudel to die for. Rooms at the country inn beckon.

BEST DINNER AT THE INN

General Warren

9 Old Lancaster Rd., Malvern
610-296-3637 / [GeneralWarren.com](#)

At this elegant Colonial inn, working fireplaces and candlelight transform every dinner—from an ordinary Tuesday to a pop-the-question Saturday—into a special occasion. Time and again, diners return for American-Continental classics: beef Wellington, steak au poivre, snapper soup and crab cakes as well as Caesar salad and bananas foster, both prepared tableside. Lobster flatbread is a classic in the making, and the extensive wine list promises bottles to complement every dish. The full dinner menu is also available in the Warren Tavern, boasting a wood-burning fireplace, cozy tables and U-shaped soapstone bar. Weather permitting, the Spring House Terrace makes dining al fresco a treat.

BEST DINNER AT A B&B

Faunbrook B&B

699 W. Rosedale Ave., West Chester
610-436-5788 / [Faunbrook.com](#)

A treasure like Faunbrook B&B—the 1860s home of Smedley Darlington, now with seven distinctive guestrooms—needs to be enjoyed by more than those lucky enough to stay there. So, we were delighted to see the series of seasonal Harvest Dinners—Strawberry Moonlight, Twilight Peach, Starlight Pumpkin, Cucumber Dinner—hosted on site. Drawing on her network of local artisans, owner Lori Zytkowicz coordinated local food, drinks and

décor for a four-course dinner highlighting the featured ingredient, plus local libations, and an enchanting evening of Faunbrook ambiance. Can't wait to see plans for this year!

BEST FUN BRUNCH

Buckley's Tavern

5812 Kennett Pk., Wilmington
302-656-9776 / [BuckleysTavern.com](#)

Remember when families took leisurely Sunday drives? We're all for renewing that tradition especially when the drive takes you through Delaware's chateau country and ends with a pajama brunch at this cozy historic tavern. Tables enjoy a basket of bakery goodies and meat platter with bacon, sausage, ham and scrapple, a local favorite. Entrées for adults include Belgian waffles, cinnamon swirl brioche French toast, sweet potato pancakes with pecan butter and maple syrup. Plus omelets, crab eggs Benedict, shrimp and grits as well as Buckley's beloved burger. Kids love the smiley face pancakes. Do, do, do wear jammies—and save 50 percent on your food.

BEST LUNCH

333 Belrose Bar & Grill

333 Belrose La., Radnor
610-293-1000 / [333Belrose.com](#)

Business people as well as ladies and gentlemen who lunch find lots to love at this casual contemporary American favorite. There's always a good variety of the four S's (starters, soups, salads, sandwiches) in addition to entrées. No matter the season, diners swear by the calamari (sometimes spicy with a sweet chili glaze) and flavor-packed soups such as creamy corn and crab bisque. Other favorites: chicken salad sandwich and can't-eat-just-one garlic parsley fries. Regulars check Facebook for daily specials and pray the turkey burger with house-made

Continued on page ...63



Boxcar Brewpub



Dixie Picnic



Manatwny Still Works

AND HERE'S A LOOK
AT MORE OF THE
BEST OF THE BEST
SELECTIONS!



White Dog in Haverford



Raw Can Roll Cafe



Red Star Craft House



La Baguette Magique



Zahav: A World of Israeli Cooking



Desert Rose



The Barrel Wine Bar



Sovana Bistro



Majolica

Restaurant Guide 2016

MAKE A RESOLUTION THIS YEAR TO
DISCOVER THE MANY GREAT DINING
CHOICES IN OUR AREA AND VISIT THEM
ALL YEAR LONG.

pennsylvania

AVONDALE

★ The Farmhouse Restaurant

514 McCue Rd.
610-268-2235; LNgolf.com

This is a jewel in the country with two restaurants and a marvelous event facility. The Farmhouse Restaurant fine dining experience offers food and service of rare excellence. The Greathouse is the quintessential destination offering casual dining, Sunday Champagne Brunch and celebrations. There are two outdoor dining facilities and a chef's table in their subterranean wine room.

BERWYN

30 Main

660 Lancaster Ave.
610-220-2367; 30MainLine.com

★ Nectar

1091 Lancaster Ave.
610-725-9000; TasteNectar.com

Thai Orchid Restaurant

556 W. Lancaster Ave.
610-651-7840; ThaiOrchidBerwyn.com

BIRCHRUNVILLE

★ Birchrunville Store Cafe

1403 Hollow Rd.
610-827-9002; BirchrunvilleStoreCafe.com

BRYN MAWR

★ Yangming

1051 Conestoga Rd.
610-527-3200; 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. Yangming was named one of the Best Chinese Restaurants in the US by *Travel & Leisure Magazine*. Banquet facilities. Open 7 days.

CHADDS FORD

Antica

1623 Baltimore Pk.
484-770-8631; AnticaPA.com

★ Brandywine Prime

1617 Baltimore Pk. (Rts. 1 & 100)
610-388-8088; BrandywinePrime.com

Chef Anthony's Italian Market

Olde Ridge Village Shoppes
101 Ridge Rd. 610-459-5900
ChefAnthonysItalianMarket.com

★ "Best of the Best" Winner

★ Restaurant in a historic building



Limoncello



Domaine Hudson Wine Bar



Saloon 151 Whiskey Bar & Grill



Yangming



Pietro's Prime Steakhouse & Martini Bar

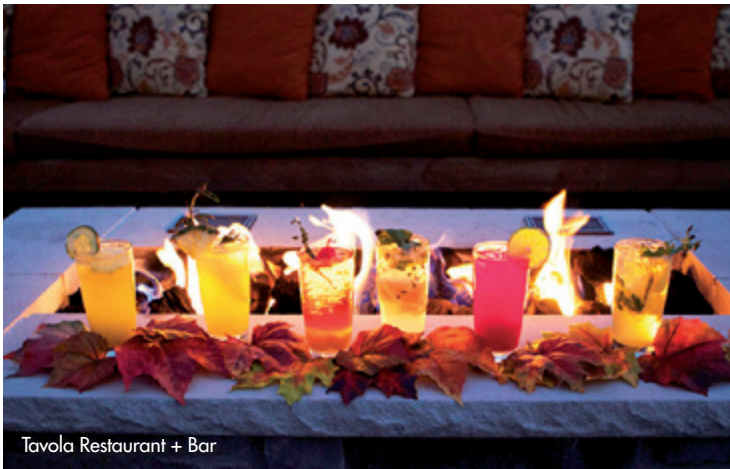


Tavola Restaurant + Bar



General Warren



Shere-E-Punjab



Tonino's Pizza & Pasta Co.



The Farmhouse Restaurant at Loch Nairn

Conveniently located in Chadds Ford in The Old Ridge Village Shoppes, the shop is owned by Chef Anthony Stella and his wife Amy Cheng Vollmer. Chef Anthony brings years of Italian cooking history to Chadds Ford and offers a wide array of Italian prepared food to-go, sandwiches, pastries and a wonderful selection of imported Italian specialty items. Stop in for a sandwich or think of them for your catering needs.

Fellini Café

1620 Baltimore Pk.
610-388-2202; FelliniCafeChaddsFord.com

★ The Gables at Chadds Ford

423 Baltimore Pk.
610-388-7700; TheGablesAtChaddsFord.com
Offering menus designed around local and seasonal ingredients that feature a mix of European-style cuisine with New American flavors and Southern flair. Stop in for Happy Hour, piano music, Thurs–Sat, Sun brunch, and when it's warm, enjoy your meal on the covered patio. A seasonal 3-course prix fixe menu is offered Tues–Wed for \$32 as well as “Wellington Wednesday” when you can enjoy the classic dish paired with a glass of wine for \$34.

★ Junto

Olde Ridge Village Shoppes
100 Ridge Rd.
484-547-8041; JuntoBYOB.com

CHESTER SPRINGS

★ Limoncello Chester Springs

499 Uwchlan Ave.
610-524-3112; LimoncelloCS.com

☼ Yellow Springs Inn

1657 Art School Rd.
610-827-7477; YellowSpringsInn.com

CONCORDVILLE

☼ Concordville Inn

Baltimore Pk. (Rt. 1)
610-459-2230; ConcordvilleInn.com

DOWNINGTOWN

★ Amani's BYOB

105 E. Lancaster Ave.
484-237-8179; AmanisBYOB.com
Farm fresh, seasonal cuisine. This 40-seat BYO has

an open kitchen in an inviting atmosphere. Lunch, Mon–Fri, 11:30 to 3; Brunch, Sat–Sun, 10 to 2; Dinner, Mon–Thurs, 5 to 10; Fri–Sat, 5 to 10:30; Sun, 5 to 9. Reservations recommended.

★ Station Taproom

207 W. Lancaster Ave.
484-593-0560; StationTaproom.com

★ Victory Brewing Company

420 Acorn Ln.
610-873-0881; VictoryBeer.com

DREXEL HILL

★ Shere-E-Punjab

Drexel Line Shopping Center, 5059 State Rd.
484-452-8140; ShereEPunjab.com
See their listing under Media.

EXTON

Allegria Ristorante

8 E. Welsh Pool Rd.
610-524-6060; Allegria-PA.com

★ Appetites on Main

286 Main St.
610-594-2030; AppetitesOnMain.com
Offering casual American comfort food at a good value. This bar/restaurant has a taproom atmosphere in front and a family/quieter section in back. During warmer months, they open the huge outdoor patio. Happy hour daily, 4 to 6, includes \$2.50 select domestics, \$1 off all appetizers, craft beer and cocktails. Daily drink and food specials (1/2 price wings on Monday). Open daily 11 am to 2 am, full menu until 1:30 am.

Brickside Grille

Eagleview Town Ctr., 540 Wellington Sq.
610-321-1600; BricksideGrille.com
Innovative American cuisine with ethnic influences in an upscale, casual atmosphere. Oyster bar, Sunday Brunch, and Banquet facilities. Open Mon–Sat, from 11 am; Sun, from 10 am.

Buca di Beppo

300 Main St.
610-524-9939; BucaDiBeppo.com

The Drafting Room

Colonial 100 Shoppes (Rt. 100)
610-363-0521; Drafting-Room.com

★ ☼ Duling–Kurtz House & Country Inn

146 S. Whitford Rd.
610-524-1830; DulingKurtz.com

Nudy's Café

Eagleview Town Ctr., 541 Wellington Sq.
610-458-7667; NudysCafes.com
Nudy's, now with 7 locations in Chester County, has been comforting diners in a casual setting for breakfast and lunch since 1979. With over 110 items on the menu, there's a meal for everyone's taste from young children to college students and their families. They also do corporate catering. Mon–Fri, 7 to 4; Sat–Sun, 7 to 3.

The Pour House

116 N. Pottstown Pk.
610-280-7900; PJsPourHouse.com

The Riverstone Café

Whiteland Towne Ctr.
610-594-2233; RiverstoneCafe.com

★ Red Star Craft House

146 Exton Square Mall
610-524-5893; RedStarCraftHouse.com

★ Ron's Original Bar & Grille

74 E. Uwchlan Ave.
(just N of Rt. 100 on Rt. 113)
610-594-9900; RonsOriginal.com
Serving real food, for the health of it! Prepared from scratch onsite daily with all natural ingredients. American/Italian cuisine with daily specials and a School Night Value Menu Sun–Thurs. Live music, Wed–Fri–Sat; Happy hour, Mon–Fri, from 5 to 7. Lunch and Dinner, Mon–Thurs, 11 to 9:30; Fri, 11 to 11; Sat, 11 to 10; Sun, 11:30 to 9. Bar is open until midnight; Thurs till 1 am, Fri–Sat until 2 am.

☼ Vickers Tavern

Corner of E. Welsh Pool Rd. & Gordon Dr.
610-363-7998; VickersTavern.com

GLEN MILLS

★ Bluefin Sushi & Asian Cuisine

Cross Road Center, 1102 Baltimore Pk.
610-459-2055; BlueFinGlenMills.com

Harvest Seasonal Grill & Wine Bar

549 Wilmington-West Chester Pk.
610-358-1005; HarvestSeasonalGrill.com

Mile High Steak & Seafood

1102 Baltimore Pk.

610-361-0855; MileHighSS.com

Not Your Average Joe's

561 Glen Eagle Sq. 610-500-2222
NotYourAverageJoes.com/GlenMills

★ Shere-E-Punjab

301 Byers Dr.
484-841-6345; ShereEPunjab.com
See their listing under Media.

Sligo Pub & Restaurant

200 Town Centre Dr.; SligoMedia.com

★ Terrain Garden Café

914 Baltimore Pk.; 610-459-6030
ShopTerrain.com/Glen-Mills-Restaurant

HONEY BROOK

★ Wyebrook Farm

150 Wyebrook Rd.
610-942-7481; WyebrookFarm.com

KENNETT SQUARE

Byrsa Bistro

102 E. State St.
610-444-3277; ByrsaBistro.com

Country Butcher Fine Foods Market

145 S. Walnut St.
610-444-5980; CountryButcherMarket.com

Flaga Bistro

826 E. Baltimore Pk.
610-444-6500; FlagaBistro.com

☼ Foxfire at The Stone Barn

Rt. 842 (3 mi. N. of Rt. 1)
610-347-2414; TheStoneBarn.com

☼ Half Moon Restaurant & Saloon

108 W. State St.
610-444-7232; HalfMoonRestaurant.com

Kennett Brewing Company

109 S. Broad St.
KennettBrewingCompany.com

☼ Kennett Square Inn

201 E. State St.
610-444-5687; KennettInn.com

★ La Verona

114 E. State St.
610-444-2244; LaVeronaPA.com
Using only the finest and freshest ingredients, highlighting the northern region of Italy, they are com-



Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant



La Verona



Más Mexicali Cantina



i-Pasta



The Lincoln Room



T-Ever Café

mitted to making your meal a memorable one, with professional service in a welcoming, vibrant social atmosphere. They have a private dining area for parties up to 65, and they invite you to join them for Happy Hour, Mon–Fri, 4 to 6. Serving lunch and dinner, Mon–Thurs, 11:30 to 9:30; Fri, until 10; Sat, noon to midnight; Sun, noon to 9.

★ **Lily Asian Cuisine, Sushi & Grill**

104 W. State St.
610-925-3700; LilySushiandGrill.com
Drawing fans in Kennett since 2011, this stylish, modern Asian restaurant serves Japanese, Chinese and Thai dishes insisting on high quality food, freshly prepared with finest ingredients. Meet friends for lunch, have dinner with family or come for a celebration. Tuesday is all-you-can eat sushi including hot starters. BYOB, enjoy the comfortable ambience, delicious food and excellent service. Lunch and dinner 7 days, Sun–Thurs, 10:30 to 9:30; Fri–Sat, 10:30 to 10:30.

★ **Michoacana Grill**

201 S. Union St.
610-444-8979; On Facebook

★ **Sovana Bistro**

696 Unionville Rd.
610-444-5600; SovanaBistro.com

★ **Sunrise Café & Tearoom**

127 E. State St.
610-444-8141; SunriseCafeKSQ.com

★ **Talula's Table**

102 W. State St.
610-444-8255; TalulasTable.com

★ **Two Stones Pub**

843 E. Baltimore Pk.
610-444-3940; TwoStonesPub.com

★ **Victory at Magnolia**

650 W. Cypress St.
484-730-1870; VictoryBrewing.com

KIMBERTON

⊗ **The Kimberton Inn**

Kimberton Rd.
610-933-8148; KimbertonInn.com

KING OF PRUSSIA

⊗ **Creed's Seafood & Steaks**

499 N. Gulph Rd.
610-265-2550; CreedsKOP.com

LANCASTER

★ **Gibraltar**

931 Harrisburg Pk.
717-397-2790; GibraltarGrille.com

★ **Lancaster Brewing Company**

302 N. Plum St.
717-391-6258; LancasterBrewing.com

★ **The Pressroom**

26–28 W. King St.
717-399-5400; PressroomRestaurant.com

★ ⊗ **Stockyard Inn**

1147 Litz 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. Received the 2014 Wine Spectator Award.

MALVERN

★ **Anthony's Pizza & Italian Restaurant**

127 W. King St. 610-647-7400
AnthonysItalianRestaurant.com

★ **Bunha Faun**

152 Lancaster Pk.
610-651-2836; BunhaFaun.net

⊗ **Cedar Hollow Inn**

2455 Yellow Springs Rd.
610-296-9006; CedarHollowInn.com

★ **Christopher's**

335 E. King St. 484-568-4127
ChristophersANeighborhoodPlace.com

★ **The Classic Diner**

352 W. Lancaster Ave.
610-725-0515; TheClassicDinerPA.com

⊗ **The Farmhouse Bistro**

39 Conestoga Rd.
610-647-8060; TheFarmhouseBistro.com

★ ⊗ **General Warren**

9 Old Lancaster Rd.
610-296-3637; GeneralWarren.com

A charming 18th-century historic country inn serving new American cuisine paired with classic Continental specialties. Fresh fish, steaks, lamb, small plates, vegetarian and vegan entrées, too. Private party rooms for 15 to 60 guests. Rehearsal dinners and intimate weddings. Beautiful Springhouse Terrace for al fresco dining and all-season receptions. Eight lovely guest suites available for overnight accommodations. Lunch, Mon–Fri, 11:30 to 2:30; Dinner, Mon–Sat, 5 to 10.

★ **The Hunt Room at the Desmond**

1 Liberty Blvd.
610-296-9800; DesmondGV.com

★ **Jimmy's BBQ**

309 Lancaster Ave.
610-879-8805; JimmysBBQ.com
Serving award-winning Memphis-style BBQ with quality meats dry-rubbed and smoked on premises: ribs, pulled pork, brisket, chicken, wings, bacon and sausage. Their mouth-watering menu features freshly baked cornbread and homemade sides like whipped sweet potatoes, creamy mac-n-cheese, smoky baked beans and dirty corn salad. Eat in family-style for the ultimate BBQ experience or takeout. BYOB. Catering for weddings, graduations, birthday parties and more. Open daily.

★ **Margaret Kuo's Mandarin Restaurant**

190 Lancaster Ave.
610-647-5488; MargaretKuo.com

★ **The Office Bar & Grille**

1021 Morehall Rd.
484-318-7806; TheOfficeBarAndGrille.com



The Couch Tomato Café

★ **Restaurant Alba**

7 W. King St.
610-644-4009; RestaurantAlba.com

★ **Tonino's Pizza & Pasta Co.**

235 Lancaster Ave.
610-240-9566; ToninosPizzaAndPasta.com
This is a family-run business that prides itself in using the freshest ingredients to make authentic homemade Neapolitan pizza, pasta and signature Italian dishes. They invite you to come in and dine, BYOB, Mon–Sat, for lunch and dinner, Sun, noon to 9 pm.

MEDIA

★ **320 Market Café**

21 W. State St.
610-565-8320; The320MarketCafe.com

⊗ **Azie Restaurant**

217 W. State St.
610-566-4750; Azie-Restaurant.com

★ **Desert Rose**

305 W. State St.
484-442-8012; DesertRoseMediaPa.com

★ **Dominic's**

100 State St.
610-627-2011; DominicsHandCarved.com

★ **Fellini Café Trattoria**

106 W. State St.
610-892-7616; FellinisCafe.com

★ **Margaret Kuo's Media**

4–6 W. State St.
610-892-0115; MargaretKuo.com

★ **La Porta**

1192 Middletown Rd.
610-358-5104; LaPortaRistorante.com

★ **La Na Thai French Cuisine**

33 W. State St.
610-892-7787; LaNaBYOB.com

★ **Quotations Restaurant**

37 E. State St. 610-627-2515
On Facebook

★ **Riddle Ale House**

1073 W. Baltimore Pk.
610-566-9984; RiddleAleHouse.com



The Whip Tavern

★ **Shere-E-Punjab**

208 W. State St.
610-891-0400; 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. Open daily, 10 to midnight; lunch buffet, 11:30 to 3. Catering available.

★ **Sterling Pig Brewery**

609 W. State St.
484-444-2526; SterlingPig.com

MENDENHALL

⊗ **Mendenhall Inn**

323 Kennett Pk., Rt. 52
610-388-1181; MendenhallInn.com

NEWTOWN SQUARE

★ **The Crazy Sofa**

4755 N. Crum Creek Rd.
484-318-7273; TheCrazySofa.com

⊗ **Ristorante La Locanda**

4989 West Chester Pk. (Rt. 3)
610-353-7033; LaLocandaPA.com

★ **Spice Indian Thai Bistro**

4843 W. Chester Pk.
610-356-5262; SpiceBYOB.com

★ **Teca Newtown Square**

191 Newtown Street Rd.
484-420-4010; TecaNewtownSquare.com

★ **Teikoku**

5492 West Chester Pk.
610-644-8270; TeikokuRestaurant.com

★ **Trattoria Giuseppe**

4799 W. Chester Pk.
610-353-4871; Mussoitra.com

PAOLI

★ **Le Saigon Restaurant**

82 E. Lancaster Ave.
610-889-4870; LeSaigon.com

★ **Trattoria San Nicola**

4 Manor Rd.
610-695-8990; SanNicola.net



Ron's Original Bar & Grille



Nudy's Café



The Gables at Chadds Ford



Black Powder Tavern



Chef Anthony's Italian Market

PHOENIXVILLE

★ **Bistro On Bridge**

210 Bridge St.
610-935-7141; BistroOnBridge.com

Located in Phoenixville's downtown historic district, offering live music and a relaxed atmosphere, making it the perfect spot for casual dining, socializing, business events or a special occasion. They use the freshest local ingredients, and their contemporary Bistro Menu has a Mediterranean influence. Happy hour, Mon–Fri, 5 to 7. Open Mon–Thurs, 4 to 2; Fri–Sun, 11:30 to 2.

Black Lab Bistro

248 Bridge St.
610-935-5988; BlackLabBistro.net

Great American Pub Hotel, Bar & Grill

148 Bridge St.
610-917-3333; GreatAmericanPub.com

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant

130 E. Bridge St.
610-983-9333; IronHillBrewery.com
See their listing under West Chester.

★ **Majolica**

258 Bridge St.
610-917-0962; MajolicaRestaurant.com

Marly's BYO

106 Bridge St.
610-933-7471; MarlysRestaurant.com

☼ **Pepperoncini Sotto Restaurant & Bar**

184 Bridge St. 484-924-8429
PepperonciniRestaurant.com

☼ **Seven Stars Inn**

263 Hoffecker Rd.
610-495-5205; SevenStarsInn.com

★ **Sips Bistro & Bar**

400 Bridge St.
484-924-9721; SipsPhoenixville.com

Sly Fox Brewhouse & Eatery

520 Kimberton Rd.
610-935-4540; SlyFoxBeer.com

Thai L'Elephant

301 Bridge St.
610-935-8613; ThaiElephant.com

★ **Vecchia Pizzeria**

249 Bridge St.
610-933-1355; VecchiaPizzeria.com

PINE FORGE

☼ **Gracie's 21st Century Café**

1534 Manatawny Rd.
610-323-4004; Gracies21stCentury.com

POTTSTOWN

Sly Fox Tasting Room

520 Kimberton Rd.
610-935-4540; SlyFoxBeer.com

RADNOR

★ **333 Belrose Bar & Grill**

333 Belrose La.
610-293-1000; 333Belrose.com

Estia Greek Taverna

222 N. Radnor-Chester Rd.
484-581-7124; EstiaTaverna.com

Pietro's Pizzeria & Birreria

236 N. Radnor-Chester Rd.
484-367-7072; PietrosPizza.com

ST DAVIDS

Glenmorgan Bar & Grill

593 E. Lancaster Ave.
610-341-3188; Glenmorgan.com

The Radnor Hotel

591 E. Lancaster Ave.
610-341-3188; RadnorHotel.com

ST. PETER'S VILLAGE

The Inn at St. Peter's Village

3471 St. Peter's Rd.
610-469-2600; TheInnAtSaintPeters.com

SPRINGFIELD

★ **Tavola Restaurant + Bar**

400 W. Sproul Rd.
Springfield Country Club
610-543-2100; Tavolas.com
Casually refined dining blending Italian and American cuisines. Flatbreads, classic and contemporary menu selections with seasonal ingredients from an authentic brick oven. The heated outdoor bar and lounge features golf course views, fire pits and glass enclosures for drinks and dining year-round. DJs

and live, local acoustic music weekly. Serving lunch, dinner and Sunday Brunch. Mon–Thurs, 11 am to midnight; Fri–Sat, 11 am to 2 am; Sun, 10 am to midnight.

UNIONVILLE

Catherine's Restaurant

1701 W. Doe Run Rd.
610-347-2227; CatherinesRestaurant.com

☼ **Foxfire at The Stone Barn**

Rt. 842, (3 mi. N. of Rt. 1)
610-347-2414; TheStoneBarn.com

VILLANOVA

Azie On Main

789 E. Lancaster Ave.
610-527-5700; AzieOnMain.com

Avenue Kitchen

789 E. Lancaster Ave.
610-525-3950; AveKitchen.com

WAYNE

★ **A Taste of Britain**

Eagle Village Shops, 503 W. Lancaster Ave.
610-971-0390; ATasteOfBritainInWayne.com

Ardé Osteria & Pizzeria

133 N. Wayne Ave.
484-580-6786; ArdeWayne.com

★ ☼ **Black Powder Tavern**

1164 Valley Forge Rd.
610-293-9333; BlackPowderTavern.com
Located just outside Valley Forge National Historical Park, combining local flavors (edible and sip-able) with American history. The menu features a variety of small and entrée-sized plates and highlights the flavors, ingredients and culinary trends Philadelphia has become known for that pair well with their extensive craft beer offerings. Ask about their private dining options. Open Mon–Thurs, 11 to 10 pm; Fri–Sat, 11 to 11 pm; Sun, 10:30 to 9, brunch until 2.

Christopher's A Neighborhood Place

108 N. Wayne Ave. 610-687-6558
ChristophersANeighborhoodPlace.com

★ **Margaret Kuo's, Wayne**

175 E. Lancaster Ave.
610-688-7200; MargaretKuo.com

JIMMY'S BBQ



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309 LANCASTER AVENUE | MALVERN, PA

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610.925.3700

lilysushiandgrill.com • [lilyspa](https://www.facebook.com/lilyspa)



Brickside Grill

Matador
110 N. Wayne Ave.
484-580-8303; MatadorRestaurante.com

☼ **Paramour**
139 E. Lancaster Ave.
610-977-0600; ParamourWayne.com

Ristorante Primavera
384 W. Lancaster Ave. 610-254-0200
RistorantePrimaveraOfWayne.com

The Silverspoon Restaurant
503 W. Lancaster Ave., Eagle Village
610-688-7646; SilverspoonWayne.com

Teresa's Café and Next Door Bar
120-126 N. Wayne Ave.
610-293-9909; Teresas-Cafe.com

★ **Vecchia Pizzeria**
134 N. Wayne Ave.
484-580-6135; On Facebook

★ **White Dog Café**
200 W. Lancaster Ave.
610-225-3700; WhiteDog.com/Wayne

Xilantro
103 N. Wayne Ave.
484-590-8415; Xilantro.com

WEST CHESTER

*(See the West Chester article in this issue
for more dining options.)*

Avalon Restaurant
116 E. Gay St.
610-436-4100; AvalonRestaurant.net



Bistro On Bridge

★ **Boxcar Brewpub**
142 W. Market St.
BoxCarBrewingCompany.com

The Classic Diner
16 E. Gay St.
484-947-0809; TheClassicDinerPA.com

★ **Couch Tomato West Chester**
31 W. Gay St.
484-887-0241; TheCouchTomato.com
The Couch Tomato Café has quickly become THE destination for a healthy, quick-service meal. It has won many awards including “Best Healthy Lunch,” “Best Pizza,” “Best Gluten-Free” and “Best Soups” just to name a few. You’ll find wood-fired brick oven pizzas and an amazing outdoor roof deck. They consistently source organic and local produce, hormone and preservative-free meats, and an overall “natural” product whenever possible, going that extra mile!

Doc Macgrogan's Oyster House
117 E. Gay St.
610-429-4046; DocMagrogans.com

☼ **Dilworthtown Inn
& The Inn Keeper's Kitchen**
Old Wilmington Pk.
610-399-1390; Dilworthtown.com

High Street Caffe / Vudu Lounge
322 S. High St.
610-696-7435
HighStreetCaffe.com



Jimmy's BBQ

i-Pasta
134 E. Gay St.
484-887-0760; iPasta.net
Italian regional and creative pasta dishes. At i-Pasta they put together a choice of traditional sauces featuring the red, sunny tomatoes from southern Italy, the pale heavy cream from the north and the green vegetable with the nuances from all over Italy. They invite you to match any type of pasta with any of the sauces or leave it to the chef to choose for you. Open Tues–Thurs, 5 to 9; Fri–Sat, 5 to 10.

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant
3 W. Gay St.
610-738-9600; IronHillBrewery.com
Find fine handcrafted beers, creative yet informal cuisine, and friendly, attentive service in a casual, upscale atmosphere. They're passionate about producing distinctive, full-flavored handcrafted beers, accompanied by fresh—from-scratch New American cuisine with a knowledgeable and courteous service staff. More locations in Ardmore, Lancaster, Media, Newark, Phoenixville and Wilmington.

Kildare's
18-22 W. Gay St.
610-431-0770; KildaresIrishPub.com

Kooma
123 N. Church St.
610-430-8980; KoomaRestaurants.com

Landmark Americana
158 W. Gay St.
610-701-9900; LandmarkAmericana.com



Roots Cafe



Appetites on Main



Lily Asian Cuisine, Sushi & Grill

★ ☼ **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. Lunch buffet Mon–Fri, 11:30 to 2:00 ; BYO, Sun, Mon, Tues, \$5 corkage. Daily lunch and dinner. Off-premise catering available.

★ ☼ **The Lincoln Room**
28 W. Market St.
610-696-2102; LincolnRoomWestChester.com
Located in one of West Chester's most famous historic structures, The Lincoln Tea Room is the place to enjoy a quiet lunch in a charming setting. Select from their extensive menu of specialty teas. They offer a wide range of seasonal favorites and have special events, including the very popular Fondue Fridays; held the first Friday night of the month. Open Tues–Sat, 10 to 2. Available for private parties on Sun. Res. rec.

★ **Más Mexicali Cantina**
102 E. Market St.
610-918-6280; MasMexicali.com
Owners Joanne and John Caulfield invite you to enjoy award-winning Mexicali Fresh cuisine with a rock-n-roll flair in the first floor Cantina, second floor Velvet Lounge & Tequila Bar or “Más on the Roof” with a great view. The hip Cantina ambience sets the stage for family favorites like traditional tacos, plus veggies and tofu, too. Perfect and

unique spot for your next private party or catering for your offsite event.

☼ **The Mediterranean Restaurant**
150 W. Gay St.
610-431-7074; TheMedWCPA.com

☼ **Pietro's Prime Steakhouse and Martini Bar**
125 W. Market St.
484-760-6100; PietrosPrime.com
Family owned and operated, Pietro's Prime is the place to eat in West Chester, serving nothing but prime beef and fresh seafood in a casual, comfortable atmosphere. They have live music in the bar Wed–Sat. Lunch Mon–Sat, 11 to 4. Dinner Sun–Sat, 4 'til ... Bar is open 'til 2 am. Come have a drink and or a bite to see what you're missing!

★ ☼ **RapiDough Pizza Pies**
30 S. High St.
484-266-0681; RapiDoughPizzaPies.com

★ **Roots Cafe**
133 E. Gay St.
610-455-0100; RootsCafeWC.com
Seasonal menus and sustainably sourced Farm-to-Table-style restaurant. Recently added Liquor license provides a full bar with organic and local wine and spirits, craft beers, and a seasonal cocktail menu. Daily food and drink specials in a casual environment with outdoor seating in their own garden. Dinner, Thurs–Sat, starting at 6 pm; breakfast and lunch, Tues–Sun, 8 to 3. Reserva-

tion recommended for dinner. No reservations for breakfast and lunch.

☼ **Ryan's Pub**
124 W. Gay St.
610-344-3934; Ryans-Pub.com

★ **Saloon 151 Whiskey Bar & Grill**
151 W. Gay St.
610-701-8489; Saloon151.com
Saloon 151's menu features slow cooked meats, hand cut fries, mix and match craft beers to go, and, of course, an extensive whiskey and craft beer list. The interior is pure country and they have daily Happy Hour specials. They also have great live music inside and on the outdoor patio, weather permitting. Open daily, 11 am to 2 am.

Side Bar & Restaurant
10 E. Gay St.
610-429-8297; SideBarAndRestaurant.com

Social Lounge & Bar
29 E. Gay St.
610-738-3948; TheSocialWC.com

Spence 312
312 S. High St.
610-738-8844; Spence312.com

Teca
38 E. Gay St.
610-738-8244; TecaWC.com

T'Ever Café
124 E Market St.
484-787-6187; T-EverCafe.com



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www.lochnairn.com

T'Ever (Tea Ever) Café offers traditional and gourmet coffee, espresso and tea as well as specialties like bubble tea in a variety of flavors with tapioca or fruit popping bubbles. Try the rich, smooth ice-dripped coffee. Enjoy eclectic small plates, grilled kebabs, dumplings, fresh pastries and desserts in a comfortable space with Wifi. Foodies can indulge in homemade Vietnamese noodle soups (Pho), Chicken Teriyaki, Banh Mi and other savory dishes without driving to Philly.

★ **Westtown Meats & Deli**
1030 Old Wilmington Pk.
610-696-5588

WEST GROVE

☯ **Twelves Grill & Cafe**
10 Exchange Place.
610-869-4020; TwelvesGrill.com

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. If you're nearby, stop and settle in for a cozy toast by the fire and share glad tidings and flavours from The Whip. Enjoy traditional pub fare and American favorites. BYO for wine or choose from over 50 seasonal, local and imported beers. Lunch, 11 to 4; dinner

Sun, Mon, Wed, Thurs, 4 to 9, Fri–Sat, 4 to 10; brunch, Sun, 11 to 2.

delaware

CENTREVILLE

★ ☯ **Buckley's Tavern**
5812 Kennett Pk.
302-656-9776; BuckleysTavern.com

MONTCHANIN

☯ **Krazy Kat's**
Rt. 100 & Kirk Rd.
At the Inn at Montchanin Village
302-888-4200; KrazyKatsRestaurant.com

WILMINGTON

Chelsea Tavern
821 N. Market St.
302-482-3333; ChelseaTavern.com

Tonic Bar & Grille
111 W. 11th St.
302-777-2040; TonicBarGrille.com

★ **Domaine Hudson Wine Bar**
1314 N. Washington St.
302-655-9463; DomaineHudson.com
Named “a must-visit restaurant” by *The News Journal*, Domaine Hudson features Zagat-rated New American food, an award-winning wine

list, and impeccable service. Enjoy private dining, exclusive wine dinner events, happy hour specials and more. Awarded Open Table's “Best Wine List in the Greater Philadelphia Region,” Domaine Hudson has been noted as one of Wilmington's best restaurants.

★ **Harry's Fish Market and Grill**
101 S. Market St.
302-777-1500; HarrysSeafoodGrill.com

Hotel du Pont, The Green Room
11th & Market Sts. 302-594-3154
HotelduPont.com/Dining/Green-Room.com

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant
710 S. Madison St.
302-472-2739; IronHillBrewery.com
See their listing under West Chester.

★ **La Fia**
421 N. Market St.
302-543-5574; LaFiaWilmington.com

Mikimotos Asian Grill & Sushi Bar
1212 Washington St.
302-656-8638; Mikimotos.com

Moro
1307 N. Scott St.
302-777-1800; MoroRestaurant.net ♦

★ “Best of the Best” Winner
☯ *Restaurant in a historic building*

potato chips is on the list. On sunny days, the patio's the place to sit and be seen.

BEST LUNCH BUFFET

Limoncello's

9 N. Walnut St., West Chester
610-436-6230 / LimoncelloWC.com
499 E. Uuuchlan Ave., Chester Springs
610-524-3112 / LimoncelloCS.com

The reasonably priced lunch buffet at this family-run Italian favorite is a study in generosity. Midway through lunch, patrons begin planning a return trip, acknowledging it's not easy to sample all those appealing dishes in one sitting. While the offerings change daily, there are always four hot dishes (two meats, a fish, a pasta), a few pizzas, some strombolis, more salads and about ten veggie dishes. Diners love the baked salmon with caramelized onions, Maria's meatballs, chicken piccata, tilapia putanesca and house-made pasta. Look for cheese ravioli, penne alla vodka and lasagna. On the lighter side: Insalata alla Dina (greens, pear, gorgonzola, candied walnuts), grilled eggplant, broccoli rabe. Go back for seconds.

BEST DESSERTS

Sweet Charity Event

28 W. Market St., West Chester
610-696-8211 / ChesCoCF.org

Calories don't count at a fundraiser, right? That *should* be true. And another reason to sample the almost 20-some desserts at Chester County Community Foundation's 12th annual Sweet Charity event. Really, 20-some desserts! What's not to love? Go to support the Foundation's outreach programs or to find out what will top last year's winning treats: John Serock Catering's Spiced Apple and Rhubarb Taco, General Warren's S'mores Brownies, and Delightful Desserts & Culinary Creation's Citrus Triple Play. Or you can say you're there on March 21 to check out the healthiest dessert winner. There's a prize for that, too.

Nomadic Pies

132 W. State St., Kennett Square
610-857-7600 / NomadicPies.com

Since 2012, we've chased Molly Johnston's Nomadic Pies truck from farmers market to farmers market for a bite of her sweet and savory creations. Now that she's found a permanent home on Kennett Square's State Street, we're thrilled! Craig LaBan is a fan, too. Johnston makes all pies and quiches from scratch with an emphasis on local ingredients. “Like an orchard in a pie” sums up her fruit creations. While

the pie menu changes with the seasons, favorites include caramel apple crumb, sour cherry, and peach raspberry; chicken pot pie; spinach, roasted red pepper and goat cheese quiche.

BEST TEA ROOMS

A Taste of Britain

503 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne
610-971-0390 / ATasteOfBritainInWayne.com

Civility never goes out of style at this Wayne charmer, perfect for birthday lunches, Mother's Day, private parties or a respite from busy schedules. Full afternoon tea includes tea sandwiches, mini pastries, a pot of tea and choice of scone with clotted cream, lemon curd and strawberry preserves. Each month brings a featured scone—coconut chocolate chip is a winner. Rounding out the menu are salads, soups, sandwiches and British comfort foods (chicken pot pie, beef cottage pie, Cornish pasty). Let A Taste of Britain cater your next event. Or pick up teas, biscuits and other British imports from the shoppe. So Granthamesque.

The Lincoln Room

28 W. Market St., West Chester
610-696-2102 / LincolnRoomWestChester.com

Lincoln's Birthday, Mother's Day, wedding or bridal shower, little princess birthday—many good reasons to seek out this special spot in West Chester. The Lincoln Room continues to offer cozy lunches, high tea and fondue Fridays in the lower level of the historic Lincoln Building. Who can pass up dainty sandwiches served on multi-tiered stands? Plus quiches galore (asparagus a fave), charming salads, hearty soups (try the butternut squash with heavy cream) and specialty scones with lemon curd and Devonshire clotted cream? And, of course, pots of perfectly brewed tea to warm your soul as you raise a pinkie to this oasis on busy Market Street.

BEST WINE BAR

Domaine Hudson Wine Bar

1314 N. Washington St., Wilmington
302-655-9463 / DomaineHudson.com

You may know that Domaine Hudson's wine list has garnered accolades from Open Table (Top 100 Wine Lists in the U.S.), *Wine Spectator*, *Zagat*, *Delaware's Reader's Choice*, and *County Lines*. What you may not know is that they combine a sense of humor with their knowledge of the vines. With 450 selections of rare, boutique and vintage wines, including 40 choices by the glass or in flights (1.5, 3 or 5 oz. pours), they curate tastings with themes like Italian Masterpieces, Que Syrah Syrah, Cabernet

Cabaret and Pinot Envy. Plus more serious selections from Burgundy, Piedmont and sparklers, of course. Combine with an artisanal cheese or charcuterie plate for perfection.

BEST LOCAL WINE

Galer Winery

700 Folly Hill Rd., Kennett Square
484-899-8013 / GalerEstate.com

The Brandywine Valley boasts a special microclimate giving local vineyards an ideal environment for growing grapes and developing a wine industry. Galer Estate (formerly Folly Hill Winery, near Longwood Gardens) has recently attracted attention by earning key awards to add to the 90-some others. Besting the best of California vino, Galer garnered the 2015 Gold Medal from the International Eastern Wine Competition in Sonoma for their 2014 un-oaked Chardonnay and Silver for their 2014 Pinot Gris. They've also won Best of Show, Double Gold and Gold Medals for ice wines, and had Craig LaBan anoint their rosé “as close as we get to a taste of Provence in the Brandywine.”

BEST BAR FOR MEETING FRIENDS

White Dog Café

200 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne / 610-225-3700
379 Lancaster Ave., Haverford / 610-896-4556
WhiteDog.com

Polished wood beams, chandeliers fashioned from wine bottles and a wall of lovable canine portraits make this clubby chic bar the ideal spot to meet friends, reconnect and raise a glass. Libations with a local twist: farm-to-table cocktails, a mostly American wine list, plus Pennsylvania beers on tap. Happy hour runs from 4 to 6 weekdays with a menu that includes half-price wine bottles and favorite comfort foods: mac 'n' cheese, tuna tartare, truffle parmesan fries and double cheddar burger. Check out the newish Haverford location, too. Cheers!

BEST HAPPY HOUR

Tavola Restaurant + Bar

400 W. Sproul Rd., Springfield
610-543-2100 / Tavalas.com

The patio looks like your dream patio—spacious, with sofas and seating for a crowd, colorful umbrellas, fire pits, heat lamps and glass enclosure when needed, all overlooking a perfectly manicured lawn (in this case a golf course). A top spot for drinks with friends, say from 4 to 6 in the afternoon. Changing Happy Hour specials—from green apple sangria to \$3

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Glen Mills, PA 19342
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Drexel Hill, PA 19026
Drexel Line Shopping Center
484-452-8140, 8041

208 W. State St.
Media, PA 19063
610-891-0400
www.sherepunjab.com

Shock Tops to \$6 Dark Horse Cabernet—mean repeat visits. The menu has all kinds of light fare to make it your happiest hour: tacos, sliders, wings, nachos, panini, wood-fired pizzas. Late fall Tavola had an Uber special. What more can you want?

BEST BREW PUBS

Victory Brewing Company

420 Acorn Ln., Downingtown / 610-873-0881
650 W. Cypress St., Kennett Square / 484-730-1870
3127 Lower Valley Rd., Parkersburg
484-718-5080 / VictoryBeer.com

Adjacent to the brewery, available for a tour, it's one of our favorite places. There are about two dozen ever-changing beers on tap—Golden Monkey, Storm King Imperial Stout—two others on a hand pump—like Hop Devil, Headwaters—and more in bottles—think Helios, Happy Quad. There are always a great seasonal cheeses and charcuterie boards. Small and main plates—buffalo chicken, enchiladas, Polish sausage, roast beef, shrimp and grits—are favorites and more than filling. And don't miss the Victory Ice Cream. Venture beyond the Downingtown home spot and try Victory's new brewpubs—in Kennett Square and Parkersburg.

Boxcar Brewpub

142 E. Market St., West Chester
484-947-2503 / BoxcarBrewingCompany.com
On Market Street, east of High in West Chester, you can pull in after work, before dinner, or any other time for that matter. It's Community Supported Beer at Boxcar Brewpub and at the brewery on Westtown Road. Pull up to the bar, order one of Boxcar's beers, like 1492 American Pale Ale, Coal Runner Stout or an Imperial Mango Ginger draft. It's fresh, batch brewed, much as Jamie Robinson and Jason Kohser dreamed it up in Jamie's kitchen. If you're hungry, order from the brewpub's expanding and evolving menu—snacks, salads, small and large plates. The kids will love the giant Jenga, T.V., retro video games and claw machine. On weekends, stop by for live music.

BEST BEER SELECTION TO GO

Pinocchio's Beer Garden To Go

31 E. Baltimore Ave., Media
610-566-7767 / PinBeer.com
How about 1000 specialty beers, 200 craft beers, 25 rotating on tap, plus mix-and-match six packs, growlers and on-site tastings? It's enough selection to make a Beer Advo-

cate fanboy advocate for the personalized service from Tim Volikas and his knowledgeable yet patient staff. With 60 years in the business, Pinocchio's—one of the first pizzerias around—grew the Beer Garden from a modest start. So, next time you want to try six different pumpkin beers, satisfy finicky friends or learn to distinguish an APA from an IPA, head to the beer mecca in Media. Also a perfect stop before dining in a local BYOB. Pinocchio's, no lie.

BEST TAPROOM

Station Taproom

207 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown
484-593-0560 / StationTaproom.com

From the exterior, it may not attract your attention, but the line outside gives away its popularity. Inside, everybody knows your name! Or should, if you appreciate good food and drink. The truffle fries are legendary. So are the Carolina-style pulled pork and Thai red curry that gets raves from regulars. But a big draw is the well-curated beer lists—over 30 beers in bottles (up to \$35 for 22 oz. of Firestone Walker Double DPA) and five to ten on tap, plus more than 30 brands of whiskey and single-malt scotch. And a world-class rating from the Beer Advocate. The Station Taproom is by the R5, so no need to Uber home.

BEST PUB

The Whip Tavern

1383 N. Chatham Rd., West Marlborough
610-383-0600 / WhipTavern.com

With a new Executive Chef—Anne Coll, from Susannah Foo Gourmet Kitchen and Meritage—and ten years under its belt, this traditional English pub is better than ever. Coll is sourcing many ingredients locally and tweaking dishes to perfection. Try the Doe Run Cheese plate, Welsh rarebit and bubble and squeak. Follow up with fish and chips, bangers and mash or a seafood curry that visiting Brits deem authentic. Dessert: sticky toffee pudding. Sample The Whip's selection of British and American beers and ciders. Ambiance is pure Chester County horse country with views of Doe Run Creek.

BEST SNACKS & APPS

Bistro On Bridge

210 Bridge St., Phoenixville
610-935-7141 / BistroOnBridge.com

The outdoor space along Phoenixville's Bridge Street, with comfy sofas and lots of tables, has been a magnet for folks looking to sample 130+ craft beers, 21 beers from rotating taps

and specialty cocktails at Bistro on Bridge. The drink list is matched by a drool-worthy selection of snacks, apps and light fare. From the signature Bistro buffalo wings, to crispy ribs, duck nachos, risotto balls, bacon cheeseburger pizza, caprese panini and *bacon truffle popcorn!* Plus the on-trend Cubano egg rolls and Cubano sandwich (marinated pork, black forest ham, Swiss, dill pickle slices, mustard aioli, hot pressed Cuban bread). We want it all. And we want it now.

BEST DOGGIE DINING

Appetites on Main

286 Main St., Exton
610-594-2030 / AppetitesOnMain.com

Take your pooch out for a treat and head for the patio at Appetites on Main where they've long been dog-friendly (also kid-friendly, but that's a different category). For those who don't want to keep Fido in the car while they enjoy a beer and great bar food, this is a doggie dining destination. A special doggie menu includes hot dogs (of course), burgers, chicken and prime rib and steak (with bacon!), so no more begging by your furry friend for your food. Water bowls provided, too. More spots on *BringFido.com*.

BEST AMERICAN CONTINENTAL

The Farmhouse Restaurant at Loch Nairn

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


It's fitting that great American fare is served in this charming 18th-century farmhouse setting out in the country. (It's on a golf course, but the country setting predominates.) Within minutes of talking about The Farmhouse, someone will mention the renowned crab cakes—so memorable some folks won't order them anywhere else. There's a prix fixe menu (\$39) and the dinner menu covers much-loved classics—fillet mignon, duck, rack of lamb, even surf and turf. In homage to its Avondale location, there are mushrooms—in the soup or a sauté appetizer. Plus classic desserts, like cheesecake, strawberry shortcake and bananas foster. A setting for many celebrations, including weddings.

BEST ASIAN FUSION


Nectar


1091 Lancaster Ave.
610-725-9000 / TasteNectar.com

A towering 18-foot silkscreen Buddha presides over the nexus of many worlds at Nectar, where acclaimed chef Patrick Feury's cuisine is Asian-inspired with French accents. The



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235 Lancaster Ave. Frazer, PA
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BEST of the BEST 2016

ambiance: NYC hip meets Main Line elegance. It's difficult to choose from the extensive menu (many dishes beg to be shared), but knowledgeable waitstaff provide dead-on recommendations. Edamame dumplings star in Dim Sum bento box for two. Sushi, sashimi and rolls are uber-fresh. Anything with lobster—fried rice, pad Thai and wok lobster (B-52s fans, this one's for you!)—fetches compliments as does wok chili tenderloin of beef and grilled filet. Two outstanding desserts: mini-donuts with three dipping sauces and Chester County artisan cheese plate. In 2015, Nectar made *Philly Mag's* Best Suburban Restaurant list while its wine list, which includes many PA bottles, earned *Wine Spectator's* Best of Award of Excellence. We raise our glasses in agreement!

BEST BISTRO

Sovana Bistro

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

There's bistro in the name, Italian influences throughout, and a clear allegiance to farm-to-table seasonality at this longtime favorite outside Kennett Square. Sovana Bistro has evolved from a local BYOB to a restaurant with a serious rep to lure city folk to this rustic, chic spot with a full bar. The menu hits all the right notes: roasted half chicken with truffle whipped butternut squash purée, toasted quinoa, lemongrass-ginger jus; harrisa skirt steak with pumpkin cous-cous, garlic spinach, sunny side up egg; lamb tacos; date and chorizo pizza; plus sides of crispy Brussels sprouts, hand-stretched burrata, truffled Canestri mac 'n' cheese. A perfect capper: the diverse and delicious artisanal cheese plate, in flights of three or five.

BEST BBQ

Jimmy's BBQ

309 Lancaster Ave., Malvern
610-879-8805 / JimmysBBQ.com

You'll enjoy it most if you pull up in a pickup truck. Since 2009, it's become a Main Line institution. Bacon, pulled chicken or pork, wings, sausages, brisket, salmon, ribs, all smoked for hours and hours. Juicy, tender, smokey. You'll swear the brisket is the best thing you've ever had, until you eat the fall-off-the-bone ribs, and then you'll fall in love with another taste. Savor with Jimmy Mog's own dry rub, plus your choice of sauces: sweet, vinegar and hot. On the side, add mac 'n' cheese, smoked beans, cole slaw ... about eight authentic, no-nonsense, good-tasting choices. Maybe eight is enough.

BEST BURGER

Red Star Craft House

146 Exton Square Mall, Exton
610-524-5893 / RedStarCraftHouse.com

Go for the apps—fried pickles, edamame dumpling, crispy Thai calamari. Or for the beer—over 100 on tap, from Oregon's Rogue Dead Guy Ale to Maryland's Heavy Seas Peg Leg. Or a wood-fired pizza, some tacos or wings. Our recommendation is go for the burger. Red meat! We like the Smokehouse Burger: the pulled pork and cheddar fried onion topping off the hearty charcoaled beef, juicy in the center. Or the grass-fed bison burger with brie? Veggie burger with quinoa and purple rice? For the hard-core, go for the Red Star Burger, with scrapple, cheese and fried egg. Worry about your cholesterol tomorrow. Choose the gluten-free option for balance?

BEST CHINESE NEW YEAR'S

Margaret Kuo's

190 Lancaster Ave., Malvern / 610-647-5488
4-6 W. State St., Media / 610-892-0115
175 E. Lancaster Ave., Wayne / 610-688-7200
MargaretKuo.com

Mark February 8, 4714 on your calendar to start the year of the monkey (known to be witty, intelligent, with a magnetic personality), but make your reservations now to enjoy the multi-course celebration at Margaret Kuo's. Long the spirit behind the Chinese New Year's parade in Media, the Kuos spread the tradition by hosting special feasts, a 40-year tradition! Last year's gourmet dinners featured seven or eight courses, with optional wine pairing (BYOB in Malvern): a selection of hors d'oeuvres, special soup, and courses featuring Peking duck, lobster, fish and filet courses, ending with traditional New Year's sweets. All with special symbolism. Expand your cultural horizons.

BEST FRENCH CUISINE

Sips Bistro & Bar

400 Bridge St., Phoenixville
484-924-9721 / SipsPhoenixville.com

France meets Phoenixville at this welcoming bistro owned by French native, Fabien Chaigneau, former GM of Brasserie Perrier. Whether seated at the antique wood bar, by the outdoor patio's fire pit, or in the aptly named Streets of France brick dining room, you feel at home. The classics draw raves: soupe a l'union gratinee, seared foie gras, charcuterie

and fromage plates, steak frites. And adoration is the only word to describe how diners feel about the escargot in garlic butter, crème brûlée and all-you-can-eat mussels on Mondays. With its Euro-centric wine list, happy hours and BYOB on Sunday evenings, Sips guarantees que personne ne laisse soif (that no one leaves thirsty).

La Baguette Magique

202 W. Market St., West Chester
610-620-4729 / MagicBaguette.com

Oh là là! Try out your high school French or wax nostalgic about that boulangerie on the Left Bank as you step inside La Baguette Magique, the answer to local Francophiles' prayers. Owner/baker Catherine Session is living her childhood dream with the March opening of her authentic French bakery/café specializing in hand-made, traditional breads and old-fashioned tarts and treats. Crusty baguettes and daily bread specials, flaky croissants (love the chocolate), luscious quiches, tasty croque monsieurs, pots of mousse au chocolat—oui! Baked fresh daily, from the best ingredients, treats like the fall tart special (buttery tart crust, orange marmelade, almond cream, meringue almond, candied orange) are displayed in glass cases like the jewels they are.

BEST INDIAN CUISINE

Shere-E-Punjab

208 W. State St., Media / 610-891-0400
301 Byers Dr., Glen Mills / 484-841-6345
5059 State Rd., Drexel Hill / 484-452-8041
ShereEPunjab.com

So good there are three locations—Glen Mills, Drexel Hill and Media, which expanded its space to include a bar. Off Baltimore Pike in a mall, the Glen Mills spot delights when Chef Zail Singh Shergill greets us and we spot the turbans of several diners and the soft undercurrent of conversations in an Indian dialect. We settle in with orders of pashawari naan—light, fluffy, from a traditional clay oven—and lamb samosas—perfectly crisped—before moving to the main dish: chilly chicken, the chef's specialty, and shrimp vindaloo. The chicken, marinated, cooked as in northwest India, is superb. The vindaloo is wonderfully spiced; the shrimp are plump, succulent. All enough to draw you back again. And again.

Bangles Indian Cuisine

889 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown
610-269-9600 / BanglesIndianCuisine.com

Downingtown is the dining destination for dosas now that Craig LaBan dubbed the onion rava dosa one of 2014's "15 Best Things

I Ate.” Calling it “hauntingly good,” he raved about its semolina-rice batter scented with curry leaves and ginger. That’s just one item on the six-page dinner menu at this upscale BYOB Indian eatery in the Ashbridge Shopping Center. Some say the southern Indian dishes are stronger, but there’s so much to love that fans keep returning and sampling. Lunch buffets, a three-course chef’s tasting menu (\$29) and all your favorite versions of paneer, samosas, biryanis, tandoori dishes and more. Options for vegetarians and lamb-lovers alike.

BEST ITALIAN CUISINE

Tonino’s Pizza and Pasta

235 Lancaster Ave., Malvern

610-240-9566 / ToninosPizzaAndPasta.com

“Hidden gem” gets tossed around with reckless abandon, but for this two-year-old, family-run BYOB, the phrase fits. Yes—the restaurant is in a plain-Jane shopping center, but the pizza, homemade pasta, paninis and traditional Italian-American dishes shine like Sophia Loren. Pizzas come in two styles (thin-crust, round Napolitana and thick-crust, square Sicilian) by the slice or pie. Salmon scampi, pappardelle with Bolognese sauce, and special Sunday ragu—meatball, sausage, stuffed braciola in hearty tomato sauce—are why we’re thrilled the Scotto family set up shop in Malvern for dining and catering.

La Verona

114 E. State St., Kennett Square

610-444-2244 / LaVeronaPA.com

After strolling through Longwood Gardens, take your appetite to this northern Italian favorite in downtown Kennett. In winter, we like a fireside table, the ideal setting for tucking into mushroom gratin, house-made burrata salad and fried calamari, all popular starters. For entrées, try bronzino or house-made ravioli (spinach-mushroom or lobster-filled when offered). There’s a full bar or BYO (only 1-2 bottles) for a \$7 corkage fee. Live music on Thursdays and Saturdays.

BEST JAPANESE CUISINE

Lily’s Asian Restaurant

104 W. State St., Kennett Square

610-925-3700 / LilySushiandGrill.com

The name spans lots of cooking styles, but the Japanese dishes shine here. By now everyone in Chester County and beyond knows of Lily’s all-you-can-eat sushi Tuesdays, and rightly so. Don’t forget to sample the sashimi, which ben-

efits from the same freshness and care, and the sushi and sashimi bento boxes for lunch get raves. For variety, try the teriyaki, teppanyaki and hibachi portions of the menu with chicken, steak, salmon and scallops as options. And who doesn’t love tempura? Yes, there are Chinese and Thai dishes, too, so you can get that bang, bang shrimp or pad thai. Kids menu and BYOB. What’s not to love?

BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Más Mexicali

102 E. Market St., West Chester

610-918-6280 / MasMexicali.com

Unless it’s winter, or rainy or worse, we like to head for the roof, order one of about a dozen margaritas, and enjoy a bird’s-eye view of downtown West Chester. On the way to the top, you’ll pass the sounds and scents of Mexico—sizzling fajitas, tacos and burritos, fresh guacamole and pico de gallo tempt us. After sunset, we descend to the Cantina and sway to la musica. The steak a la tampiquena and Baja-style paella are excellent, flavorful and delicious, worth sharing and savouring. After dinner, we head for the Tequila Bar and Velvet Lounge, with the largest tequila selection in the area. Y sera una muy linda noche.

BEST BUDGET MEXICAN FOOD

El Comalito Mexican Taqueria

2 N. 5 Points Rd., West Chester

610-701-6456 / ElComalitoTaqueria.com

When we bid good-bye to Billy Buggers on Five Points Road in West Chester, we didn’t know we’d say hola to our new favorite authentic, homestyle Mexican restaurant at that same location. With a menu primarily in Spanish (Facebook, too), El Comalito is run by the folks from the former Don Gabriel’s, also of West Chester. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner with a la cart or platters—\$12 for steak fajitas with beans and rice—plus weekend specials (beef tripe stew), this cash-only spot offers all the classics you crave. In fact, there’s a menu section labeled antojitos (cravings).

FAVORITE PIZZA

Vecchia Pizzeria

249 Bridge St., Phoenixville / 610-933-1355

134 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne / 484-580-6135

Facebook.com/Vecchia-Pizzeria

Do a few things very well. That’s the philosophy behind the short menu and addi-

tive pizzas at Vecchia’s, a place we love so much our car headed there on its own even when fire closed them down most of the summer. Wood-fired Neapolitan pies, thin blistered crust, perfect toppings imported from Italy. Chef Frank Nattle built a devoted following in Phoenixville before opening the North Wayne Ave. BYOB in 2014. Pick the classic regina margherita, with fresh buffalo mozzarella, and the covaccino, piled with arugula, prosciutto and shaved parmigiano. We never have room for the Nutella dessert pizza and have yet to snag a \$5 margherita lunch special, but it’s still our pizza paradise.

BEST PRIX FIXE MENU

Twelves Grill & Café

10 Exchange Pl., West Grove

610-869-4020 / TwelvesGrill.com

A \$12 prix fixe lunch menu on the 12th of each month marks the significance of that number to Tim and Kristin Smith, chef and owners of this BYOB in a converted 1880s bank building in West Grove. (Hint about 12s: birthdays, anniversary, first date.) Both Smiths rose through the best area restaurant before opening this one in 2008. Now their \$10 prix fixe menu for kids and \$25 prix fixe for adults on Tuesday—Thursday make a visit warranted. The cheese plate, portobello fries, quinoa and butternut squash salad, oysters, monkfish and grass-fed local beef burger get praise. Honoring all local foods, they waive the corkage for local wines.

BEST SANDWICH

Westtown Meats & Deli

1030 Old Wilmington Pk., West Chester

610-696-5588 / WesttownMeatMarket.com

Maybe it’s the beef sliced right on the premises, maybe it’s the fresh Amoroso rolls. Whatever the reason, fans agree this off-the-beaten-path, mom-and-pop operation turns out cheesesteaks to rival Philly’s. Three more reasons to visit: hoagies, burgers and anything—roasted turkey, chicken salad, honey ham—on the white sandwich bread baked fresh every day at Westtown. Look for daily specials on Facebook, including inventive combinations like the burger dog (just what it sounds like) and jalapeño cheddar pork burgers. Still hungry? Add a side of cheese fries and homemade brownie for dessert.

BEST SHAWARMA

Desert Rose

305 W. State St., Media

484-442-8012 / DesertRoseMediaPA.com



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Jason and Nataii invite you in for a blending of Moroccan, Israeli and Iraqi food. Get the shawarma, even if you're embarrassed to pronounce the object of your desires—a massive house-made pita filled with hummus, tahini and other fillings—like chicken, tomato, cucumber, eggplants. Worth a special stop in Media. The falafel also has its fans. Ah, if only the nations would get along as well

BEST SEAFOOD

Harry's Fish Market & Grill

101 S. Market St., Wilmington
302-777-1500 / HarrySeafoodGrill.com

What makes us wild about Harry's? The energetic vibe, views of Wilmington's Cristina River, and fresh, fresh, fresh seafood. While the menu is updated daily, we always find a variety of East and West Coast oysters, inventive ceviches, sashimi and fish and shellfish entrées with seasonal sides. On Sunday, a.k.a. Lobster Day, enjoy a 1½ lb. Main lobster with New England clam chowder and apple crisp. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, savor half-price oysters. With lunch, dinner and tapas menus, this upscale, casual spot is ideal for dining before a show at nearby Delaware Theater Company, after a brisk walk along the Riverfront—or any time you crave lobster mashed potatoes.

BEST SMALL PLATES

Black Powder Tavern

1164 Valley Forge Rd., Wayne
610-293-9333 / BlackPowderTavern.com

This historic tavern boasts it's been "raising spirits since 1746." The craft American fare ensures the mission continues. A happy hour menu—served 5 to 7 and 9 to 10—plus small plates on the lunch and dinner menus cover lots of territory. Polenta fries, cheesy devils on horseback (gorgonzola stuffed dates wrapped in bacon), and mussels, both traditional and "revolutionary" (code for spicy) are favorites. A strong craft beer list—featured beers, rotating choices on tap, and a bounty of bottles—specialty cocktails, and a wine list ranging from bright crisp whites to rich velvety reds help you savor the flavors.

BEST STEAKHOUSE

Stockyard Inn Steakhouse

1147 Lititz Pk., Lancaster
717-394-7975 / StockyardInn.com

Maybe not today, maybe not tomorrow, but soon and for the rest of your life you will crave a steak. Red meat done well—and not well

done. When that time comes, we recommend a drive to Lancaster County, to one of the country's oldest continuously operating steakhouses with 60 years under the Fournaris family. In a farmhouse once owned by President Buchanan, the Stockyard Inn is an elegant setting for savoring steak—filet mignon or petite filet with pinot noir reduction, New York strip or Delmonico in demi-glace, filet tips or sirloin, all grilled to melt-in-your-mouth perfection. *Wine Spectator*-approved list, exceptional crab cakes and legendary cheesecake. The real deal.

BEST SUSHI

Bluefin Sushi & Asian Cuisine

1102 Baltimore Pk., Glen Mills
610-459-2055 / BlueFinGlenMills.com

This small, lovely place in a shopping center continues to serve up excellent, fresh fish artistically presented. Some say such fresh fish, offered in good size pieces, has no need for extra sauces and seasoning. Others enjoy the visual display and tantalizing combinations. Like the Spicy Girl Roll (spicy tuna, salmon, white fish, avocado, cream cheese, deep fried with eel sauce, spicy mayo), Rainbow Roll (crabmeat, cucumber, avocado, tuna, salmon, white fish, with tobiko), or Rich Man's Roll (spicy crunch salmon, avocado, salmon, special sauce, tobiko). Don't miss the lunch special of five pieces of sushi and a California roll for \$10.

BEST TACO

Jaco Juice & Taco Bar

8 W. Gay St., West Chester
610-436-4177 / BacoJuiceAndTaco.com

With taco in its name, a menu with seven regular choices and a shout-out in November by *Philly Mag* for top 20 area taco places, Jaco Taco (formerly Baco Taco) rings our bell for tacos. Savor specials like buffalo shrimp tacos, favorites like the fresh fish (not fried) and pulled pork, or two veggie options (one even has kale)—all with a variety of tasty accompaniments, including tomatillo salsa and roasted poblano crema. Fresh tasting and satisfying. Add sides of rice and beans. Or match with a fresh juice or smoothie—a Yolo or Hipster? Bueno.

BEST VEGETARIAN OPTIONS

Raw Can Roll Café

767 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne
484-580-8454 / RawCanRollCafe.com

Taste the flavorful dishes and juices at this teeny-tiny café near Whole Foods Devon,

and you'll drop your assumptions about vegetarian and vegan like a hot, organic potato. Eighty percent of the menu is raw, twenty percent cooked, and all items are vegan—most are almost entirely organic, kosher and gluten-free. Go for fresh juices and smoothies, then stay for Mexican taco salad, mock chicken salad and pad thai with zucchini "noodles." One regular lavished praise on the Kosmic Kale Salad, while others gushed over the Thai spring rolls with ginger peanut sauce. Many vegan restaurants fail dessert, but Raw Can Roll scores with peanut butter ganache and coconut nutty brownies.

BEST COOKING CLASSES

Kitchen Workshop in Paoli

21 Plank Ave., Ste 204, Paoli
610-993-2665 / Kitchen-Workshop.com

Full bellies and belly laughs mark the hands-on cooking classes at The Kitchen Workshop. Gathered around the kitchen's island, up to 12 students chop, dice and knead while owner Art Roman peppers easy-to-follow instructions with amusing anecdotes and good-natured ribbing. Classes come in a variety of flavors. Some focus on skills (Knife Skills, the always popular Boot Camp). Others offer international tastes—Mexican and Thai to Croatian and African with Global Street Food for adventurous omnivores. In a dinner-movie rut? Try couples-only classes. Many lessons end with a family-style feast at the large dining table, and everyone goes home with recipes—and maybe a cookbook from Roman's extensive collection.

BEST LOCAL COOKBOOK

Zahav: A World of Israeli Cooking

237 St. James Pl., Philadelphia
215-625-8800 / ZahavRestaurant.com

Like the best novels, the best cookbooks have memorable characters, a distinctive voice and strong sense of place. *Zahav*, by Michael Solomonov and Steve Cook, is that kind of cookbook. Threaded through recipes for mezze (small dishes), borekas (flaky filled pastries), and salatim (vegetables) are stories of Solomonov's life and family told with a candor we'll remember long after closing the nearly 400-page book. Whether he's waxing poetic on Philadelphia restaurants, the Israeli love of barbecue, or tehina (that sesame paste at the heart of hummus and so many Israeli dishes), he reminds us that food—like life—is always evolving. ♦

MORE FOOD NEWS ON
COUNTYLINESMAGAZINE.COM.

FOOD TRUCK NATION

The growing popularity of food trucks has made this phenomenon more than just a traveling kitchen selling coffee and doughnuts. From gourmet hot dogs to upscale eats, you'll find something for every taste, made to order, often with ingredients from local sources. At festivals, farm markets, campuses, music venues ... you'll find these restaurants on wheels everywhere. Even at weddings!

Since most trucks boast a distinctive design, it's easy to spot your favorite. Here are a few that are well worth sampling. Check websites for their latest schedules.



HEART FOOD TRUCK – Owners Michael Falcone and Tonda Woodling, formerly of Pottstown's Funky Lil' Kitchen, invite you to sample their delicious fare. Serving seasonal foods from local, family-owned farms. Sample pork roll sandwich, trout filet sandwich, ratatouille, mushroom chili. HeartFoodTruck.com.

KA' CHI – Incorporating authentic Korean flavors you'd expect, but with a distinct modern flare made fresh every day from family recipes. You'll find rice bowls or kimchi, but also tacos, sliders, cheesesteaks and sloppy "cho's." Ka' Chi pulls up curbside throughout West Chester and Southeastern PA. KaChiTruck.com.

OINK AND MOO – Ranked #6 in *The Daily Meal's 101 Best Food Trucks in America* and among the 8 Best by *Zagat*, they started with a passion for great BBQ and quickly became popular. Sample their award-winning chili, baby back ribs, brisket or pulled pork sliders, tacos and quesadillas. OinkAndMooBBQ.com.

THE COW AND THE CURD – Antibiotic and hormone-free cheese, shipped weekly from Wisconsin, coated in a beer batter and fried. They arrived on the scene in 2013 and became a "Best of Philly" winner. Follow them on Twitter and Facebook for where to find the truck in our area. TheCowAndTheCurd.com.



DIA DOCE – Gourmet cupcakes baked fresh daily using all natural ingredients. The menu changes weekly based on seasonal, local ingredients. Founder/baker, Thais Viggue, has won many awards including Food Network's *Cupcake Wars*. Look for the bright green truck or stop by her West Chester store. DiaDoce.com.

MAC MART CART – Ranked #28 on *The Daily Meal's 101 Best Food Trucks in America, 2015*, they ascribe to the notion that everything really is better with (you know) ... but also incorporate cheesesteaks, brisket, sausage, veggies and even corn dogs into their delicious mac 'n' cheese creations. MacMartCart.com.

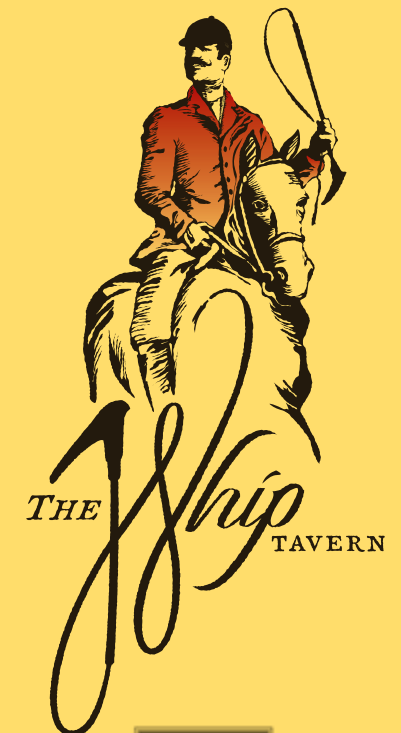
MAMA'S MEATBALLS – Try gourmet handmade meatballs, like Mama's Ball, Rocky Ball-Boa, Datsa Spicy Ball, Veg Da Ball and more. Check out the website and Facebook for the menu. MamasMeatballs.com; [Facebook.com/MamasMeatballs](https://www.facebook.com/MamasMeatballs).

NOMADIC PIES – Now with a storefront in Kennett Square, Nomadic Pies' food truck still shows up all over Chester County with mouth-watering pies—savory, sweet and quiche. Pies reflect the local produce available. NomadicPies.com.



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Tasting Your Way to Better Beer

Bryan J. Kolesar

THE BATTLE OF TASTES GREAT, LESS FILLING WAS WON BY BEERS WITH GREAT TASTE. HERE'S HOW TO FIND THEM.

DO YOU LIKE THE BEER YOU'RE DRINKING? YES? Well then, good. You may not want to read more because there's not much that's better than enjoying what you're sipping.

But, would you like to take your beer appreciation a step further? Do you want to know why you enjoy it? Dive deeper into the process of savoring great beer? If so, then read on ...

SERVE IT UP

Does glassware matter? I get asked this question quite a bit, and my answer—as with many things—is to not overthink it.

If nothing else, you've got to pour the beer into a glass to more fully appreciate it. So, you have to grab some type of glass. One of the best all-around designs is a snifter—it simultaneously allows for both the capture and the release of aromas as a result of the glass's shape. Any glass with a wider bowl at the bottom and a slightly smaller opening at the top works as well.

Try this at home: Look for a brewery's gift pack of beers that might include a piece of glassware. One of my favorites is an easy-to-hold 500 mL glass emblazoned with the brewery's logo.

Don't try this: Das Bier Boot. Might be fun for a college kid to drink from a boot-shaped glass but for an adult, better to display it on a shelf as a relic of your rowdy past.

Next level: Once you've begun your path to drinking a variety of beers, a common next step is collecting glassware specific to styles and breweries. Be forewarned—you'll likely need a separate cabinet.

CHECK IT OUT

As you eagerly anticipate the first sip, first observe the beer. Is it pitch black? That could suggest a malt base producing dark chocolate flavors. Cloudy? That suggests an unfiltered beer and presenting a variety of yeast-driven fruit aromas and flavors. A foamy head? Excessive carbonation can interfere with the intended flavors in beer.



Standard Reference Measure Chart

Try this at home: Pour several beers of the same style (e.g., Pale Ale) into separate glasses and observe how the use of different malts can affect the color of the same style of beer.

Don't try this: Use a penlight at happy hour—unless you can handle the scorn of being labeled a beer snob.

Next level: Download an SRM chart (standard reference measure) as a handy reference to identify typical color intensity levels by beer style—from the pale straw of Pilsner to the rich dark brown hues of Imperial Stout.

Sniff It, But Don't Scratch

Next, focus on the aroma. Sense of smell certainly plays into sense of taste, so this step is critical. By taking time to smell your beer before drinking it, you'll encounter some variety of malt-driven aromas (roasted, smoke, chocolate), hop-derived aromas (citrus, floral, dank), and yeast-centric aromas (fruit, spice, and yes, even "funk").

Try this at home: Pick up a few different Stouts and look for roasted aromas, notes of chocolate, or smoke. To compare and contrast, find some German Hefeweizens

and try to detect yeast-driven aromas such as banana and clove.

Don't try this: While moderate swirling is good, aggressive swirling to the point you spill the beer is unnecessary and looks sloppy. So, too, is dunking your nose in the beer.

Next level: Find beers advertised as single hop beers or single malt beers to sample. This will help you hone your senses to identify specific grains and hop varieties.

Time to Taste, Finally

As with aroma, the combination of malts, hops and yeast will affect the beer's taste. The interplay of the type, amount, and duration of use of all three in the brewing process determines everything from the look to the aroma, flavor and alcohol level.

Barley, typically the dominant malted grain in beer, often showcases itself with a variety of hallmark flavors such as toasted, nutty, sweet and chocolate. Rye can bring a spicier character to the glass, while oats can help soften the texture—or "mouthfeel"—of a beer.

Hops, when added early in the brewing process, bring forth a harsher bitterness in contrast to hops added very late in the process, which contribute more to the aroma than flavor. And yeast, with its magical fer-



mentation by-products, offers up a seemingly never-ending set of flavors such as bananas, strawberries or pineapple.

Try this at home: Grab some German or Czech Lagers and contrast the clean German malts with the spicy Czech hops. Or, go bigger and find some Imperial IPAs that pack a big wallop of hops sporting both pine and grapefruit flavors.

Don't try this: Spit. Unless you're a professional conducting a five-hour judging,

you shouldn't need to worry about inebriation from a small sampling of beers. Enjoy the full experience of the tasting from sight, to smell, to taste, to, yes, even the aftertaste.

Next level: Do a blind test. Find a trusted friend to purchase a variety of beers, pour them into opaque glassware, and allow you to sample without the prejudice of seeing the bottle labeling or colors that can taint your overall assessment.

Have Fun

Above all, have fun with your beer tasting. Don't let setting expectations or stressing about the process of tasting beer interfere with your pleasure. I've conducted tastings where I simply ask a binary question such as: Do you like Beer A? or Do you like Beer A or Beer B better?

Enjoy the experience and the journey, for another beer awaits you at the end of each hard earned day. Cheers! ♦

Bryan J. Kolesar, local to Chester County, has been writing about beer for over ten years and maintains a blog, BrewLounge.com. The summer of 2015 brought his first published book—Beer Lover's Mid-Atlantic: Best Breweries, Brewpubs & Beer Bars—to both online and physical bookstores. It's a complete 416-page guide to beer-lover's destinations of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FALL SEASON

WELL-GROOMED FIELDS, THE LATEST equipment, caring coaches: the independent and private schools in *County Lines* Country truly excel at athletic training. Several have assembled virtual dynasties, ones that colleges recognize and value. Colleges, meanwhile, perhaps recognizing the discipline, achievement and teamwork of these athletic endeavors, have extended opportunities for graduating seniors.

Here's a short recap of some highlights of the past season and a preview of where you can continue watching local students when they play for top colleges around the country.

BOYS' SOCCER

Soccer continues to grow in popularity. And in Boys' Soccer, three schools dominated their divisions this year: **Haverford School**, **Malvern Preparatory School** and **Tower Hill School**. The schools had an impressive combined record of 43-6-7. And their best players have committed to top colleges next year.

Haverford, for example, finished the season as Inter-Ac champion, with an overall record of 19-3-2. **Connor Gregory**, forward, was a regional All-American last year, All-State and Conference Player-of-the-Year, who will attend Brown University. **Shane** and **Connor Bradley**,

twins, at midfield and center back, were both selected as Delco Players-of-the-Year. Both have committed to Villanova University.

Malvern Prep was 12-1-2 for the season. **David Bettenhausen**, midfielder, and **Chris Savino**, at the defensive midspot, were co-captains. The former will attend Villanova.

Tower Hill finished the season at 12-2-3. **Steven Siegfried**, their co-captain and forward, is ranked as the #5 player in Delaware. Four times, he's been All-State and three times All-Conference Players-of-the-Year. He'll attend Franklin and Marshall. **Spencer Johnson**, the other co-captain and midfielder, twice earned All-Conference. According to his coach, he's a leader, respected teammate, and the "epitome of a student-athlete."

Episcopal was a close contender at 14-7-4. **Matt Freese** their junior goal keeper, unfortunately, broke his ankle midseason. But, with a GPA of 4.23, he has committed verbally to Harvard.

Others who have distinguished themselves on the field are **Wilmington Friends Schools' Patrick Haubert** at center midfield, **Westtown School's Ian Davies** at midfield, **The Hill School's Preston Gordon**, defender, and **Sanford Academy's Max Curschmann**, a central defender. **Alvin Dahn**, a junior and midfielder/striker at **The Phelps School**, recruited from Liberia during the Ebola crisis, also had a strong season.

GIRLS' SOCCER

In Girls' Soccer, several schools—**Episcopal**, **Academy of Notre Dame de Namur**, **Agnes Irwin School**, **Westtown School**—created impressive records and developed exceptional athletes. In turn, most have committed to colleges, for soccer or lacrosse.

Episcopal was the Inter-Ac champion and the PAISSA runner-up. **Jess Shanahan**, a midfielder, is going to LaSalle to play soccer. **Claudia Becker**, defender, and **Meghan Manley**, center midfielder, are headed for Davidson and Wesleyan, respectively, to play lacrosse.

Agnes Irwin's Kristin Burnetta, a midfielder, was the leading goal



Emily Sands, Westtown School



Connor Bradley Haverford School

scorer in the school's history. All-Delco, All-Main-Line, she's going to Harvard to play lacrosse. **Claire Micheletti**, defender, who will attend Colgate, **Kate White**, defender, who's going to Dartmouth, and **Emily Fryer**, midfielder/forward, the team's "unsung hero," committed to lacrosse at Brown, had outstanding years.

Notre Dame coach says **Phoebe McClernon**, defender, has an "abundance of talent." She has committed to University of Virginia for soccer.

The coach at **Westtown** says **Emily Sands**, midfielder, is "without question the most talented girls' soccer player to ever play at Westtown School." Selected as the top girls' player this year in the league and the All-State-Team, she's headed to University of Pennsylvania.

Ellie Greenberg at the **Baldwin School** is a talented forward/midfielder, who also runs track. She has not committed to a college as yet.

FOOTBALL

This may not be Texas, but no fall sport here brings out family and friends like football. Because school commitment and a relatively large student body are required, few area independent schools can field a football team. But those that do consistently have winners.

Haverford, at 10-1, leads the way. Their wide receiver **Dox Aiken**, three-time All-Inter-Ac player, twice Inter-Ac Player-of-the-Year, and 2014 All-Delco Player-of-the-Year, is going to Virginia for lacrosse. **Mickey Kober**, at linebacker and right tackler, was twice All-Inter-Ac and once All-Delco. He's got Ivy-caliber grades. **Kevin Carter**, the Fords' QB, was injured early in the season, unfortunately. Nevertheless, an All-Inter-Ac player and All-Delco in prior seasons, he's got plenty of college options.

Malvern Prep, 8-2, also had a great football team. Linebacker **Pat Finley** is a leading tackler with a GPA of 4.1. **Rashon Lusane**, wide receiver, has an offer from Navy but is still looking. Other standouts include **Zac Fernandez**, junior running back; **Kevin**



Megan Vermeil, Villa Maria Academy

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Doyle, sophomore QB, and O'Shaan Allison, sophomore running back.

At Episcopal, Christian Feliziani, wide receiver and defensive back, has committed to play lacrosse at Ohio State. Dee Barlee, running back and linebacker, according to his coach, is a "great kid" who still hasn't made up his mind on college.

Wilmington Friends had an excellent season, ending 9-2. Justin Beneck, their QB, scored 17 touchdowns. Henry Gise, a junior running back and middle line backer, ran for 469 yards—a 9.5 yard average—and Steven Maguire, fullback, had 465 yards for 10 touchdowns.

With a 7-3 record, Tower Hill also had a successful season. Noah Thomas, running back and defensive end, averaged 5.2 yards per carry and is looking at several Division 1 colleges. He has a GPA of 3.62. Brandon Nitsche, who played line, is also considering several schools.

Hill's Austin Bates, All-Mid-Atlantic Prep League wide receiver, has a 3.66 GPA and is looking at Ivies, and Jeremy Subjinski, line, has a 3.7 GPA and also looking at Ivies and Johns Hopkins.

At The Tatnall School, Drew Kobasa, QB, passed for 1891 yards in 10 games. He also plays baseball in the spring. As yet, he has not committed to a college.

FIELD HOCKEY

Our area's independent schools were truly outstanding in Field Hockey. Episcopal was 21-0; Villa Maria, 21-1-1; Notre Dame, 15-3; Tower Hill, 13-2; Westtown, 13-4-1; Padua Academy, 14-2-2. Plus, many student-athletes combined their sports with outstanding academic records.

Maddie Bacscai, defender, and Margaux Paolino, midfielder, of Episcopal were selected to Team USA. They'll go to Princeton and Duke respectively.

At Villa Maria Academy, Megan Vermeil, forward, and Abby Siana, forward, were both named to League All-Star Team and Senior All-Star Team, and both committed to Villanova.

MaryKate Neff, a junior at Notre



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Dame, playing at all positions except goalies, has awards too long to list. She's committed to Princeton. Quinn Maguire, also a junior, playing forward, is headed to St. Joseph's.

Westtown's Julia Richards, a midfielder, was three times Friends All-League and MVP. Taking an advanced load, she's committed to Middlebury College.

Tower Hill's Gretchen Zungaila, back, was All-State and a regional All-American with a 3.87 GPA. Abby Manning, back, was All-State, and her GPA is 3.75. Lange Scanlan, back, has a GPA of 3.94.

Brigid Gilwa, midfielder, was Country Day School of the Sacred Heart's "driving force" on offense. GPA of 4.03, committed to Tufts. Mary Rose O'Donnell, defender, also came up huge at critical times.

Padua Academy's Molly Bobjak, midfielder, was three times All-Conference. She's committed to Kutztown.

Sanford and Wilmington Friends also compiled winning records. At Sanford, Carter Ayars, defender, stood out. Three-time All-Conference and twice All-State, she's destined for University of Louisville. Forward Merritt Gates of Wilmington Friends as yet is undecided on a college.

Although we weren't able to cover all the fall sports at our area independent schools, it's clear from this sample that schools developed and are developing formidable teams and talented student-athletes. Besides physical skills, these students learned the values of discipline, honor and teamwork, life lessons.

Many student-athletes simultaneously compiled outstanding academic records attracting colleges' attention. And the students' accomplishments, on and off the field, should continue in college and beyond. We will be watching.

But now, we take some time as their fans to celebrate them and wish them the best. ♦

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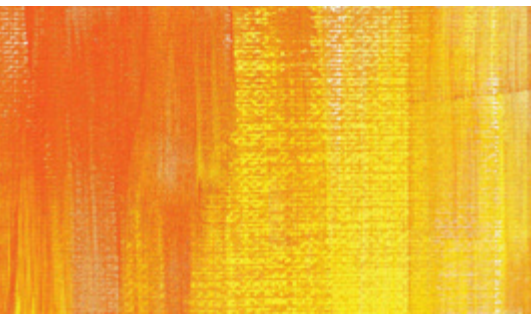
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