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63 Acres | Converted Barn | Pool
Par 3 Golf Hole | Apple Orchard
Pond | Subdivision Possible
\$3,400,000



Near Marshallton

4 BR, 4.1 BA | 61.3 Acres | Great Views!
Fabulous Floor Plan | Volumes of Space
Large Barn | Grand Pool Area | A Showcase!
\$3,200,000



Chester Springs

Antique 4 BR, 1.1 BA | 57.4 Acres
Abuts Bryn Coed Preserve | Barn w/15 stalls
Great Easement Potential | Oversize Ring
\$2,890,000



Unionville

3BR, 2.1 BA | 59.2 Acs. | Great Stable
Allowed to Build Primary Residence
Heart of Equestrian Area | Great Schools
\$2,490,000



Unionville

4 B\$, 3.2 BA | 54.5 Acres | Pool
Fabulous Master Suite | Stable
Perfect for Entertaining | Tennis Court
\$1,990,000



Unionville

6 BR, 3.1 BA | 35 Acres
Indoor Arena Possible | Pond
24 Stall Barn | Unionville Schools
\$1,699,000



West Marlboro Township

46.2 Acre Parcel | On quiet country road
Midst of equestrian area | Protected views
Unionville-Chadds Ford School District
\$1,685,000



Unionville

77 Acres | Mix of Open & Woodlands
Fabulous Views of Protected Countryside
Equestrian Area | Unionville Schools
\$1,685,000



Birmingham Township

7 BR, 4.2 BA | 28.5 Acres
Greenhouse | Pool | 4-Car Garage
Bank Barn | Unionville Schools
\$1,678,000



Warwick Township

6 BR, 5.1 BA | 22.5 Acres | Very Private!
Historic Farmhouse, Stone Barn & Pond
Near 535 Ac. Warwick Park | Priced to Sell!
\$1,075,000



Honey Brook

3 BR, 2.2 BA | 7.8 or 4 Acres
Spacious Great Room with Kitchen
Super Master Suite & Bath | Lg. Garage
\$685,000



East Bradford

5 BR, 3.1 BA | 2 Private Acres
Open Floor Plan | Large Family Room
Newer Kitchen | West Chester Schools
\$619,900



East Fallowfield

4 BR, 2.1 BA | 2 Private Acres | Pool
Stunning Paneling | High-end Kitchen
Very Impressive Library | Updated Baths
\$595,000



Newlin Township

4 BR, 3 BA | 1.3 Acres | Great Views!
Stunning Kitchen & Baths | Good Location
Unionville Schools | Near Chelsen Preserve
\$569,000



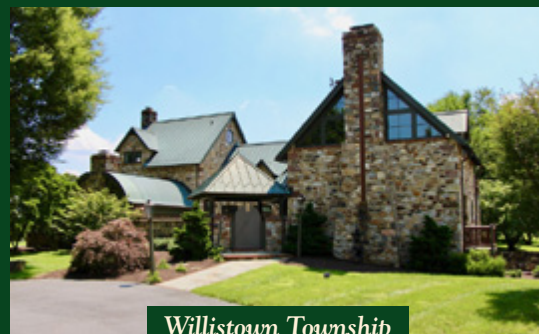
West Chester Borough

2 BR, 1 BA Townhouse | Great Location!
Central A/C & Newer Gas Furnace
Short Walk to Restaurants & WCU
\$325,000



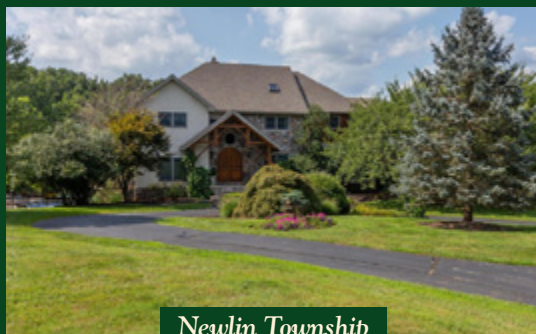
Townhomes

3 BR, 2.1 BA | Southview Townhomes
1 Car Garage | Open Layout
Great Commuting Location
\$219,900



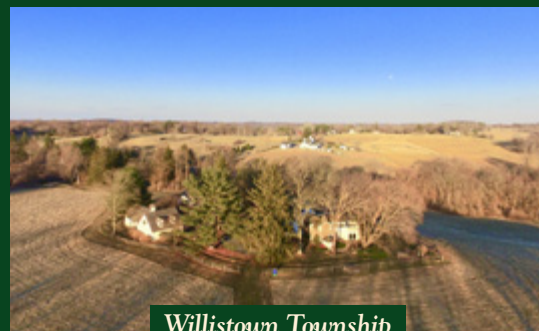
Willistown Township

Exceptional award winning custom home in Radnor Hunt on 10 acres - amazing views and privacy!
Price Upon Request



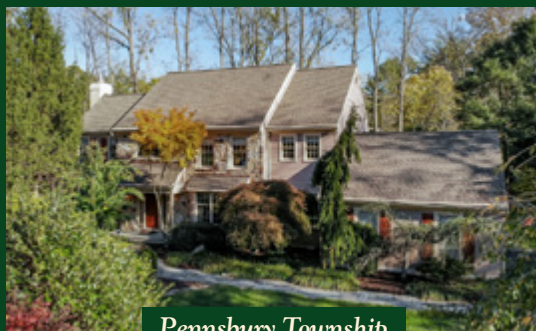
Newlin Township

Custom 4BR timber frame home with finished basement on 4+ acres w/pool & spa, stream and beautiful country views. Includes 2nd one acre parcel. Located in the Unionville School District.
Price Upon Request



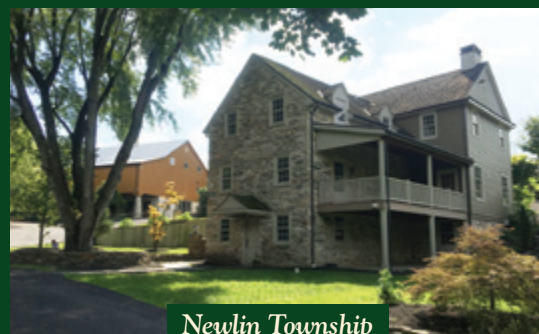
Willistown Township

Unbeatable "ride out" location. Charming home, 2 car garage, squash court & studio. Spectacular views, manageable barn & large tractor shed on 14 acres.
Price Upon Request



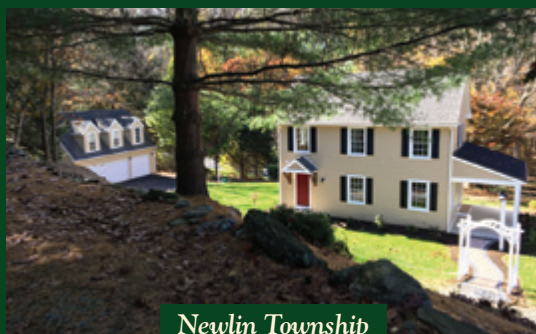
Pennsbury Township

A pastoral setting surrounded by horse farms & agricultural security zone, adjacent to the historic Brandywine Battlefield. Beautifully updated 4BR, 2.5B home w/open floor plan.
Price Upon Request



Newlin Township

Restoration at its finest by Archer & Buchanan. 3 bedroom, 3 baths, plus fabulous kitchen. Large bank barn w/apt, paddocks, run-in sheds, large sand ring, pond and much more on 28.8 acs.
\$1,775,000



Newlin Township

Wonderful new colonial cottage with 2BR & 2B. Stable, pool, studio, separate 3 car garage w/apt. and pasture with run-in shed on 5+/- acres adjoining Cheslen Preserve.
\$895,000



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HAWKS NEST LANE | CHADDS FORD | 2.6 ACRES

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from the EDITOR

Happy New Year! We're excited for what this new decade will bring.

In our first issue of 2020, we focus on great local dining. Our 16th "Best of the Best" feature serves up what's new, worth seeking out and fun to discover. With almost a hundred recommendations—from not-yet-open to local foodie podcast—there's bound to be something to savor. And our Dining Guide offers more options in area towns. Tell us what we missed.

As a major dining destination, West Chester is an essential part of this issue. In "Satisfying Cravings," Malcolm Johnstone highlights the latest additions to the restaurant scene. Check the map we've included to find over 50 places to dine in the Borough.

"Cheers for New Beers" is our tour of the beer scene, looking at new breweries, pubs, pop-up beer gardens and specialty releases from Phoenixville to West Grove and many points in between. Even more places to whet your whistle in 2020!

We've also rounded up a year's worth of Food Events, so start marking your calendar. A Taste of Phoenixville fundraiser—a favorite—is on January 16.

Balancing our food frenzy, Brandywine Table's Alyssa Thayer shares her experience for teaching young palates to enjoy a diverse menu in "Growing Good Eaters." Kale pesto anyone? In another nod to healthy eating, Amy Wachter, M.D., and Julie Garey, RDN, give tips in "Diabetes and Healthy Eating."

Area student-athletes put calories to good use at football, volleyball, water polo and track. In our wrap-up of the fall independent schools sports season, we recognize standouts and wish them good luck in the future and at college.

As always our Best Local Events section includes plenty of family fun and ways to work off any calories you may pick up from following the Dining Guide.

We hope you enjoy this delicious issue.

And thank you for reading *County Lines* this month and all year long!

Jo Anne Durako
Editor

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February

Fine Homes & Design

Private Schools Guide
Downingtown and Exton Focus
Kitchens & Baths • Resource Guide
Historic Preservation • Realtor Tips

COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

January 2020
Volume XLIII, Number 5

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MAGAZINE



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

Ready for Their Close-up. Antique enthusiasts should tune in to the PBS hit “Antiques Roadshow” this month, when historic **Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library** is the featured backdrop for three episodes. Filming occurred last June, when 70 experts in more than 20 specialties and 3,000 guests gathered at Winterthur for appraisals. Viewers will learn more about Henry Francis du Pont, his collections and his estate. Episodes will be aired January 6, 13 and 20.




Chunjie. Also called the Spring Festival or the Chinese New Year. This year Chinese New Year starts on January 25 and runs for 15 days. It follows the lunar calendar, so the actual date changes every year. And if your zodiac sign is the rat, you're in luck—this is once again the Year of the Rat. More than 20 percent of people celebrate the holiday worldwide. Learn more at ChineseNewYear.net, and pick a local Chinese restaurant to visit so you can join in.



Did You Know? If you like learning obscure facts, you're in luck because January 4 is **National Trivia Day**. Celebrate by brushing up on fun winter trivia and sharing it with your friends. Here are a few to get you started. The average snowflake falls at about 3 m.p.h. The snowmobile was invented in 1922 by a 15-year-old boy in Canada. Japanese snow monkeys soak in hot springs during the winter to keep warm. Happy trivia day! FactRetriever.com.



Not Going Anywhere. Locals were disappointed last August to hear the Brandywine Health Foundation wasn't planning the **Strawberry Festival** again. But never fear—the Strawberry Festival *will* happen in 2020, with the Rotary Club of Coatesville as organizer. And the Brandywine Health Foundation will award the Rotary Club a \$30,000 grant to help with costs. So get ready for the 47th year of this four-day extravaganza! BrandywineStrawberryFestival.com.



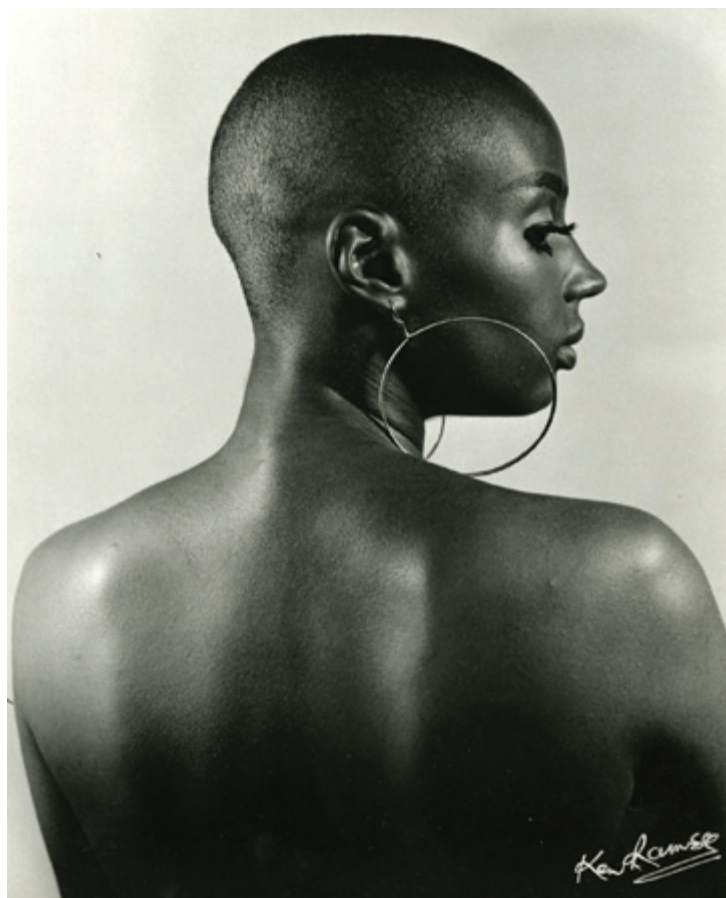
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Posing Beauty in African American Culture is curated by Deborah Willis and organized by Curatorial Assistance Traveling Exhibitions, Pasadena, California. This exhibition is sponsored by M&T Bank and made possible in Delaware by the Johannes R. and Betty P. Krahmer American Art Exhibition Fund. Additional support is provided, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. Image: Susan Taylor, as Model, c. 1970s. Ken Ramsay (1935–2008). Gelatin silver print, 19 3/4 x 15 3/4 inches. Courtesy of Susan Taylor. © Ken Ramsay Foundation.

2301 Kentmere Pkwy | Wilmington, DE
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January Picks Our Picks for top events this month

Kennett Chocolate Lovers Festival January 26



Bring your appetite for dessert! Hundreds of chocolate treats will be available for tasting from professional, amateur and student bakers. You can buy raffle tickets for a year of chocolates, additional tasting tickets and take-home boxes. Benefits United Way of Southern Chester County, which supports health and human service programs for our neediest neighbors. *Unionville High School, 750 Unionville Rd., Kennett Square. VIP entry, noon to 1 p.m., \$35–\$40; regular admission, 1 to 3 p.m., \$20. 610-444-4357; KennettChocolate.org.*

STEMtastic Weekends at Hagley January 19–20, 25–26, February 1–2

Taking the place of Invention Convention, this event lets young inventors and tinkerers take over the Visitor Center on three weekends to investigate the inner workings of electronic gadgets, express their ingenuity by creating an invention and earning a “Hagley patent,” enjoy robotics demonstrations by local robotics teams, and participate in hands-on activities that explore many aspects of coding and robotics. *200 Hagley Creek Rd., Wilmington. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$6–\$8. 302-658-2400; Hagley.org.*



The Keswick Theatre Presents January 11–February 7



Quite a line-up for the New Year! *Jan. 11*, Kashmir–The Live Led Zep-pelin Show; *Jan. 18*, Coolio, Tone Loc, Young MC; *Jan. 19*, Ray On My Mind–The Ray Charles Story; *Jan. 24*, Artie Lange; *Jan. 25*, Steven Wright; *Jan. 31*, Voyage–A Tribute to Journey; *Feb. 1*, Kal Penn; *Feb. 7*, Michael Feinstein & Haley Reinhart. *291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. Visit website for times and tickets. 215-572-7650; KeswickTheatre.com.*

Adventures Above & Below Ground January 25

Come in from the cold and learn how caves have been used by people and animals for thousands of years. Guest speaker Thomas Hawkins takes the audience from Guatemala to Borneo, Hawaii, Mexico, and Kyrgyzstan on some of his spelunking expeditions. Enjoy great conversation, hors d'oeuvres and cash bar at *The Inn at Swarthmore, Swarthmore College, 10 S. Chester Rd., Swarthmore. 4 to 7 p.m. \$25. Adv. reg. required. 610-328-8025; ScottArboretum.org.*



The Philly Home Show January 10–12, 17–19

Check out 2020 decor trends and take home insider secrets and expert advice. Get creative with the Make It, Take It workshops (a VIP workshop with celebrity Jeff Devlin on Jan. 11), design an enviable backyard, shop for unique gift-ware items in Philly's Favorite Finds marketplace, watch the adoptable dogs of the PA SPCA strut in style and more. *PA Convention Center, 1101 Arch St., Phila. Fri., noon to 8 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$3–\$10. 215-274-1948; PhillyHomeshow.com.*



best Local Events

FAMILY FUN

THROUGH DECEMBER 28
Celebrating the Holidays in Kennett Square. Saturday shuttle to and from Longwood Gardens, with timed tickets 1:30 to 6:30 pm. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

THROUGH JANUARY 5
Wild Lights at Elmwood Park Zoo. Millions of lights shine throughout the zoo's 16 acres. Enjoy live entertainment, animal encounters, performances, character appearances and more. Check website for schedule. 1661 Harding Blvd., Norristown. \$7-\$14. 800-652-4143; ElmwoodParkZoo.org.



THROUGH JANUARY 5
A Brandywine Christmas. It's a wonderland with trees and displays, lights, music, the O-gauge model train display and more. 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Daily 9:30 to 4:30. \$6-\$18. 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 19
Delaware Museum of Natural History Presents "Be the Dinosaur: Life in the Cretaceous." Drawing on today's modern technology, this is an interactive exhibit where you'll experience what it was like to roam the Earth 65 million years ago. Hunt. Eat. Hide. Survive. 4840 Kennett Pk., Wilmington. Mon-Sat,



9:30 to 4:30; Sun, noon to 4:30. \$3-\$9. 302-658-9111; DelMNH.org.

THROUGH JANUARY, Wednesdays
Story Time at Reads & Company. Every Wednesday morning at 11 am back at the Reading Rocketship at Reads & Company, 234 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 484-920-3695; ReadsAndCompany.com.

DECEMBER 30-JANUARY 3
Winterbreak Holiday Habitats at Brandywine Zoo. Learn about wild habitats and how animals survive the winter. Each day will focus on a different type of habitat, with fun crafts, games and zoo tours. 1001 N Park Dr., Wilmington. 9 to 3:30. \$40-\$50. 571-7747; BrandywineZoo.org.



JANUARY 10-12
Family Pet Show 2020. Designed to educate and entertain the public about the wonderful world of pets. Special attractions include the Flyball Tournament, Rainforest Reptile Shows, Int'l Cat Assoc. Cat Show and more. Greater Phila. Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Fri, Family Night, 4 to 9, under 12 free; Sat, 10 to 7; Sun., 10 to 5. \$6-\$13. 631-423-0620; FamilyPetShows.com.

JANUARY 12
Family Second Sundays at Delaware Art Museum. Create art, listen to stories, sing songs and have lunch at the museum. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 10 to 4. \$10 donation. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.



FOR THE HOLIDAYS

THROUGH JANUARY 1

Holidays at Hagley. The 1803 du Pont family ancestral home, Eleutherian Mills, will feature holiday decorations, the celebration of Twelfth Night, Twilight Tours and Gingerbread House competition. 200 Hagley Creek Rd., Wilmington. \$6-\$15. 302-658-2400; Hagley.org.



THROUGH JANUARY 5

A Longwood Christmas. Celebrate the many shapes of the season with a display that is both nostalgic and inventive. Outdoor firepits, colorful fountains, music, a half-million lights and carolers fill the gardens. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Timed admission tickets req. \$16-\$30. LongwoodGardens.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 5

Yuletide at Winterthur. Tour Henry Francis du Pont's mansion with breathtaking trees, dazzling room displays and a magical dollhouse. 5105 Kennett Pk. (Rt. 52), Winterthur, DE. Mon-Sun, 10 to 5:30. Timed tickets required for Yuletide. \$6-\$20. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.

DECEMBER 31

Midnight in the Square-Kennett Square Mushroom Drop. Kennett Square's annual tradition has something for the whole family with activities for kids, entertainment, food vendors and more. Kids and parents kick off the celebration at 6:30 pm. Raising the lighted Mushroom will take place at 8:45. Free. MidnightInTheSquare.com.



DECEMBER 31

New Year's Eve Community Celebration and Ball Drop in Media. Come on out, snow or moonlight, to State and Jackson Sts. in Media to ring in the New Year. Music at 11 pm, ball drop at midnight. VisitMediaPA.com.

ART, CRAFT & ANTIQUES

THROUGH JANUARY 26

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.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 1

2020 Craft Forms at Wayne Art Center. An international juried exhibition of contemporary crafts. Wayne Art Center, 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. Mon-Fri, 9 to 5; Sat, 9 to 4. Free. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.



JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 2

Malvern Retreat House Art Show & Sale. Featuring over 100 juried artists. The theme this year will be "Water." Jan. 30, complimentary wine and cheese social, 5 to 8. Malvern Retreat House, McShain-Horstmann Family Life Center, 315 S. Warren Ave., Malvern. Wed-Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 4. Free. Benefits Malvern Retreat House. 610-644-0400; MalvernRetreat.com.

JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 9

Academy of Notre Dame de Namur 47th Annual Fine Art Show & Sale. Featuring nearly 100 artists' works in a variety of mediums, the show opens with a catered preview reception with the artists on Jan. 31, from 6 to 9, \$75 in advance, \$85 at the door. Academy Mansion, 560 Sproul Rd., Villanova. Art on display Sat-Sun, noon to 4. Free. NDAPA.org/ArtShow.



AUTOMOBILE SHOWS

FEBRUARY 7-17

2020 Philadelphia Auto Show. Recognized by the industry as one of the top auto shows in the country, with vehicles from more than 40 manu-

facturers. Feb. 7, Black Tie Tailgate, 7 pm, benefits the Dept. of Nursing at Children's Hospital of Phila. Tickets \$275 and up. PA



Convention Center, 1101 Arch St., Philadelphia. Check website for hours. \$7-\$14. 215-418-2000; PhillyAutoShow.com.

BOOKS

THROUGH JANUARY

Main Point Books. Jan. 19, Writer's Coffee House, noon to 2; Jan. 26, Peter Zheutlin: *The Dog Went Over the Mountain: Travels with Albie: An American Journey*, 4 pm; Jan. 30, Kiley Reid: *Such a Fun Age*, 7 pm. 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. 484-580-6978; MainPointBooks.com.

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JANUARY 9
Wellington Square Bookshop Book Signing Event. Meet Liz Moore and receive a copy of her latest novel, *Long Bright River*. Hilton Garden Inn Exton/West Chester, 720 Eagleview Blvd., Exton. 7 to 9. \$25. 610-458-1144; Wellington-SquareBooks.com.

DESIGN HOMES /HOME SHOWS.....
JANUARY 3-5
Greater Philadelphia Spring Home Show. Come out to be motivated for your next home improvement project. Valley Forge Casino Re-

sort, 1160 First Ave., King of Prussia. Fri, 11 to 8; Sat, 10 to 8; Sun, 10 to 6. Free. 855-449-3714; GreaterPhillyHomeShows.com.

FOOD & BREWS.....
JANUARY 16
Schuylkill River Greenways Heritage & Hops. Join Schuylkill River Greenways at Sly Fox Taphouse in Wyomissing for an evening filled with history, food and beer, discussing Sly Fox's connection to the region while enjoying specially selected 5-oz. pours, a light dinner and a discussion of the history of the Knitting Mills

in Wyomissing. 820 Knitting Mills Way, Ste. 100, Wyomissing. 6 to 8. \$30. 484-945-0200; SchuylkillRiver.org.



JANUARY 18, 24
Food Events at Brandywine River Museum of Art. *Jan. 18*, Arctic BBQ—roast marshmallows, go on a nature scavenger hunt, warm up at the hot chocolate bar and enjoy delicious BBQ available for purchase, 1 to 3, free with admission. *Jan. 24*, Chef's Table: Burns Supper—an evening to celebrate the birthday of Robert Burns with traditional Scottish fare, including haggis and a tasting selection of a Belhaven ale and three single malt whiskies, 6 to 9, \$110. 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org.



FUNDRAISERS.....
JANUARY 19
Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation's 14th Annual Lemon Ball. Enjoy a fabulous evening of dining, dancing, auctions and listening to amazing stories of heroes big and small. Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market St., Phila. 6:30 pm. \$275. 610-649-3034; Alexs-Lemonade.org.



JANUARY 23
Willowdale Steeplechase Guest Bartender Night. Tips are all donated to Willowdale to

Local Farm Markets
Artisan Exchange, 208 Carter Dr. Unit 13 B, West Chester. *Sat, 10 to 2.* ArtisanExchange.net.
Bryn Mawr Farmers Mkt., Lancaster Ave. Bryn Mawr train station parking lot. *Through Apr., 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sat, 10 to noon.* FarmToCity.org.
Downingtown Farmers Mkt., Log Cabin Field, Kerr Park, Pennsylvania Ave. *Sat, 9 to 1.* 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.
Eagleview Farmers Mkt., Eagleview Town Crt., Wellington Sq., Exton. *Thurs, 3 to 7.* 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.
Kennett Square Farmers Mkt., 113 E. State St. *From Jan. 3-Apr., biweekly on Fri, 3 to 5:30.* 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., Warren Ave. & Roberts Rd. *Sat, 9 to 1.* 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.
Media Farmers Mkt., Edgemont St. between Front & State Sts. *Through Apr., 1st & 3rd Sun, 10 to noon.* 215-733-9599; MediaFarmersMarket.com.
West Chester Growers Mkt., Chestnut & Church Sts. *Through Apr., 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sat, 10 to noon.* 610-436-9010; WestChesterGrowersMarket.com.
Westtown Amish Mkt., 1165 Wilmington Pk., West Chester. *Thurs, 9 to 6; Fri, 9 to 8; Sat, 8 to 4.* 610-492-5700; WestChesterAmishMarket.com.

benefit the Stroud Water Research Center and the Univ. of PA School of Veterinary Medicine's New Bolton Center. Hearth Kitchen, Shoppes At Longwood Village, 847 E. Baltimore Pk., Kennett Square. 6 to 9. 610-444-1582; Willowdale.org.

GARDENS.....
JANUARY 18-MARCH 22
Longwood Gardens—Orchid Extravaganza.



The conservatory transforms into a tropical oasis featuring an astonishing display of orchids. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 9 to 6. Timed tickets req., \$12-\$23. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

MUSEUMS.....
THROUGH JANUARY 5, 2020
Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. "Costuming *The Crown*;" "Hamilton & Burr: Who Wrote Their Stories?" "Follies: Architectural Whimsy in the Garden" in Winterthur Garden. 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE.

Tues-Sun, 10 to 5. \$15-\$30. 302-888-4600; Winterthur.org.




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THROUGH APRIL 12, 2020

Delaware Art Museum. *Through Jan. 26*, "Posing Beauty in African American Culture." *Through Apr. 12*, "Angela Fraleigh: Sound the Deep Waters." 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed, 10 to 4; Thurs, 10 to 8; Fri–Sun, 10 to 4. \$6–\$12, Sun, free. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

THROUGH JUNE 7, 2020

Brandywine River Museum of Art. *Through Jan. 5*, "Cinderella & Co.—Three Fairy Tales Reimagined." *Feb. 1–June 7*, "Votes for Women: A Visual History." 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Daily, 9:30 to 5. \$6–\$18. 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org.

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT.....

THROUGH JANUARY 1

Magic & Wonder: A Magical Merry Christmas in Bird-in-Hand. Take a journey to



the North Pole and watch toys come to life in Santa's Workshop from master illusionist Brett A. Myers. Bird-In-Hand Stage, 2760 Old Philadelphia Pk., Bird-in-Hand. \$14–\$49. 800-790-4069; Bird-in-Hand.com/Stage.

JANUARY 4

Magical Mystery Doors at The Venue at Valley Forge Casino Resort. A tribute act that blends and layers the music of three legendary bands, The Beatles, Led Zeppelin, and The Doors, to create something new and unique. 1160 1st Ave., King of Prussia. 8 pm. \$25–\$30. 610-354-8118; VFCasino.com.

JANUARY 10–12

Beverly Johnson–Naked! Beverly Johnson, the first black woman on the cover of *Vogue* and the first black supermodel in the world, talks about how she became part of the momentum that helped to launch the #MeToo movement. Delaware Theatre Company, 200 Water St., Wilmington. Check website for show times and tickets. 302-594-1100; DelawareTheatre.org.

JANUARY 19–FEBRUARY 13

Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center. *Jan. 19*, Chanting & Chocolate, 3 pm, free; *Jan. 21*, Who's Afraid of Aymann Ismail?, 6:30, \$20; *Jan. 23–24*, Joe Conklin Comedy Show, Thurs, 8, Fri, 9, \$32–\$37; *Jan. 26*, Bee Gees Gold, 7, \$40; *Feb. 13*, The Linda Ronstadt Experience, 7:30, \$40. 226 N. High St., West Chester. 610-356-2787; UptownWest-Chester.org.



JANUARY 23

Delaware Art Museum Performance Series. The Black Iris Project: "A Mother's Rite." The Black Iris Project is a ballet collaborative that celebrates diversity and Black history. "A Mother's Rite" is about how a mother copes with the loss of her child to a racially-motivated murder. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 6 pm. \$10–\$25. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

JANUARY 26

Tri-State Jazz Society Concert at Community Arts Center. Capital Focus Jazz Band.

414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford. 2 to 4:30. \$10–\$20. 610-566-1713; CACHolidaySale.org.

FEBRUARY 7

WCU—Live! Flamenco Vivo—Carlota Santana. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St., West Chester. 7:30. \$15–\$27. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu/Live.



FEBRUARY 14

Point Entertainment Presents ... Ukulele master Jake Shimabukuro and virtuoso mandolin-player, Sierra Hull. The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 8 pm. \$29.50–\$49.50. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....

THROUGH JANUARY, Thursdays

West Chester Birding Club Field Trip. Founded in 1910, this is one of the oldest continually active bird clubs in the country. The field trip is to Exton Park, in the area formerly known as Church Farm Pond, where surrounding wetlands have been a popular birding spot for years. 800 E. Swedesford Rd., Exton. 8:30 am. West-ChesterBirdClub.org.

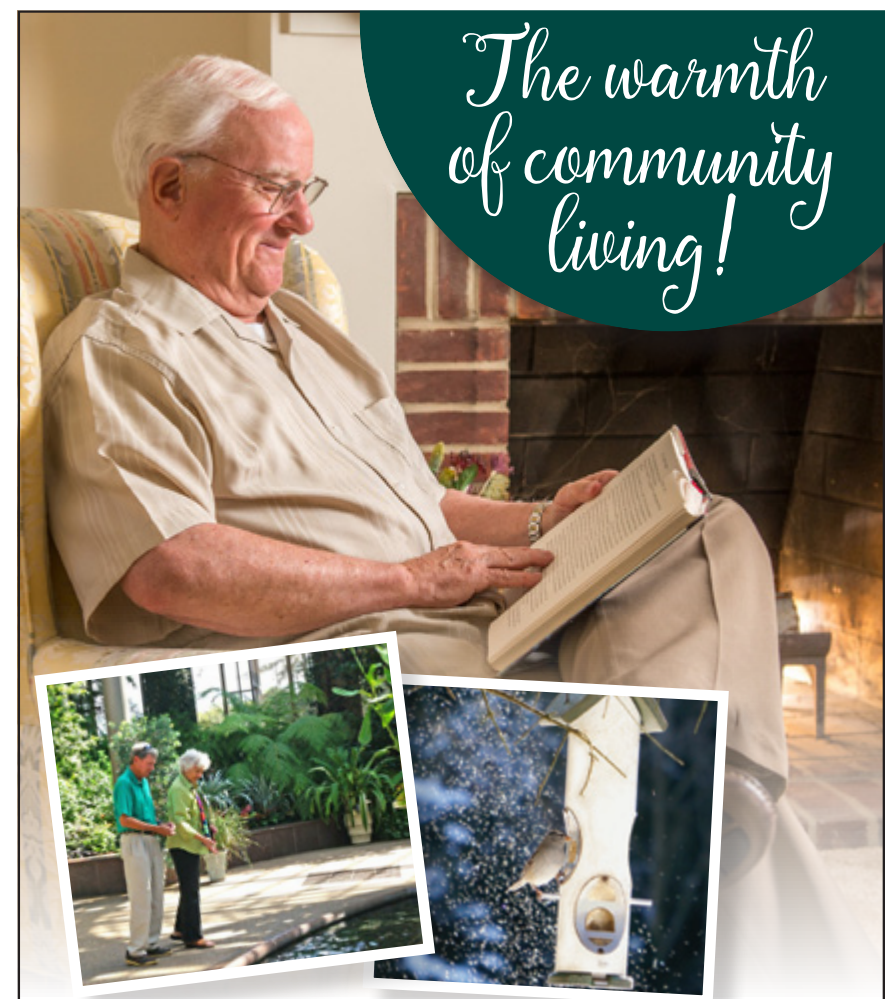


THEATER.....

THROUGH JANUARY 5

Little Red Robin Hood: A Musical Panto. Fairytales collide in this brand new holiday panto at People's Light, 39 Conestoga Rd.,

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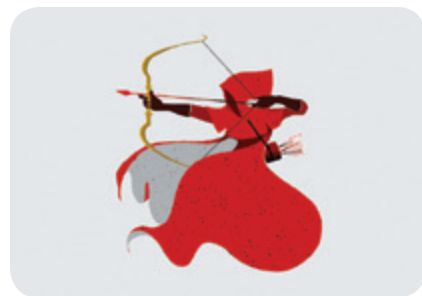
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Malvern. Check website for times and tickets. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.



THROUGH JANUARY 12

Elf: The Musical. A must-see holiday musical, based on the 2003 hit film. The Media Theatre, 104 E. State St., Media. Check website for times and tickets. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

JANUARY 15–FEBRUARY 9

The Children. A 2018 Tony Award Nominee by Lucy Kirkwood. People's Light, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Check website for times and tickets. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

JANUARY 29–FEBRUARY 23

Eleanor: An American Love Story. Chronicles the story of the shy young aristocrat who was

destined to become First Lady. The Media Theatre, 104 E. State St., Media. Check website for times and tickets. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

FEBRUARY 12–MARCH 1

Outside Mullingar. From the author of *Doubt* comes a romantic comedy set in rural Ireland. Delaware Theatre Company, 200 Water St., Wilmington. Check website for show times and tickets. 302-594-1100; DelawareTheatre.org.

TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS.....

JANUARY 3, 11, 16

First Fridays, Second Saturdays, Third Thursdays. Jan. 3, First Fridays: **Kennett Square Art Stroll**, 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. **Lancaster City**, 717-509-ARTS; VisitLancasterCity.com. **Oxford**, 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org. **West Chester**, 610-738-3350; West-Chester.com. **Wilmington Art Loop**, 302-576-2135; ArtLoopWilmington.org.

Jan. 11, Second Saturday Arts Stroll: **Media**, 484-445-4161; MediaArtsCouncil.org.

Jan. 16, Third Thursday Malvern Stroll, MalvernBusiness.com.

JANUARY 21

Black Powder Tavern Historical Dinner

Series. The focus for this evening is on the Battle of the Kegs, with featured guest speaker Mike Kochan. 1164 Valley Forge Rd., Wayne. 5:30. \$45 includes light apps and dinner, tax and gratuity. 610-293-9333; BlackPowderTavern.com. ♦



Stay in the know with everything going on in *County Lines* country. Sign up for our Events Newsletter (sent twice monthly) at Info@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

Food Events

So much food, so little time! To help you plan, here are events where food is the star. Some have a * because dates have not yet been set. Check our monthly events section in the magazine, online and in our Events Newsletter so you don't miss a single morsel. And check the growing Beer Events listings online.

January

16 **Taste of Phoenixville** Good Samaritan fundraiser. 610-933-9305; GoodSamServices.org/Events

24 **Scottish Burns Supper and Whisky Tasting** Brandywine River Museum of Art, 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org

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



February

8–9, 15–16 **Berks County Wine Trail Chocolate & Wine Weekends** Chocolates paired with wines of the region. BerksCountyWineTrail.com

29 **Pancake Breakfast and Maple Sugaring Celebration at Tyler Arboretum** Fun and food for the whole family. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org

March

9–15 **King of Prussia Restaurant Week** Craft beer fest with food. 484-681-9452; VisitKoP.com

12 **The Emergency Aid's Taste of the Main Line** Celebrating over 100 years of improving the lives of local children and families. TasteOfTheMainLine.com

30 **Chester County Community Foundation's Sweet Charity** Giving never tasted so good at this annual fundraiser. 610-696-8211; ChesCoCF.org

April

1st 2 Weeks **Media Rest. Weeks** Specials at area restaurants. 610-566-5039; VisitMediaPA.com

20–25 **City Restaurant Week in Wilmington** Prix fixe lunch and dinner menus at premier restaurants. CityRestaurantWeek.com

26 **23rd Celebrity Chefs' Brunch** Honorary Chair, Chef Carrie Baird of Bar Dough. Benefits Meals On Wheels. Wilmington. 302-656-3257; MealsOnWheelsDE.org

May

May–September, Thursdays **Third Thursday on State St. Kennett Square** Outdoor dining and activities. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com

May–September, Wednesdays **Media's Dining Under the Stars** Restaurants offer outdoor dining on State St. 610-566-5039; VisitMediaPA.com

2 **Phoenixville Food & Food Truck Festival** 30+ food trucks grace the streets with globally influenced eats. PhoenixvilleFirst.com

20 **Brandywine Health Foundation's Annual Garden Party** Local chefs compete to create luscious desserts. BrandywineFoundation.org

* **Willistown Conservation Trust Barns & BBQ** Tour of unique barns followed by BBQ. WCTrust.org

June

6 **West Chester's Annual "Up On the Roof"** Fundraiser promoting the beautification of downtown West Chester. 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com

27 **New Castle County Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Festival** Great food, ice cream, music. Wilmington. RockwoodIceCream.com



* **Great Chefs Event for Alex's Lemonade Stand** Fundraiser. Phila. 610-649-3034; Alexs-Lemonade.org

* **Holy Trinity Greek Festival in Wilmington** Authentic food cooking before your eyes. GreekFestDE.com

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

July

* **Willistown Conservation Trust Annual Tomato Tasting** Celebrate the tomato harvest from Rushton Farm. Newtown Square. 610-353-2562; WCTrust.org

August

* **Brandywine in White** Pop-up summer evening for wine/food fans. Benefits local charities. Facebook.com/BrandywineInWhite

* **Delaware Burger Battle** Top chefs compete. DEBurgerBattle.com

* **PA Dutch Farm to Fork Fondo** Chef-prepared bites along bike route. FarmForkFondo.com



* **PhoenixvilleVegFest** Vegan food and street festival with live music and vendors. PhoenixvilleVegFest.com

September

12 **West Chester Summer Soiree** Benefits local charities. WCSummerSoiree.org

12–13 **35th Mushroom Festival** Fundraiser in Kennett Square. 610-444-8188; MushroomFestival.org

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

* **Chester County Restaurant Festival** More than 65 restaurants, caterers and food vendors gather in West Chester. 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com

* **Malvern's Harvest Oktoberfest** Great food, games, music and local craft and artisan vendors. Malvern-Festivals.com

* **Shugart's Sunday BBQ and Blues** Historic Sugartown hosts with all the

fixings. 610-640-2667; HistoricSugartown.org

October

4 **Annual Media Food & Crafts Festival** VisitMediaPA.com

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

29 **Unite For Her Harvest Chef & Wine Tasting Event** Fundraiser at Phoenixville Foundry. 717-461-6988; UniteForHer.org

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

* **18th West Chester Rotary Chili Cook-off** Fundraiser. 484-343-4577; WestChesterChiliCookoff.com

* **Thorncroft Equestrian Center "Lobstah" Bake** Fundraiser. Malvern. 610-644-1963; Thorncroft.org

November

1st 2 Weeks **Media Restaurant Week** 610-566-5039; VisitMediaPA.com

* **TASTE! Philadelphia–Food & Wine Festival** Valley Forge Casino Resort, 1160 1st Ave., King of Prussia. GourmetShows.com

* **Brandywine in Plaid–Celebrate the Harvest** Benefits land conservancy causes. BrandywineInPlaid.org



* **11th Annual Notable Kitchen Tour & Chefs' Tastings** Fundraising event to benefit The Philadelphia Orchestra. NotableKitchens.com

* **SHiNE in the Vines** Great food, beer and wine benefits The Abramson Center at Chester County Hospital. PatientShine.org ♦

* – Dates To Be Determined.



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ONGOING

Arboretum

Kendal-Crosslands

1109 E. Baltimore Pk., Kennett Square

610-388-1441; KCArboretum.org

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Kendal-Crosslands

JANUARY 2-30

Presidential Children: An OSHER Lifelong Learning Class

Plush Mills

501 Plush Mills Rd., Wallingford

610-690-1630; PlushMills.com

Instructor David Hudiak shares the stories of Presidential children. Some became prominent; others faded into obscurity.



Plush Mills

Some benefited from the prominence of their Presidential parents; others were crushed by the weight of expectations. 10:30 a.m. Call for more information.

JANUARY 8

The Mobile Museum

Kyffin Grove

1419 Horsham Rd., North Wales

267-460-8100; KyffinGrove.com

Kyffin Grove hosts popular speaker Pat Richardson as he explores the life of Norman Rockwell from his beginnings in New York City through a lifetime of



Americana illustrations on the covers of the *Saturday Evening Post*. Learn about his famous paintings depicting great moments in the 20th century. Call for details.

JANUARY 18

Montessori Method of Enhanced Living

Friends Home in Kennett

147 W. State St., Kennett Square

610-444-8785; FriendsHomeInKennett.org

Friends Home in Kennett presents a demonstration of the Montessori Method of Enhanced Living enjoyed throughout the community. Free, plus refreshments. 1 to 4 p.m. Call to RSVP.

JANUARY 20-APRIL 20

Parkinson's Support Group, AARP Refresher Course

Shipley Manor

2723 Shipley Rd., Wilmington, DE

302-477-8813; FiveStarSeniorLiving.com

Jan. 20, Feb. 17, Mar. 16, Apr. 20, Shipley Manor hosts Parkinson's Support Group — 5 p.m. Coffee, juice and

snacks provided.

Feb. 6, Apr. 2, AARP refresher course at Shipley Manor 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Coffee, juice and snacks.

FEBRUARY 15

Love Songs Through the Years

Friends Home in Kennett

147 W. State St., Kennett Square

610-444-8785; FriendsHomeInKennett.org

Friends Home in Kennett presents "Love Songs Through the Years," featuring the Friends Home Choir at 2 p.m. 1 to 4 p.m. Free, plus refreshments. Call to RSVP.

St. Patty's Day Celebration

Friends Home in Kennett

147 W. State St., Kennett Square

610-444-8785; FriendsHomeInKennett.org

Friends Home in Kennett hosts their St. Patty's Day Celebration. Enjoy Shamrock Shakes and Patty Cakes! 1 to 4 p.m. Call to RSVP.

APRIL 30

9th Annual Wellness Fair & Open House

Luther Acres

600 E. Main St., Lititz

717-626-1171; LutherCare.org

Luther Acres hosts its 9th Annual Wellness Fair & Open House. Featuring free educational seminars, health fair and tours of the beautiful campus just steps away from charming downtown Lititz. See website for details. ♦



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Fox Hill Farm KENNETT SQUARE \$7,995,000
80 acres / pond / barn / in-ground pool / tennis courts

Nestled among Chester County's rolling hills is a farm—a gracious yet comfortable home that evokes the best of Europe and southeastern Pennsylvania. Among ancient beeches, century-plus old spring house and barns, the house designed by architect Richard Buchanan built in 2006 holds the most modern amenities while offering the authentic feel of a breathtaking historic stone home.



Four Chimneys Farm BRANDYWINE VALLEY \$3,695,000
50 acres / turn-out sheds / barn / tack room / hay shed

Constructed with recycled 18th century stone and beams from the former Farm and modeled as a French hunting lodge, this remarkable estate is located in the Brandywine Valley. The estate boasts an outdoor sand dressage ring and a competition-quality indoor arena, including turn out sheds, and a 13 stall barn. A hay shed and tool building completes this perfect equine center for competitive training, fox hunting or pleasure riding. *Four Chimneys Farm — it's not a house it's a lifestyle.*

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**MAKE YOUR
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TODAY!**



18th Taste of Phoenixville

Edwin Malet

SHARE THE WARMTH ON JANUARY 16, 2020

ON A FRIGID NIGHT IN JANUARY, THE LIGHTS WILL be twinkling at Franklin Commons in Phoenixville, as Good Samaritan Services welcomes about 500 people to the Art Gallery. Take off your coats. Shake off the cold. On this night, share the warmth.

Smiling chefs and restaurant staffs will stand ready at their tables, trays steaming. Guests will eat fabulously—crab cakes, barbecue, sliders and more. And they'll drink, mostly local.

Guest will also dance and join in a Wine Grab. All will get a wrapped bottle of wine. A few will win much more!

Don't miss the huge table of Silent Auction items. Diners can bid on tickets to amusement parks, theaters and museums, or on baskets of kids' activities, pet accessories, dining experiences, sports memorabilia or assorted spirits.

About 25 restaurants and caterers will set out tables. About five will supply the brews, wine and spirits. (See sidebar for the current list). For VIPs, Manatawny Still Works will pour whiskey and Goose's Montecristo Cigar Lounge will offer cigars.

But all will open their hearts to a good cause—helping the homeless of Chester and Lancaster Counties. Good Samaritan serves about 200 people per day in its four housing facilities—a men's shelter, a women's and children's shelter, and two permanent housing services. The group also provides scholarships, car loans, micro-loans, matched savings program and job training.

Nate Hoffer, Good Samaritan's Executive Director, asks that we "guard our hearts" and not fall into blaming the victims. Guided by Christian faith and compassion, he calls for generosity and looks to implement the organization's goals through community partnerships, by taking responsibility for the resources granted, and by expressing gratitude for the help it receives and shares.

On its face, Taste of Phoenixville is a big party: tasty, filling and fun, bringing Phoenixville together in the dead of winter. But the party is all the more precious for all the people it serves.

Come, join in this good cause. ♦

IF YOU GO:

WHEN: January 16, 2020, 6 to 10 p.m.
VIP Reception, 5 to 6 p.m.

WHERE: Franklin Commons, 400 Franklin Ave., Phoenixville

FOR TICKETS: TasteOfPhoenixville.com



Guests at Taste of Phoenixville



Grab a drink at the bar



Try food from about 25 local restaurants

RESTAURANTS FOR 2020

- Bistro on Bridge
- Bluebird Distilling
- Bridge Street Chocolate
- Drexelbrook Catering
- Foresta's Market
- Great American Pub
- Green Lion Bakery
- Heart Stone Coffee
- Limoncello Ristorante & Caterers
- Manatawny Still Works
- Molly Maguire's Irish Restaurant & Pub
- PJ Ryan's Pub
- Rivercrest Golf Club & Preserve
- Robert Ryan Catering & Design
- Root Down Brewing Company
- Sedona Taphouse
- Sly Fox Brewing Company
- Sodexo
- St. Peter's Bakery
- Stable 12 Brewing Company
- Stone House Grille
- Tony's Family Restaurant
- Uncle B's Bar B Q
- Vesta BBQ & Catering
- Your Mom's Place



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Diabetes and Healthy Eating



Fads abound when it comes to diet and diabetes. But by taking a simple approach and following a few basic steps, you can control your diabetes.



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- Special pricing on 2020 weddings



Amy Wachter, MD, and Julie Garey RDN, LDN, CDE

DIABETES CURRENTLY AFFECTS MORE THAN 30 MILLION Americans. This chronic disease occurs when the body is unable to make sufficient levels of insulin—a hormone that helps our cells regulate glucose (or sugar) to use as energy. Without insulin, the sugar in a person's bloodstream can reach dangerously high levels and cause damage to the eyes, kidneys, nerves and heart.

The number of people affected by diabetes is growing, so it's worth knowing more about this disease. To start, there are two types of diabetes: Type 1 and Type 2. Type 1 diabetes is typically diagnosed during childhood. It's treated with insulin shots and involves balancing the sugars in the food eaten with the correct amount of insulin. Type 1 diabetes is not associated with obesity.

Type 2 diabetes is generally diagnosed during adulthood and comprises about 95% of all diabetes cases. Type 2 is associated with obesity.

For all people with diabetes, it's extremely important to make the right choices about what to eat, because what you eat directly affects your blood sugar levels. The good news is that by eating right and being active, people with diabetes can prevent complications of this disease.

Here is some background on diabetes and eating for a healthy diet.

HOW CAN FOOD AFFECT BLOOD SUGAR LEVELS?

Food choices and portion sizes have a big impact on blood sugar control. Too many simple carbohydrates and refined grains—in foods such as desserts, sweets and white bread—can rapidly boost blood sugar levels after meals. Too few carbohydrates can lower blood sugar levels. Both spikes and drops in blood sugar can be dangerous and make us feel unwell.

People with diabetes can achieve optimal health when their blood sugar levels are stable and steady. An effective strategy to stabilize blood sugar levels is to eat complex carbohydrates—such as whole grains, fruits, beans and starchy vegetables—throughout the day.

WHAT SHOULD YOU EAT?

Everyone benefits from a well-balanced and healthy diet, whether you have diabetes or not. We get different nutrients from all types of foods, so it's important to eat a wide variety of foods.

Research shows that a diet low in calories and high in fruits and vegetables—such as the DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) or Mediterranean diet—supports a healthy weight. Studies have also shown that following a diet high in fruits and vegetables and lower in calories can help promote weight loss and reduce the risk of heart disease as well.

WHAT DOES A HEALTHY DIET LOOK LIKE?

The American Diabetes Association does not recommend one specific diet, but the most effective diet is the diet that you can stick to. Generally, healthy diets include lean protein, whole grains, low-fat dairy and whole fruits and vegetables. Healthy diets also are short on refined grains, sweets and processed foods. Water, unsweetened coffee and tea can also be part of a healthy diet. You should be eating your calories, not drinking them in fruit juices, sodas and alcohol.

One easy way to ensure you're consuming optimal amounts of healthy food is to follow the plate method for planning your meals. Half of your plate should be made up of non-starchy vegetables and fruit; one-quarter of the plate should be comprised of lean protein; and the remaining quarter should be whole grains. This simple image of a dinner plate can help you create a healthy, more balanced meal.

ARE LOW-CARB DIETS SAFE FOR PEOPLE WITH DIABETES?

Some research has shown that following a lower-carbohydrate diet can lower blood sugar and reduce the need for medication and insulin.

Research shows that a diet low in calories and high in fruits and vegetables—such as the DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) or Mediterranean diet—supports a healthy weight.



If you plan to change your diet, be sure to monitor your blood sugar levels frequently to determine the impact of the new diet. Be sure to treat any low sugar levels with fast-acting carbohydrates, such as 4 ounces of fruit juice or a box of raisins that contains about 15 grams of carbohydrates.

And if you find you have a pattern of low blood sugar levels, contact your doctor to determine if you need to make changes to your medications.

ARE PORTION SIZES IMPORTANT?

Have you ever heard the old saying “You can have too much of a good thing”? This definitely applies to food quantity.

Eating too much at one time—even of nutritious foods, such as fruits—can cause an after-meal spike in blood sugar. Limit yourself to one serving size, as listed on the food's nutrition label. A serving size is a good indicator of the ideal portion size to eat at one time.

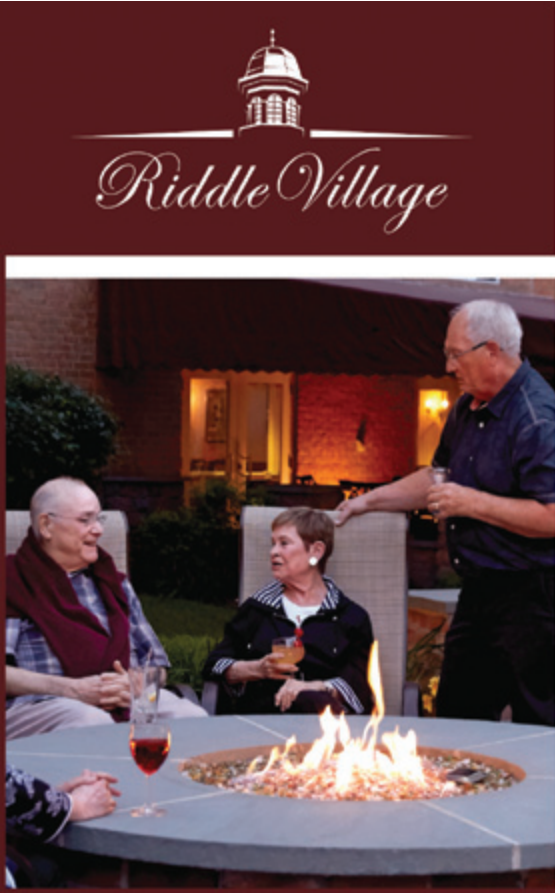
No label on the food? Most carbohydrate-counting books list ideal serving sizes, which can help you determine the right amount for a serving.

Eating smaller portions also promotes healthy weight loss, which can improve blood sugar levels and reduce the need for diabetes medications.

As you can see, diet has a profound impact on management and control of your diabetes. Fortunately, these simple, small changes can have a dramatic impact and help you achieve optimal health. ♦

Amy Wachter, an endocrinologist with ChristianaCare Endocrinology Specialists, is a clinical leader of Endocrinology at ChristianaCare. She is board certified in Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism.

Julie Garey is a diabetes educator at ChristianaCare for the Metabolic Health Services Department. She's a Registered Dietitian, Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionist, Certified Diabetes Educator, and is certified in Adult Weight Management and has held positions as a clinical and outpatient dietitian.



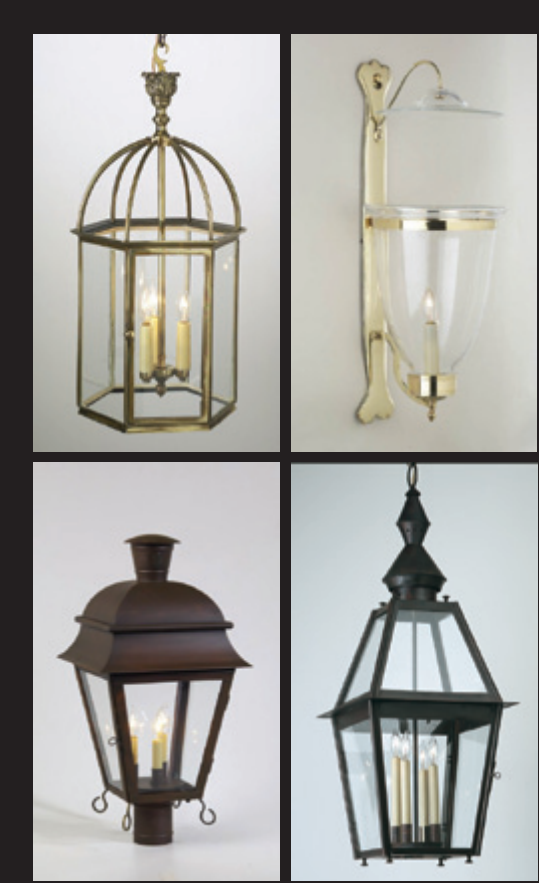
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Satisfying Cravings

WEST CHESTER OFFERS AN ARRAY OF INTERNATIONAL TASTE TREATS.

Story by Malcolm Johnstone / Photos by Timlyn Vaughan Photography

THERE ARE ALMOST 75 GOOD REASONS THAT WEST Chester is a perennial dining destination. Whatever you're in the mood for, the international flair of downtown restaurants can meet your every craving. Whether it's a special occasion, a quick bite or simply an excuse for a night out, West Chester offers plenty of opportunities for dining adventures.

West Chester is also a top destination for dinner and a show. With the **Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center** (226 North High Street) in full swing, offering a full calendar of performances, enjoying dinner before the show is easy. (Insiders' tip: Your best bet for parking are the two borough garages for sheltered, long-term parking and no overtime parking tickets. Locations at Downtown-WestChester.com/Parking.)

The hardest part about dining in West Chester is choosing where to go! And because there's always something new, the choice is even tougher. Here's a preview of some of the latest additions to the dining scene to help you find your next great meal.

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

As a young man, Loïc Barnieu found his passion as an actor, studying in his native Burgundy, France. His passion followed him to America and the American Historic Theatre. But it was his family roots that brought him back to being a restaurateur, using skills taught to him by both his grandfathers.

Now Loïc is practicing his art at **Sterling Pig Public House**, 113 West Market Street. Adding to the appeal, brewmaster Brian McConnell and lead brewer Chris DeVito provide award-winning craft brews, including popular choices of Shoat Pilsner (a World Beer Cup Award Winner), Big Gunz Double IPA, and the slightly fruity Snuffler IPA, each served fresh on tap.

There's pub fare, of course, but don't miss some of the unexpected dishes on the menu like brisket poutine. Arrive early for the barbeque, smoked fresh daily, because when it's gone, it's gone!

RETRO VIBES

Slow Hand, a new restaurant at 30 North Church Street, is indeed named after the song made popular by the Pointer Sisters in 1981 and even more popular by crooner Conway Twitty a year later. A larger-than-life portrait of the country star commands center stage behind the bar.

But this back-story is upstaged by the tapas-style cuisine described by one patron as "locally-sourced fresh food with brave and interesting recipes." Hand-crafted drinks complement the "southern comfort hospitality." The absence of TV screens provides an inviting atmosphere for socializing. You'll find plates as exotic as Spanish Octopus or as regular as Belly Bomber (mini burgers). No matter—it's all good.

EAST, MEET WEST

A taste of Korea has arrived with the opening of **Bonchon Chicken** at 124 East Market Street. (Bonchon, meaning my hometown in Korean, has almost 100 U.S. locations). Its casual environment welcomes diners for eat-in or take-out.

Bonchon specializes in Korean-style fried chicken, although there are plenty of other savory Asian fusion dishes as well. Try their

signature double-fried wings made with soy garlic and spicy flavors, and hand-brushed with secret sauce. Always good to sample the secret sauce!

OLE!

You no longer have to go south of the border or even south on High Street for an authentic taco or burrito. **Taco Mar** has relocated to downtown West Chester

at 122 East Gay Street to make satisfying your cravings more convenient. Whether you choose take-out, eat-in or delivery, you'll enjoy classic Mexican staples like shrimp tacos and burritos at this colorful new spot.

Try the Burrito Bar (make it your way), Taco Stand (al pastor style) or Baja Grill (house burritos and quesadillas). Even if it's not Taco Tuesday.



Bonchon Chicken



Taco Mar



Opa Taverna



Meatball U.



Gryphon Coffee

GREEK REVIVAL

It's good news that **Opa Taverna** has expanded to 44 East Gay Street from the former small space just up the street to accommodate its growing fanbase. The décor of the spacious dining area is elegant and tasteful, just like the food. Enjoy al fresco dining on the large space outdoors when the weather is nice.

But it's the Greek menu of classic specialties—gyro plates, souvlaki, beef and lamb dishes, along with a terrific moussaka—that makes this place special and popular. We've heard a liquor license is coming soon, adding to the pleasure of dining here.

A SMARTER MEATBALL

Everyone knows that the Borough is home to West Chester University. And now it can also boast of being home to **Meatball U.** Newly open at 30 South High Street, Meatball U. should not be confused with any other institution of higher learning.

But, it could be described as an institution for all things, well, meatball. And it's safe to say that you'll happily learn how good a meatball dish can be. With many variations to choose from, you'll be back for more.

There's all beef, of course, along with chicken and vegetarian, plus a wide selection of delicious sauces for the plated options and sandwiches. Go Meatball U.!

COLD WINTER, HOT COFFEE

Looking for a family-owned coffee café where you can enjoy a light meal and a cup of freshly roasted private label coffee? Then it's time to visit **Gryphon Coffee**, 111 West Gay Street, joining the other locations in Wayne and Kensington.

Casual and friendly, it's a great place to relax with a hot, seasonal drink and perhaps a specialty sandwich or salad. Try fig + camembert toast or wild mushroom panino with your cortado or rose white hot chocolate. So many tempting options!

SLICE OF SUMMER, ANYTIME

"Being able to share a piece of paradise so dear to me with communities in and around my hometown continues to excite me," says Abby Taylor, founder of **Playa Bowls** at 22 South High Street. "Doing so in a manner that sets a sustainable example really makes the whole thing a dream come true." Her dream is to offer an eatery made up of bits and pieces from exotic surf towns around the globe.

The reality is Playa Bowls' unique version of açai or pitaya cuisine. While the idea is global, part of the ownership remains local. Favorite recipes feature energy foods like açai berry, pitaya, chia seeds, coconut, kale and banana. Poke Bowls offer tuna, shrimp and salmon. It's like traveling to the tropics without leaving town.

ZONED FOR CALZONE

DP Dough, 7 West Gay Street, offers calzones, wings and bread sticks in the evening and into the wee hours. Baked calzones—including build-your-own options—are this national chain's specialty along with salads and vegan options. For the before and after part of the meal, there's an array of appetizers and desserts. Eat-in, take-out, or delivery. A perfect late night nosh. ♦

For more information about West Chester dining, see our Dining Guide on page 53 and visit DowntownWestChester.com

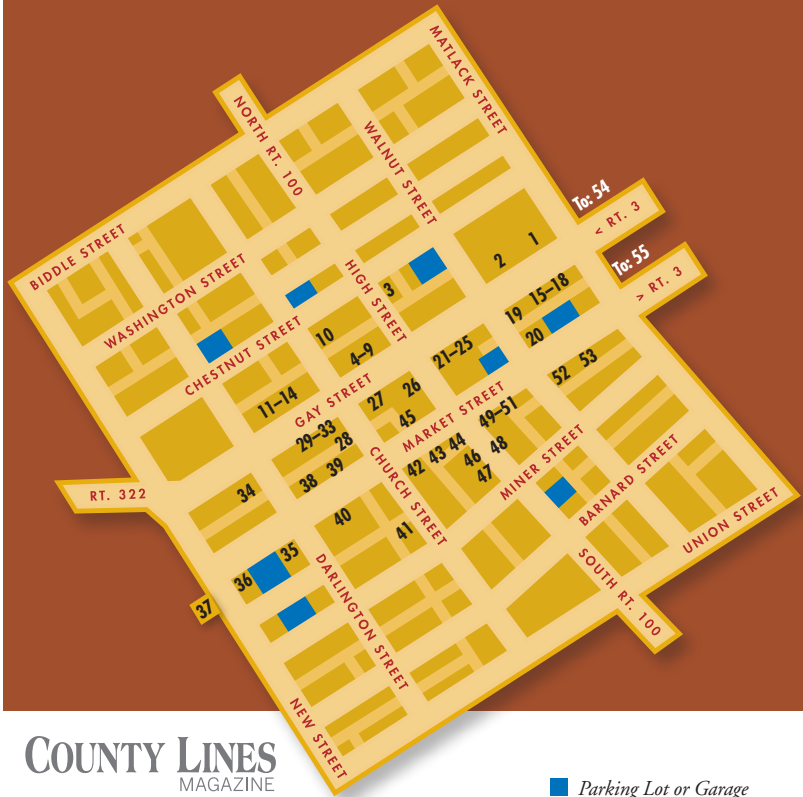


Playa Bowls



D.P. Dough

DOWNTOWN WEST CHESTER



COUNTY LINES
MAGAZINE

■ Parking Lot or Garage

Restaurant Guide

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Roots Cafe | 30. Jitter's Sports Bar |
| 2. The Social | 31. Ryan's Pub & Restaurant |
| 3. Spence Cafe | 32. Andiaro |
| 4. Que Rico! | 33. Penn's Table |
| 5. Calios | 34. Bon Bon Sushi |
| 6. Buddy's Burgers | 35. La Baguette Magique |
| 7. The Couch Tomato Café | 36. The Spicy Pig Café |
| 8. DP Dough | 37. Nudy's Café |
| 9. Iron Hill Brewery & Rest. | 38. Pietro's Prime |
| 10. Kooma Japanese Rest. | 39. Sterling Pig Brewery |
| 11. Star of India | 40. Carlino's Specialty Foods |
| 12. Saloon 151 | 41. Love Again Local |
| 13. Gryphon Coffee | 42. The Lincoln Room |
| 14. Bango Bowls | 43. Tsunami Bistro |
| 15. DeStarr's Rest. & Bar | 44. Market Street Grill |
| 16. Bar Avalon | 45. Mercato Ristorante & Bar |
| 17. Taco Mar | 46. Playa Bowls |
| 18. Dolce Zola | 47. Meatball U |
| 19. Split Rail Tavern | 48. Barnaby's |
| 20. Limoncello Ristorante | 49. Saucey |
| 21. Lorenzo & Sons Pizza | 50. Shawarma |
| 22. Side Bar & Restaurant | 51. Rams Head Bar & Grill |
| 23. The Classic Diner | 52. Más Mexicali Cantina |
| 24. Teca | 53. Bonchon Chicken |
| 25. Opa Taverna | 53. Rai Rai Ramen |
| 26. Liquid Eatery | 53. Poké Bros. |
| 27. Kildare's Irish Pub | 53. Rize Pizza |
| 28. Slow Hand | 54. Pho Xua Vietnamese |
| 29. The Mediterranean | 55. Miss Winnie's |

Other Dining Options in West Chester

BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND MORE

Appalachian Brewing Company (142 E. Market St., 484-473-8030; [ABCBrew.com](#)) serves casual bites, burgers, soups and salads, an array of apps and wings, alongside housemade beers and craft sodas.

Bango Bowls (109 W. Gay St., 484-266-7389; [BangoBowls.com](#)) offers acai and pitaya bowls, poke bowls, oatmeal bowls, smoothies, cold brew coffees 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. 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.

Country Bagel (145 E. Gay St., 610-696-8890; [CountryBagel.com](#)) makes their own bagels from scratch every morning as well as their own muffins, pastries and cookies. Serving breakfast and lunch.

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.

La Baguette Magique (202 W. Market St., 610-620-4279; [MagicBaguette.com](#)) is a traditional French bakery and café featuring hand-made breads, breakfast pastries, lunch and desserts.

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

Lorenzo and Son's Pizza (27 N. High St., 484-999-8756; [LorenzoAndSons.com](#)) is known for their giant slices of pizza, extra large pies, specialty sandwiches and more.

Love Again Local (18 S. Church St., 484-266-7381; [LoveAgainLocal.com](#)) serves plant-based, clean, healthy sandwiches—vegan, GMO-free meats, cheeses and a Love Chunk Vegan Cookie for dessert.

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.

Miss Winnie's (211 E. Market St., 484-266-0508; [MissWinnies.com](#)) offers Jamaican jerk and so much more! Their homemade, family Caribbean recipes are made fresh daily and available for take out.

Nudy's Café (300 W. Market St., 610-696-4550; [NudysCafes.com](#)) is a crowd-pleasing local breakfast and lunch chain with tons of choices.

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

Poké Bros (124 E. Market St., 484-887-0216; [EatPokeBros.com](#)) serves high-quality, sushi-grade fish and farm-fresh veggies in an authentic Hawaiian poké bowl.

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's menu.

Rize Pizza (124 E. Market St., 484-473-8924; [RizePizza.com](#)) offers the "Rize" style crust, light and airy with a toasted sesame seed bottom. Try one of their delicious sandwiches, salads or homemade desserts.

Roots Cafe (133 E. Gay St., 610-455 0100; [RootsCafeWC.com](#)) serves organic, sustainable, farm-to-table fare that's both affordable and healthy, almost all is made from scratch.

Saucey (12 E. Market St., 610-696-9770; [SauceyOfWestChester.com](#)) is an authentic South Philadelphia pizzeria in the heart of West Chester. Saucey offers great products made fresh daily.

AND FOR DINNER ...
Andiaro (106 W. Gay St., 484-887-0919; [Andiaro.com](#)) is an award-winning, intimate restaurant offering a focused and evolving menu celebrating the best local ingredients at the height of their flavor.

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

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

Kildare's Irish Pub (18-22 W. Gay St., 610-431-0770; [KildaresPub.com](#)) has an extensive whiskey selection, monthly 4-course beer dinners and is a convenient spot for business lunches.









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- ✦ The Baja Grill: Let our master chef prepare you a delightful meal from our delectable menu



How about a wow for this place!
-E.V. (Yelp)

Yummm!! Can I give it more than 5 stars?
-P.H. (Yelp)

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[TacoMar.com](#)



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Pietro's Prime (125 W. Market St., 484-760-6100; PietrosPrime.com) serves only Pureland Premium Black Angus Beef and great martinis.

Rams Head Bar & Grill (40 E. Market St., 484-631-0241; RamsHeadBarAndGrill.com) is an American bar and 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.

Saloon 151 Whiskey Bar & Grill (151 W. Gay St., 610-701-8489; Saloon151.com) pairs a serious whiskey menu with slow-cooked meats in a comfortable space that's lively and attractive.

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 with craft beer and local spirits.

The Social Lounge (117 E. Gay St., 610-738-3948; TheSocialWC.com) specializes in Cajun creations, signature handcrafted cocktails and live entertainment.

Spence Cafe (131 N. High St., 610-918-1272; SpenceCafe.com) is a BYOB serving quality meats and seafood, along with locally sourced produce.

Spicy Pig Cafe (234 W. Market St., 484-999-2150; SpicyPigCafe.com) offers burgers, sandwiches and Thai dishes as well as vegan and vegetarian fare.

Split Rail Tavern (15 N. Walnut St., 484-999-8805;

SplitRailTavern.com) serves locally sourced food, craft beer and cocktails.

INTERNATIONAL CHOICES

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

Bon Bon Sushi (22 N. Darlington St., 610-696-3069; BonBonSushi.com) offers maki rolls and Asian burritos made with fresh ingredients.

Dolce Zola (134 E. Gay St., 484-887-0760; DolceZola.com) serves fresh, home-made pasta and sauces made from scratch on the premises.

High Street Caffe & 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.

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.

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

The Mediterranean (150 W. Gay St., 610-431-7074; TheMedWCPA.com) is a comfortable BYOB known for authentic ethnic dishes.

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

Pho Xua Vietnamese Noodle & Tea House (237 E. Gay St., 484-947-5772; PhoXuaNoodles.com) specializes in pho, banh mi, spring rolls, egg rolls, Vietnamese coffee, black bubble milk tea and more.

Rai Rai Ramen & Hawaiian BBQ (124 E. Market St., 610-738-8808; [On Facebook](http://OnFacebook)) serves ramen noodles and Hawaiian barbecue (as its name suggests).

Shawarma (38 E. Market St., 610-436-1500) has authentic shawarma served fresh. The beef and lamb platter with Tahini sauce is recommended.

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

Teca (38 E. Gay St., 610-738-8244; TecaWC.com) offers a light-fare, tapas-style menu, paninis, Italian specialties and an extensive wine and drinks menu.

Tsunami Bistro (10 W. Market St., 610-430-3300; TsunamiBistro.com) serves Japanese and Thai cuisine in a casual environment. ♦

See the 2020 Dining Guide in this issue and our website, CountyLinesMagazine.com, for many more dining destinations in County Lines Country.



124 E. MARKET STREET, UNIT B
WEST CHESTER, PA 19382

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EATPOKEBROS.COM

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BEST OF THE BEST 2020

SEE WHAT WE'VE DISCOVERED IN OUR LOCAL DINING SCENE FOR YOU TO SAMPLE IN 2020!

This is our 16th year of highlighting what's new, interesting and noteworthy in our local dining scene—what we call the Best of the Best. We've selected almost a hundred restaurants, bars, cafes, bistros, distilleries, breweries and farms, plus local cookbooks, Instagram feeds and podcasts for your consideration.

Decide where you'll dine with friends and family—at spots recognized for Historic Hospitality, Chester County Classics, or Best Duck, Goat or Pizza. Sample Best Sour Beers and Orange Wines or Cocktail Shrubs and Juices. Whether you visit our Places to Watch, New Incarnations or Shining Stars, you'll be in awe of local chefs.

Read these pages to find your new favorites. But most important: dine local and often this year.

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



Andiaro



Verbena BYOB



ChopHouse Grille



Refectory

MAJOR STAR

Andiaro

106 W. Gay St., West Chester
484-887-0919 / Andiaro.com

Yes, yes, yes. Experience Andiaro. Let's count the ways this star has brightened our culinary sky. It's on all the "Best" lists—Craig LaBan's, *Philly Mag's*, James Beard semifinalist, and our own Best Of 2019. Surely you've listened to friends recount their dinner there or called to learn the long wait for a table. But persevere, for this sophisticated, "adaptive Italian" fine restaurant fills the void created by Gilmore's 2012 closing, just down Gay Street. Consider the pasta-bilities of the divine doughy confections from the kitchen—both egg and water pastas—filling the second slot, our favorite, of the Beginnings, Pastas, Protein, Desert menu. The changing, seasonal menu continues to reflect the network of local providers, including wine from Va La and Galen Glen. Check the website for the latest creations from the open kitchen so you can spin your own tales of delight.

SHINING STAR

Verbena BYOB

102 E. State St., Kennett Square
484-732-7932 / VerbenaBYOB.com

At Verbena BYOB, the food is as perfect on the eye as it is on the tongue. The six-course chef's tasting menu allows you to try several items from options that change with what's in season, as well as for sampling flavors you've been waiting for all your life. From a warm, rich charred apple soup that highlighted fruit notes of Brunello wine to a mille feuille dessert—layers of puff pastry filled with tea-whipped Chantilly cream and blackberries—every taste was a wonderful sensation. Other gems: tangy scallops, crispy-skinned succulent salmon with micro greens for a hint of color and boneless beef rib with beans. The simple, relaxing candlelit ambiance along with the creative combinations brought out conversation and the assertion we'd all be back. Stellar!

BUZZWORTHY

ChopHouse Grille

301 N. Pottstown Pk., Exton
484-875-6700 / ChopHouseGrille.com

Hard to believe Exton didn't have a true steakhouse. Welcome the ChopHouse Grille, courtesy of the PJW Group (Pour House, P.J. Whelihan's), which opened last summer. People gush over the interior design—open air, high ceilings, industrial chic—the central bar and, in summer, outside bar and fire pit. The service is friendly and happy. But the serious raves are reserved for the steaks—filet mignon or Kona-crusted strip, in particular—complemented with intriguing starters, crispy Brussels sprouts, calamari or blistered shishito peppers. With about a dozen custom cocktails and 20-some by-the-glass wines, it's a perfect place for a birthday or date night.

The Refectory

862 E. Lancaster Ave., Villanova
610-519-5786 / TheRefectoryGrill.com

Villanova University has a sophisticated-yet-casual restaurant on campus that's open to the public and located in the new Commons residence hall, across from the Performing Arts Center (opening soon) and close to Nova basketball games. Zavio Hospitality Group (Enoteca Tredici in Bryn Mawr) created an American bar and grill serving "elevated classics" ranging from sandwiches, salads, sushi and raw bar to 20-oz. ribeye steaks. A horseshoe-shaped bar, marble tabletops and wood banquettes give an upscale feel to the 150-guest dining room plus wine vault for smaller groups. Sip a Wildcat (Bluecoat gin, lemon, agave, blackberry), order your Villanova Tomato Salad and see if anyone at your table knows what refectory means.

Rosalie

Wayne Hotel
139 E. Lancaster Ave., Wayne
610-687-5000 / WayneHotel.com

The iconic Wayne Hotel is getting a new onsite restaurant, replacing posh Paramour. The Fearless Restaurant Group—Moshulu, White Dog, Autograph—is working on a new dining destination to open in early 2020. Rosalie will feature Italian soul food, described by Executive Chef Merick Devine as "Italian cuisine, deeply rooted in tradition, heritage and technique, adapted to the local landscape with a gentle contemporary approach." Look for brunch, lunch and dinner

daily. Here's hoping they make the most of that great veranda!

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT

Bodega by La Cabra

810 Glenbrook Ave., Bryn Mawr
610-526-2337 / BodegaByLaCabra.com

We were sorry to see Biga Pizza close, but we're more than happy with its replacement. Bodega by La Cabra (from the Berwyn beer folks) is a no-nonsense barbecue place, with brisket "to die for"—slow-cooked, tender, blackened on the outside. The ribs are meaty and aromatic. The wings served whole, with a spicy rub very different—and better—than the conventional hot red, barbecue-sauced or deep-fried approach. And the spicy greens and baked beans laced with pork and just enough poblano to wake up your tongue, will not be forgotten. All can be washed down with a selection of La Cabra's brews.

BOMBA Tacos & Rum

10 Liberty Blvd., Malvern
BombaTacos.com

Bomba, a premium casual taco + more spot opening mid-January from the Ohio-based group behind Paladar in KOP, is about choice. Start with a flight of exotic rums: Gosling's Old Family and Don Q Gran Reserve are among the selection of over 100 varieties—more than there are islands in the Caribbean. Then build a guacamole, adding mango, candied pumpkin seeds, pickled jalapeños or about ten other ingredients to

fresh avocados. Choose your salsa—mango, grilled pineapple—and truly fresh tortilla chips. Then pick one of a dozen or so tacos, from smoked barbecue pork to blackened fish. That is, if you can resist the Cuban sandwich. So many choices.

Sedona Taphouse

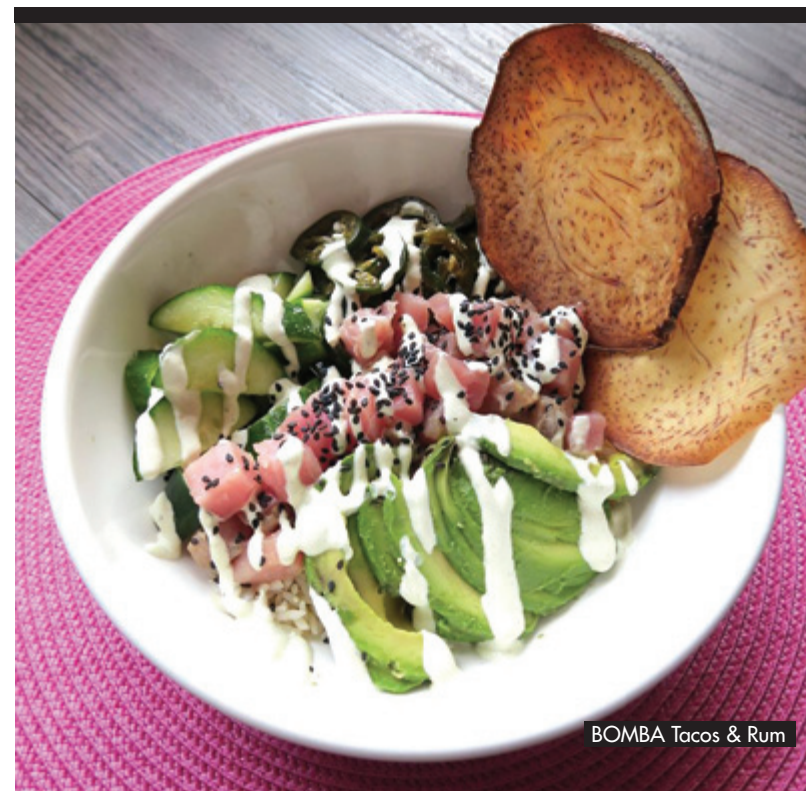
131 Bridge St. #5, Phoenixville
484-302-5714 / SedonaTaphouse.com

Arriving in Phoenixville last March, the Sedona Taphouse was a nearly instant sensation. It's still buzzing with food and fun. Inside or on the deck, the chain that hardly seems like a chain serves up Southwest-inspired cuisine, specialty cocktails and, of course, beer—bottle, can or draft. Start with Desert Fire Jalapeños or Canyon Crab Flatbread. Continue with burgers, sliders, salads or Devil's Pass pasta. Grab a beer—names are as entertaining as they are good: Scarecrow wheat, These Pretzels are Making Me Thirsty lager or Sculpin IPA. With fire pits, televisions and outdoor bar, good times are always on tap.

GG Italian

1110 Baltimore Pk., Glen Mills
610-358-2676 / GGItalian.com

You don't need to be an out-of-towner staying at the Comfort Inn and Suites in Glen Mills to enjoy the new sleek black, white and red GG Italian restaurant. On the north side of the hotel, enter at the awning bearing its name. Authentic Italian dishes abound. For smaller bites, try pizzas and salads. For bigger appetites, start with scrippelle soup—crepes, shaved Parmesan and chicken



BOMBA Tacos & Rum



Sedona Taphouse

broth—and continue on to veal Oscar with jumbo lump crab, asparagus, Parmesan risotto. End with honey ricotta cheesecake or cappuccino tiramisu. Make reservations for Friday or Saturday nights—food fans have already found it.

PLACES TO WATCH

The Blue Elephant

152 E. High St., Pottstown

484-949-9084 / BlueElephantBar.com

Take in the glorious setting in a former Pottstown bank building: vaults, brass, 30-foot quartz bar, soaring ceilings, huge fountain, with chairs and velvet curtains of imperial blue—the latest from Win Signature Restaurants (Teikoku, Azie). In this setting, Executive Chefs Juan and Felipe Calixto serve an eclectic Asian fusion menu—Italian-Thai with Japanese and French influences. From the Thai side, drunken noodles and green curry lobster linguine. From Japan, choose from five different sushis and tempuras, including kanikazi, shrimp tempura with salmon, asparagus, and eel sauce. Quite a range, but it works.

Bua Loy Cuisine

300 W. Lancaster Ave., Devon

610-341-8162 / BuaLoyCuisine.com

Bua Loy means “floating lotus” and represents Chef Bualoy’s emigration from Laos to America, seeking a better future for her family. We hope she’s found it. Based on the cuisine of Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, the food is authentic and good. The aroma is soft and unmistakable: Lao-tian sausage, a host of satays and curries, dumplings, sticky and crispy rice, glass noodles, coconut milk, lemongrass, pad Thai, pho Don’t be put off by the strip mall location. Inside, it’s cozy, quiet and intimate. Listen closely. You’ll think you hear the Mekong River.

Café de Thai

420 W. Cypress St., Kennett Square

610-924-2828 / CafeDeThai.us

There’s now a good Thai restaurant in Kennett Square. Chef Jaruwanee Primo, who trained at the Wandee Culinary Art School in Bangkok—plus 17 years at restaurants in Lake Tahoe, LA, San Bernadino and Pittsburgh—visited Longwood Gardens and fell in love. Last March, she opened Café de Thai, focusing on the cuisine she grew up with, married to our local foods. Try Kennett Pad Thai or Fish Longwood. These are but flourishes to an authentic cuisine and extensive menu including pho, noodles, curries and ramens, leaning heavily on basil, mushrooms, scallions, ginger and coconut, and complemented with duck, chicken and seafood. The tastes, sublime.

Mama Wong

268 Eagleview Blvd., Exton

484-713-8888 / BestMamaWong.com

Located in a shopping center and focusing on Szechuan cuisine, this restaurant, alas, has no Mama Wong. Meet instead Chef Hongbin Luo, formerly of Han Dynasty, and co-owner Song Li, biotech businessman and force behind the venture, who built Mama Wong to remind his Exton-based employees of home. And they do remember! Striving for genuine and authentic, the cuisine is overall hot, with some concessions to Americans’ palates, but the many dumplings, dan dan noodles, dry pepper chicken wings, cumin lamb chop, smoked duck, flounder and striped bass are all declared by diners to be “amazing” and “fantastic.” Craig Laban agrees, awarding two bells.

BREAD & CHEESE

Brandywine Valley Bread

3941 Lincoln Hwy., Downingtown

484-698-8172 / BrandywineValleyBread.com

While man may not be able to live by bread alone, life without bread may not be worth living. So say fans of this simple pleasure. For those, a trip to Fran McLaughlin’s Brandywine Valley Bread brick-and-mortar store is a must. Having recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of the store, the baker-in-chief still makes the rounds to area farmers markets bringing samples of his naturally leavened goodness (no packaged yeast required). Pullman loaves of ancient grains, spelt and sourdough, classic baguettes, everything bagels, rosemary olive focaccia. Even morning buns, vegan croissants and cherry walnut cookies. It’s why “sold out” notices go up on Facebook.

Di Bruno Bros.

Snafford Shopping Center

Lancaster Ave., Wayne / DiBruno.com

Cheese glorious cheese and more are coming to the Kitchen Kapers spot in the Snafford Shopping Center, near the Lancaster County Farmer’s Market. Gourmet food market Di Bruno Bros., long a favorite at Ardmore’s Farmer’s Market and harking back to 1939 at South Philly’s Italian Market, is bringing their fresh pasta and bread, antipasti bar and prepared foods to Wayne. And so much more—coffee, caviar, chocolate, cookies, condiments and, of course, cheese. With options from award-winning to stinky and funky cheese plus the planned liquor license, Di Bruno’s will satisfy your cheese pairing dreams.

NEW INCARNATIONS

118 North

118 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne

610-971-2628 / 118NorthWayne.com

The big news is that Wayne’s restaurant, bar and music club has partnered with the folks from Ardmore Music Hall, and more importantly, Ripplewood Whiskey and Craft. The Ripp, as it’s

called, earned three bells from Craig LaBan, with special raves for the double patty burger with fried Lebanon bologna that caught our attention last year. You’ll find similar cleverly updated pub fare from Chef Biff Gottehrer, including a North Burger with American cheese, brie, onion jam and special sauce, plus lamb burgers and pork burgers. The menu is full of tempting comfort food—brisket dip, fried cheese curds, sublime garlic Parker House rolls, and another favorite, the Brookie (brownie/cookie combo).

Nui Nui Kitchen

301 Bridge St., Phoenixville

484-302-5141 / NuiNuiKitchen.com

Chef Nui Kullanna has redone Thai L’Elephant—and raised her ambitions—with the help of husband, Chef Francis Pascal of Birchrunville Store Café. The elegant new restaurant gets nothing but raves. Featuring Asian cuisine, fused with French inspiration, the menu features Thai classics—Tom yum soup, pad Thai, drunken noodles. The curries are simply sublime. Even more special are General Tso’s Chilean seabass or hoisin pork rigatoni. The beautifully presented food is matched by the splendid service. Nui Nui is perfectly lovely.

Rye BYOB

112 W. State St., Media

610-565-5554 / LotusFarmToTable.com

Foodies are salivating in anticipation of upcoming Rye BYOB by former Lotus Farm to Table Chef Ryan Sulikowski and his wife, Brianne. With new American smaller plates to be tasted, savored and shared, the food sets the stage for the restaurant’s design: a comfortable, never stuffy, environment and whimsical plating on dishes of varied shapes and colors to highlight sweet, salty, temperature and texture. Special Sunday night dinners—reminiscent of the

owners’ childhood family meals—bring staff, purveyors and the public together for wonderful food, relaxed service and great conversation. Can’t wait? Taste-test and provide feedback at three Tyler Arboretum Chef’s Tastings by reservation in January and February.

NEW HORIZONS

Avalon Bistro & Bar

818 W. Lancaster Ave., Bryn Mawr

610-520-9700 / AvalonBistroBM.com

The Main Line is embracing this latest offering from Chef John Brandt-Lee. We suggest you surprise the table and order the Avalon Burger: fine meat, caramelized onion, bacon and cheddar cheese on a brioche bun. Served rare, it’s perfect. So were bacon-wrapped dates and an egg roll appetizer of short rib, onion and horseradish. For other entrees, try the Judy Foodie Pasta Special with shredded short ribs, mushrooms, caramelized onion and pappardelle, or lamb Bolognese, with ricotta and gemelli. We remembered the latter fondly from a Christmas past, at parent Bar Avalon in West Chester, which many enthusiastically recalled as the best Christmas party meal ever.

Brick & Brew Gastropub

400 E. King St., Malvern

484-320-8688 / BrickNBrewPub.com

This Delco fave (Media, Havertown) arrived in Chester County in a big way this past summer. Brick & Brew transformed an old office building on Malvern’s King Street into a huge hip 5,000-square-foot space (150 inside/70 patio) with steel beams, architectural salvage, a green wall, exposed brick and ... brews. Twice the size of the other locations, the Malvern spot is different in décor but retains the same elevated gastropub menu, with variety in the weekly specials



Avalon Bistro & Bar



Sterling Pig Public House

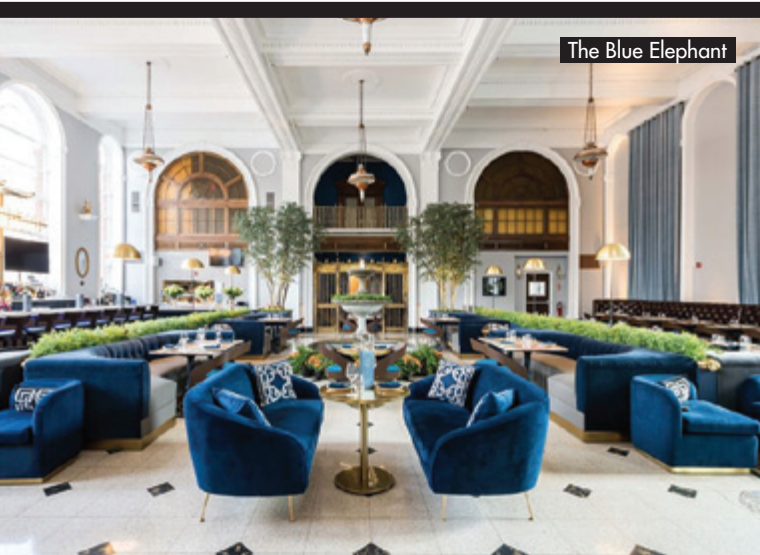
(for burgers, wings, flatbreads, soups). Enjoy fried pickles, burgers, pulled pork, brisket and wild boar sliders, plus 14 taps and creative cocktails. All Instagram-worthy. Big news: now taking reservations!

Sterling Pig Public House

113 W. Market St., West Chester

484-999-8026 / SterlingPig.com

Looking for The Snuffler? You’ll find the IPA at the Sterling Pig Public House in West Chester. One of the most popular beers from Sterling Pig Brewery in Media, The Snuffler—as well as Le Cochon Noir, Shoat Pilsner and others—plus dishes like tender well-seasoned brisket with four sauces, buttery cornbread, baked beans and buttermilk spicy chicken sandwich have been in their newest home on Market Street since February 2019. With industrial chic exposed ceiling ducts and brick wall, the pub can host you, about 99 friends and “pigs” for all at long tables and the bar ... without driving to Media.



The Blue Elephant



Brandywine Valley Bread

Stove & Tap

245 Lancaster Ave., Malvern
215-393-8277 / [StoveAndTap.com](#)

Both Frazer and West Chester are getting branches of this popular, throwback American Landsdale dining spot from the Justin Weathers/Joe Monnich team behind Exton's Al Pastor and Ardmore's The Bercy. The Frazer location (in former Carrabba's; West Chester location later in 2020, in former Landmark Americana) delayed opening after being hit by a tar truck. It'll be more smokehouse/grill than American/Brit gastropub of the original. Look for chef-driven menus of comfort food—brisket, burgers, pot pie—accompanied by a strong drinks menu with American beers and wines, plus craft cocktails like Suburbia (with Lillet) and Cricket Club (Pimms #1). Enjoy patio seating for 50 with two fire pits and a signature taxidermied bear, à la Landsdale.

White Dog Cafe

981 Baltimore Pk., Glen Mills
484-842-1757 / [WhiteDog.com](#)

With the spring 2020 opening of a Glen Mills location, there's a fourth pup in the White Dog Cafe family. At the Shoppes at Brinton Lake, it joins other Fearless Restaurants known for great food and neighborhood feel. White Dog lovers look forward to farm fresh menu favorites, the same eye toward sustainability and community spirit, and playful signature art by James McClellan who painted dog portraits for the Philly, Wayne and Haverford restaurants. If there are spots left, commission your pooch's portrait to join the new cafe's celebrity canine gallery while helping support two dog-related nonprofits.

GOOD NEWS

Byrsa Bistro

127 E. State St., Kennett Square
610-444-5050 / [ByrsaLegacy.com](#)

All you Mediterranean food lovers, there's another reason for a celebratory dinner. Byrsa Bistro now has two locations—the charmer by the picturesque train station in Glen Mills and an attractive new storefront location on State Street in Kennett Square, the town where they began. Dip into your old favorites from their previous menu—Byrsa's chicken tagine or paella. Raise a glass of wine or beer from Sterling Pig Brewery with Kennett mushrooms flatbread. Open for Happy Hour Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; dinner every night but Tuesday.

Portabello's

108 E. State St., Kennett Square
610-925-4984 / [PortabellosOfKennettSquare.com](#)

The name's the same but Portabello's new space on East State Street is four times as large and there's a liquor license (bye, BYOB), so prepare for porcini-infused whiskey in your Manhattan. As you'd expect from the name, the menu remains fungi-centric, even listing mushroom sources—To-Jo's, Philips, Lafferty, plus more—in changing, seasonal dishes described as “American food with international flair.” Try Portabello fries, exotic mushroom crepe, mushroom fondue, roasted mushroom soup, pappardelle Forestiere, Stroganoff with crimini. Sip a seasonal cocktail (Naughty Autumn with pumpkin coffee rum) or specialty cocktails (Pomegranate Blood Orange Old Fashioned), or choose beer, cider or something from the wine list. And enjoy the music!

BEER TO GO SPOT

Pinocchio's Restaurant & Beer Garden To Go

131 E. Baltimore Ave., Media
610-566-7767 / [PinPizza.com](#)

Sipping craft beer at a brewery is a peak experience, but sometimes you want a selection to enjoy in the comfort of your home. That's when

to head for Pinocchio's, Delco's first bottle shop with 25 rotating beers on tap and 1,000 specialty beers—with everything from local choices to a bevy of Belgians. So bring your growler, get a custom crowler (your choice on tap in a can), or mix and match a six-pack to satisfy the gang. New choices arrive everyday, and this busy shop has turnover to ensure the beers you buy are fresh.

COLD BEER

Kennett Winterfest

Kennett Square

610-444-8188 / [KennettWinterfest.com](#)

Despite the British preference for warm beer, here we love our beer cold. And some of the coldest can be found at Kennett Square's Winterfest, an annual outdoor celebration of beer, coming on leap day, February 29, 2020. This younger winter complement to October's Brewfest (8 years vs. 22), lets beer fans sample from 60-some craft breweries—local, national and emerging, plus ciders and meads. Using your little plastic tasting mug, you can sample to your hearth's content, drinking widely from breweries coast to coast or focusing on your faves—like porters. Tickets on sales now. Enjoy the beer bliss!

ST. PADDY'S DAY CELEBRATION

Molly Maguire's Irish Restaurant & Pub

197 Bridge St., Phoenixville

610-933-9550 / [MollyMaguiresPhoenixville.com](#)

Among the great choices for celebrating St. Patrick's Day, being Irish or hanging with friends, Molly Maguire's should top your list. Owned by two folks from Ireland—Declan Mannion from Galway and Conor Cummins from Cork—this place starts celebrating when it opens for breakfast serving a limited traditional

Irish menu (scrambled eggs, Irish rashers, white pudding, sausage, baked beans and toast). Three floors (if it's warm enough for the rooftop deck) plus a tented beer garden host Irish music, Irish dancing and spirited shenanigans. Plenty of Irish grub—boxty to shepherd's pie. Join in and be Irish for a day.

WILD / SOUR BEERS

La Cabra Brewing

642 Lancaster Ave., Berwyn

610-240-7908 / [LaCabraBrewing.com](#)

Not everyone is a fan of sour beers. Many palates haven't developed a taste for those tart, funky, intense flavors—even among wine lovers. But when yet another hopped-up IPA fails to tickle your taste buds, it's time for the bright refreshing edge of sours. We suggest a brewer who makes some of the best—Dan Popernack at La Cabra Brewing. Touting sours' authenticity (often brewed with yeast in the brewery's air), long shelf life and food-friendliness, he turned out sours in his Aleatory series that made neighboring Nectar restaurant's beer list. At press time you could sip Cereze Kriek (sour cherry), Albaricoque (sour apricot) in bottles. Puckeringly yummy.

ORANGE WINE

Va La Winery

8820 Gap Newport Pk., Avondale

610-268-2702 / [VaLaVineyards.com](#)

Yes, orange wine. In view of rows of grapevines, find a captivating stone and wood barn turned wine-tasting room for Va La Vineyards. It's the perfect backdrop for sipping local orange wines—whites that have fermented in their skins to produce liquids from pale gold to pumpkin. Taste Va La's honey-colored La Prima Donna, a white blend, with homemade focaccia from the winemaker's grandmother's recipe. Or aromatic Zafferano—the color of deep butterscotch or saffron, as its name indicates. Beautiful on the table and on your palate.

REASON TO DRINK PA WINE

Penns Woods Winery

124 Beaver Valley Rd., Chadds Ford
610-459-0808 / [PennsWoodsWinery.com](#)

October was PA Wine Month, but we think you should give local wine a year-round chance. And Penns Wood Winery offers two

compelling reasons to give them a try. First their wine club, which started with 50 members, now tops 550 and has a waiting list. Plus cool events like a members-only five-course harvest dinner in the vineyard, catered by John Serock. Second, no less than glittery Jean-Georges restaurant atop the Comcast Center pours Penns Woods' Chateau Reserve by the glass. Not for nothing: James Suckling awarded 96 points to the 2013 and 2015 Ameritage Reserve. Okay, three reasons.

CREATIVE WINE PAIRING

Vintner's Table

135 Bridge St., Phoenixville

484-408-6147 / [Vintners-Table.com](#)

Thanks to the Folino Estate Winery, from Berks County, Phoenixville has a tasting room reminiscent of a Tuscan enoteca. And thanks to the creativity of Mrs. Folino and staff, it held innovative pairings with different wines for events throughout its first year on Bridge Street. At wooden tables near the fireplace, patrons sampled Thanksgiving pies and Halloween candies. (As they said, why should kids have all the fun?) Mother's Day weekend featured a sweet tasting with cupcakes from Philly's Bredenbeck's Bakery. Summer brought cannoli, then gelato imported from Italy with wine including dolce bianco and sparkling red. Check their website for 2020 tasting events.

WINE EVENT

Brandywine River Museum of Art

1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford

610-388-2700 / [Brandywine.org](#)

Looking for a date to share with your Irish red and white setter? Or perhaps golden retriever pooch? The Brandywine River Museum has events for you in the museum courtyard, debuted in 2019 to be repeated in 2020, for two- and four-footed friends. Wags and Wine features local wines, live music, menu created by Chef Mike Kline of the Millstone Café and entertainment. Barks and Brews boasts the same features—exchanging craft beers for wine—plus pups in Oktoberfest costumes. Sitters watch your setters while you tour indoor art exhibits. Next dates TBD.

CREATIVE COCKTAILS

Black Powder Tavern

1164 Valley Forge Rd., Wayne
610-293-9333 / [BlackPowderTavern.com](#)



La Cabra Brewing



Va La Winery



Black Powder Tavern

Stove & Tap



White Dog Cafe



Portabello's



Black Powder Tavern has been one of our top go-to places for after-work drinks, with great apps, strong craft beer and wine selections. But the specialty and seasonal cocktails add another dimension. For fall, bar manager Thomas Deems spent three months developing 10 new cocktails—with help from Yelpers—with spices, seasonal ingredients and fun names. Fall featured Pumpkin Time Again (Pearl Vodka, Kahlua, pumpkin spice creamer, ground clove) and Pie Eagles Pie (Crown Apple, Crown Vanilla, ginger ale). Winter brings Peppermint and Chocolate Covered Cherry Martinis, plus Campfire (Sling Glenmorangie, maple syrup, Aztec chocolate bitters) and more. Find your favorite.

COCKTAIL LAB

Tavola Restaurant

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

Much more fun than high school chem lab, Tavola's monthly Cocktail Lab leaves everyone smiling. On the first Tuesday of most months, reserve your space to learn how to craft the featured cocktail. Enjoy light nibbles, a spirits tasting to prepare for the interactive cocktail lab. Your teacher is an expert mixologist who will guide your experiment. November featured an Apple Jack with Jack Daniel's Tennessee honey, while December focused on a seasonal eggnog and rum inspired drink. No labs in January or February, but check social media for what's next on the syllabus.

SMALL BATCH DISTILLERY

Manatawny Still Works

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

Crafting spirits should be fun, and the folks at Manatawny Distilling find ways to keep it new, interesting and excellent. This small batch distillery brought home a batch of awards from the American Craft Distilling Institute in four categories, including Best Of category trophies for PA Whiskey and Honey Whiskey. Other years they've released Maple Whiskey (yum) and Apple Brandy made with apples from Frecon Orchards, just six miles away. Last year their Coffee Whiskey was a surprise repeat (made possible by the government shut-down) and heralded a new 'port-folio' of spirits—rum, gin and whiskey finished in port casks, adding extra layers of flavor.

FROZEN DRINKS

Más Mexicali Cantina

102 E. Market St., West Chester
610-918-6280 / MasMexicali.com

It might not be Cinco de Mayo but any day is a fiesta at Más Mexicali Cantina. Indoors or on the rooftop deck any hour is Happy Hour with hand-shaken margaritas: the classic favorite, black raspberry, El Diablo with muddled serrano peppers or Pepino with muddled cucumber. Even better, let it all go with a frozen margarita: blood orange, strawberry or the icy version of their signature. All with award-winning tequila, freshly squeezed lime juice and accompanied by tacos, fajitas, burritos and DJ music to make your tastebuds sing and your feet dance.

RECYCLING PROGRAM

Brandywine Branch Distillers

350 Warwick Rd., Elverson
610-901-3668 / RevivalistSpirits.com

We all need to do our part to save the planet, but there are extra points for creativity. As part of their grain-to-glass mission, Brandywine Branch Distilling takes extra steps to minimize their environmental impact. In addition to recycling cooling water from the distilling process, their spent grains get donated to local farmers, including Danny Messner of Bethany Farm, just five miles away in Glenmoore. Messner takes thousands of gallons of spent grain back to his farm to feed to his cattle. He reports that the cows might "get a little bit of a buzz" from it, but no complaints.

SHRUBS

Tait Farm Foods

179 Tait Rd., Centre Hall, PA
814-466-3411 / TaitFarmFoods.com

You may have heard about cocktail shrubs or drinking vinegars, a newly popular tart/sweet cocktail and mocktail ingredient dating back to Colonial times. This fruit-vinegar-sugar combo comes in a concentrated syrup to add to club soda or spirits, sparkling wine and beer. How to explore this refreshing elixir that's also good for salads or marinades? You can DIY or try one of 16 shrubs from Tait Farm, credited with launching the modern shrub revolution. Located outside State College, they've been making shrubs since 1987, and offer varieties, from beet to wild blueberry. Available at local specialty food stores and online.

AL FRESCO DINING

Downtown West Chester

Gay St., West Chester
610-738-3350 / West-Chester.com

What's more appealing on a summer evening than dining by moonlight? Dining and drinking under twinkling stars or twinkle lights in West Chester



Tavola Restaurant



Great American Pub



Spence Cafe



Al Fresco Dining in West Chester

at its new Al Fresco dining launch. With good reviews of local chefs and abundant fresh food at last September's debut, 2020 evenings are on the menu. Under consideration: four special evenings—two on the west side of town and two on the east—likely first Thursdays of June, July, August and September, with participating restaurants, strolling entertainment and sidewalk vendors. Watch for details as West Chester joins Media and Kennett Square with dining in the streets.

HISTORIC HOSPITALITY

General Warren

9 Old Lancaster Rd., Malvern
610-296-3637 / GeneralWarren.com

Celebrating 275 years of hospitality at the same location, offering memorable meals and lodging, the General Warren must be doing something right. (Inne is gone from the name, but not from the mission.) While the coat-and-tie, reservations-only times are gone, the classic American cuisine—beef Wellington, table-side bananas Foster—can still be found in the dining room. Now more casual options are available in the Warren Tavern (small plates, sharables, lighter fare, Happy Hour) and charming Spring House Terrace space (an al fresco space, plus a year-round level). Stay tuned for details about the upcoming 275th anniversary plans—specialty brewed beers, private labeled wines, food pairing dinners and more. Congrats!

BBQ DISHES

Great American Pub

148 Bridge St., Phoenixville
610-917-3333 / TheGreatAmericanPub.com

First, regulars rave about the service. Friendly, timely, with a "real family feeling." A kind of everyone-knows-your-name place. Second, they'll gush over the location in the old Columbia Hotel, a grand old mansion reminiscent of New Orleans, with a fabulous courtyard outside. It quickly became the go-to place in Phoenixville, whether for lunch, dinner, late-night or brunch on weekends. Finally, they cite the food in general and the barbecue in particular, especially the smoked brisket, either as a sandwich, taco or open-face platter along with the pork, chicken or a slab of ribs. The vegan menu—particularly the impossible burger—also whets appetites and brings folks back for more.

BRITISH BRUNCH

The Whip Tavern

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

After a scenic Chester County ride that evokes images of James Herriott country, pop into an authentic pub (riding boots optional). Tuck into your favorites—the rustic Whip Tavern serves the Brits' best menu options for brunch. Start with a Scotch egg, Welsh rarebit or lamb sausage rolls accompanied by a pint. Trade a bite of tradition, a Breakfast Bubble and Squeak—potato cakes with cabbage topped with bacon and fried egg—for a morsel of a friend's gravy-covered bacon cheddar scones. Feeling a bit rebellious? Order the southern American shrimp and grits. Finish with sticky toffee pudding. Cheers!

HOMIE BRUNCH

Roots Cafe

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

Take a seat at a wooden table at Roots near the old marble fireplace façade lined with candles. Delight in comfortable charm. A drink arrives in a mason jar. Brunch of delicious lox Benedict or a burger with arugula and goat cheese is presented by friendly staff who engage with you in conversation about menu options, local cheese makers and the paintings on the wall. With Roots as a new extension of his studio, John Hannafin's paintings—scenes of West Chester buildings with whimsical angles and warm lighting—perfectly capture the spirit of the homey café.

BURGER VARIATIONS

Righteous Tap House

1548 Shadyside Rd., West Chester
484-593-0850 / RighteousTapHouse.com

If the Sistine Chapel were in Pennsylvania, Michelangelo would have ended his week at the Righteous Tap House, where art with irreverent humor is on the house. Next to the portrait of a monk with a mug, stained glass with divine advice and a twist on Michelangelo's ceiling masterpiece, customers order from "a heavenly selection" of "devilishly good" food and beer. They rave about the Inquisition Burgers with bacon jam, fried egg and other condiments, and wings (fit for an angel). Have a Corona or a craft, domestic or imported beer. Two patios, live music, tucked among the trees just outside West Chester.

BYOB

Spence Cafe

131 N. High St., West Chester
610-918-1272 / Spence.cafe



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COUNTY LINES

Dining Guide 2020

Keep this guide handy all year long so you can discover as many of these great restaurants as possible!

SOME OF OUR FAVORITES

PENNSYLVANIA

Avondale

★ **The Farmhouse Restaurant at Loch Nairn**
514 McCue Rd.
610-268-2235; LochNairn.com

Berwyn

★ **La Cabra Brewing**
642 Lancaster Ave.
610-240-7908; LaCabraBrewing.com

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

Birchrunville

★ **Birchrunville Store Cafe**
1403 Hollow Rd.
610-827-9002; BirchrunvilleStoreCafe.com

Bryn Mawr

★ **Aneu Kitchen & Juicery**
1225 Montrose Ave.
610-525-1711; AneuCatering.com

★ **Avalon Bistro & Bar**
818 W. Lancaster Ave.
610-520-9700; AvalonBistroBM.com

★ **Bodega by La Cabra**
810 Glenbrook Ave.
610-526-2337; BodegaByLaCabra.com

Enoteca Tredici
915 W. Lancaster Ave.
484-381-0268; TrediciBM.com

★ **Yangming**
1051 Conestoga Rd.
610-527-3200; YangmingRestaurant.com

Always included in "Best Of Awards," this Chinese-fusion rock star offers cuisine to delight your taste buds in a newly renewed and redesigned interior. Jumbo lump crab cakes, Jumbo Shrimp with Honey Walnuts and Peking Duck are can't-miss choices. Happiness hour, Mon–Fri, 4:30 to 6:30. Banquet facilities. Open 7 days.

Chadds Ford

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

Chadds Ford Tavern
1400 Baltimore Pk.
484-800-4084; CFTavern.com

Chester Springs

★ **The Gables at Chadds Ford**
423 Baltimore Pk.
610-388-7700; TheGablesAtChaddsFord.com

Come and meet new executive chef Darryl Butts. Serving fresh seasonal cuisine, rustic yet elegant charm and enchanting outdoor dining that will keep you coming back time and again. Have a cocktail in the lounge while listening to live piano Thurs, Fri and Sat evenings, or sample the bar menu outside in the fire pit area. Happy Hour specials weekdays from 4:30 to 6:30, including discounts on all beers on the rotating draught list.

★ **Rasa Indian Cuisine**
1201 Wilmington Pk.
484-800-8109; RasaUS.com

★ **Eagle Tavern & Taproom**
123 Pottstown Pk.
610-458-5331; EagleTavern.com

★ **Epicurean Garage**
570 Simpson Dr.
610-615-5189; EpicureanGarage.com

★ **Liberty Union Bar and Grill**
325 Simpson Dr.
484-359-4061; LibertyUnionBar.com

★ **Limoncello Chester Springs**
499 W. Uwchlan Ave.
610-524-3112; LimoncelloRestaurant.com

Coatesville

★ **Stottsville Inn Restaurant Hotel Bar**
3512 Strasburg Rd.
484-718-5121; StottsvilleInn.com

An authentic piece of Chester County history that has recently undergone a big transformation, featuring a full kitchen and bar as well as a hotel. Enjoy reasonably priced fare and a casual atmosphere with a wood fired grill and 24 beers and 8 wines on tap. Live music on Friday night and Sunday Brunch. Open Tues–Sat, 11:30 am to midnight; Sun, 10 am to midnight.

Devon

★ **Amis Trattoria**
138 Lancaster Ave.
610-590-4782; AmisTrattoria.com

★ **The Black Cat Cafe**
42 Berkeley Rd.
610-688-1930; TheBlackCatCafe.org

★ **Bua Loy Thai, Laos & Vietnamese**
300 W. Lancaster Ave.
610-341-8162; BuaLoyCuisine.com



Appetites on Main



Ron's Original Bar & Grille



Columbus Inn

★ "Best of the Best" Winner

★ Restaurant in a historic building



Más Mexicali Cantina



Pietro's Prime Steakhouse & Martini Bar



Yangming



Saloon 151 Whiskey Bar & Grill



Gracie's 21st Century Cafe & Catering



La Verona

★ **Terrain Café at Devon**
138 Lancaster Ave.
610-590-4675
ShopTerrain.com/Devon-Restaurant

Downingtown

Amani's BYOB
105 E. Lancaster Ave.
484-237-8179; AmanisBYOB.com

Bangles Indian Cuisine
889 E. Lancaster Ave.
610-269-9600; BanglesIndianCuisine.com

★ **Estrella Tacos y Mas**
202 E. Lancaster Ave.
484-237-2423; EstrellaTacoBar.com

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

Victory Brewing Company
420 Acorn Ln.
610-873-0881; VictoryBeer.com

Exton

★ **Appetites on Main**
Main Street At Exton, 286 Main St.
610-594-2030; AppetitesOnMain.com
Casual American comfort food at a good value with a full service bar with 14 taps and over 70 bottles. Choose taproom atmosphere in front or family/quieter section in back. In warmer months, enjoy the pet-friendly outdoor patio. Happy hour daily, 4 to 6, and weekly entertainment including Free Texas Hold'em tournaments, karaoke, live music, DJs. Daily specials, ½-price wings on Mon. Open daily, 11 am to 2 am, full menu until 1:30 am.

★ **ChopHouse Grille**
301 N. Pottstown Pk.
484-875-6700; ChopHouseGrille.com

★ *** Duling-Kurtz House & Country Inn**
146 S. Whifford Rd.
610-524-1830; DulingKurtz.com

Eagleview Town Center Restaurant Row
Al Pastor 484-341-8886; EatAlPastor.com
Bluefin Eagleview 610-458-3234
BlueFinEagleview.com

Brickside Grille 610-321-1600
BricksideGrille.com
Bright Spot Cafe 484-909-3284
BrightSpotExton.com
Suburban Restaurant & Beer Garden
610-458-2337; SuburbanBG.com

★ **Mama Wong**
268 Eagleview Blvd.
484-713-8888; BestMamaWong.com

Marchwood Tavern
3 Marchwood Rd.
610-363-7300; MarchwoodTavern.com
Marchwood Tavern is a neighborhood restaurant and bar located in the heart of Exton, just off Route 100 & Marchwood Rd. in the Marchwood Shopping Center. Featuring two full-service bars, a spacious main and secluded dining room perfect for private events. Specializing in American-Italian cuisine, they offer a wide variety of excellent food at a fair price.

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

Red Star Craft House
146 Exton Square Mall
610-524-5893; RedStarCraftHouse.com

★ **Ron's Original Bar & Grille**
74 E. Uwchlan Ave. (Rt. 113)
610-594-9900; RonsOriginal.com
Serving real food, for the health of it! Prepared from scratch on site daily with all natural ingredients. American/Italian cuisine with daily specials and a School Night Value Menu, Sun–Thurs. Live music, happy hour, Mon–Fri. 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 until 1 am, Fri–Sat until 2 am.

* **Vickers Restaurant**
192 E. Welsh Pool Rd.
(corner of Gordon Dr.)
610-363-7998; VickersRestaurant.com

Glen Mills

★ **Avenue Kitchen**
Glen Eagle Square

509 Wilmington-West Chester Pk.
484-800-8070; AveKitchen.com

Bluefin Sushi & Asian Cuisine
Cross Road Center, 1102 Baltimore Pk.
610-459-2055; BlueFinGlenMills.com

Byrsa Bistro
128 Glen Mills Rd.
610-558-4700; ByrsaBistro.com

★ **GG Italian**
1110 Baltimore Pk.
610-358-2676; GGItalian.com

Harvest Seasonal Grill & Wine Bar
549 Wilmington-West Chester Pk.
610-358-1005; HarvestSeasonalGrill.com

★ **Il Granaio Italian Restaurant**
711 Concord Rd.
610-459-8469; IlgranaioPA.com

★ **Poke Bros.**
571 Wilmington Pk., Suite 1; EatPokeBros.com

Shere-E-Punjab
301 Byers Dr.
484-841-6345; ShereEPunjab.com

★ **Terrain Garden Café**
914 Baltimore Pk.; 610-459-6030
ShopTerrain.com/Glen-Mills-Restaurant

★ **White Dog Cafe**
981 Baltimore Pk. 484-842-1757
WhiteDog.com. *See listing under Wayne.*

Glenmoore

★ **Ludwig's Grill & Oyster Bar**
2904 Conestoga Rd.
610-458-5336; LudwigsOysterBar.com
Ludwig's Grill & Oyster Bar is an American seafood restaurant, featuring an elegant banquet room for all of your special occasions. Join them every Wednesday and Thursday for buck-a-shuck oyster nights. They also have a half price happy hour raw bar every Friday from 4 to 6.

Kennett Square

★ **Byrsa Bistro**
127 E. State St.
610-444-5050; ByrsaLegacy.com

★ **Cafe de Thai**
420 W. Cypress St.
610-924-2828; CafeDeThai.us

* **Grain Craft Bar + Kitchen**
108 W. State St.
610-444-7232; MeetAtGrain.com

Hearth Kitchen Shoppes at Longwood Village
484-732-8320; HearthKennettSquare.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're committed to making your meal a memorable one, with professional service in a welcoming social atmosphere. There's a private dining area for parties up to 65. 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 Restaurant
104 W. State St.
610-925-3700; LilySushiAndGrill.com

★ **Portabello's**
108 E. State St.; 610-925-4984
PortabellosOfKennettSquare.com

Sovana Bistro
696 Unionville Rd.
610-444-5600; SovanaBistro.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

★ **Verbena BYOB**
102 State St.
484-732-7932; VerbenaBYOB.com

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

The Whip Tavern



Stottsville Inn





General Warren



The Gables at Chadds Ford



Pinocchio's Restaurant



Poke Bros.

Kimberton

★ **The Kimberton Inn**
2105 Kimberton Rd.
610-933-8148; KimbertonInn.com

King of Prussia

Davio's Northern Italian Steakhouse
King of Prussia Town Center, 200 Main St.
610-337-4810; Davios.com/KoP

Eddie V's Prime Seafood
670 W. DeKalb Pk.
610-337-7823; EddieV.com

Paladar Latin Kitchen & Rum Bar
King of Prussia Town Center, 250 Main St.
484-965-9779; PaladarLatinKitchen.com

★ **Pizzeria Vetri**
King of Prussia Mall
640 W. DeKalb Pk.
267-422-4201; PizzeriaVetri.com

Malvern

★ **A&M Factory**
360 Lancaster Ave.
484-318-7537; TheAMFactory.com

Avola Kitchen + Bar
625 N. Morehall Rd.
484-328-8584; AvolaKitchenAndBar.com

★ **BOMBA Tacos & Rum**
10 Liberty Blvd.; BombaTacos.com

★ **Brick & Brew Gastropub**
400 E. King St.
484-320-8688; BrickNBrewPub.com

★ **Christopher's A Neighborhood Place**
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 celebrating its 275th year in 2020! Serving new American cuisine paired with classic Continental specialties. Fresh fish, steaks, lamb, small plates, vegetarian and vegan entrees, 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 guest suites available for overnight accommodations. Lunch, Mon–Fri, 11:30 to 2:30; Dinner, Mon–Sat, 5 to 10.

The Greyhound Cafe
81 Lancaster Ave. at Great Valley Center
610-240-0222; TheGreyhoundCafe.com

Malvern Buttery
233 E. King St.
610-296-2534; MalvernButtery.com

★ **Margaret Kuo's Mandarin Restaurant**
190 Lancaster Ave.
610-647-5488; MargaretKuo.com

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

★ **Stove & Tap**
245 Lancaster Ave.
215-393-8277; StoveAndTap.com
Call it rustic American or throwback American dining—either way, the scratch-made, chef-driven menus satisfy. Started in Landsdale, just opened in Malvern and coming to West Chester later in 2020, these gastro pubs are a meeting place for friends and family. Check the website for details.

★ **Tonino's Pizza & Pasta Co.**
235 Lancaster Ave.
610-240-9566; ToninosPizzaAndPasta.com
This is a family-run business that prides itself on 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, 10 to 2; Tues–Fri, 10 to 9:30; Sat, 11 to 9:30; Sun, noon to 9 pm.

Media

Ariano Restaurant & Bar
114 S. Olive St.
610-892-6944; Ariano.net



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3420 Sansom St Philadelphia 215.386.9224

981 Baltimore Pike Glen Mills 484.842.1757

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235 Lancaster Ave, Frazer
610.240.9566
ToninosPizzaAndPasta.com



At The Rail, Delaware Park



Great American Pub

*** Azie Restaurant**

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

★ House Restaurant

110-114 S. Jackson St.
610-566-2505; EatAtHouse.com

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant

30 E. State St.; 610-627-9000
IronHillBrewery.com
See listing under West Chester.

★ Margaret Kuo's Media

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

★ Pinocchio's Restaurant

131 E. Baltimore Ave.
610-566-7767; PinPizza.com
Recognized as the very first pizzeria in Delaware County 65 years ago, this family-owned restaurant is still setting the standard for fresh, homemade pizza of all types. The extensive menu also offers cheesesteaks, strombolis, appetizers, sandwiches and pasta. Their award-winning Beer Garden To Go offers over 1,000 specialty beers, 25 rotating on draft as well as crowlers and growlers.

★ Rye BYOB

112 W. State St.
610-565-5554; LotusFarmToTable.com

Shere-E-Punjab

208 W. State St.
610-891-0400; ShereEPunjab.com

Tom's Dim Sum

13 E. State St.
610-566-6688; TomsDimSum.com

Newtown Square

Firepoint Grill

3739 West Chester Pk.
484-428-3093; FirepointGrill.com

*** Ristorante La Locanda**

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

Oxford

★ Miss Oxford Diner

233 S. 3rd St.
610-932-2653; MissOxfordDiner.com

Paoli

★ Aneu Catering

1556 Lancaster Ave.
610-251-9600; AneuCatering.com

Trattoria San Nicola

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

Phoenixville

Bistro On Bridge

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

Black Lab Bistro

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

★ * Great American Pub Bar & Grill

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

This is far from a franchise—they're a family-owned and operated restaurant that cares for every person they serve. Also located in Wayne and Conshohocken, they live by live entertainment, creative menus and excellent service. Their spacious outdoor dining, bar areas and three private banquet rooms are like no other, and they enjoy serving and working alongside the town of Phoenixville and are proud to have such a historical home.

★ * Il Granaio Italian Restaurant

184 Bridge St.
484-924-8423; IlGranaioPA2.com

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant

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



White Dog Cafe



Ludwig's Grill & Oyster Bar



Taco Mar



Tonino's Pizza & Pasta



Black Powder Tavern



Tavola Restaurant + Bar



Country Bagel & Bakery



Lincoln Tea Room



Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant



Marchwood Tavern

★ **Liberty Union Bar and Grill**
519 Kimberton Rd.
484-927-4244; LibertyUnionBar.com

Louette's BYO
106 Bridge St.
484-924-9906; LouettesBYO.com

★ **Molly Maguire's Irish Restaurant & Pub**
197 Bridge St.
610-933-9550; MollyMaguiresPhoenixville.com

★ **Nui Nui Kitchen**
301 Bridge St.
610-935-8613; NuiNuiKitchen.com

★ **Sedona's Taphouse**
131 Bridge St. #5, Phoenixville
484-302-5714; SedonaTaphouse.com

✱ **Seven Stars Inn**
263 Hoffercker 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

TASTE
236 Bridge St.; 484-924-9530
SandCastleWinery.com/Taste-Phoenixville

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

★ **Vintner's Table by Folino Estate Winery**
135 Bridge St.
484-408-6147; Vintners-Table.com

Pine Forge
Gracie's 21st Century Cafe & Catering
1534 Manatawny Dr.
610-323-4004; Gracies21stCentury.com
New American cooking has been served at Gracie's for over 30 years. Boasting beautiful ambiance, wonderful service, delicious and innovative cuisine, they also have weekly specials including Blue Plate Specials and Wine Pairings or seasonal events such as Valentines Day, Jazz Fest, Mother's Day and

more. Gracie's will also help you to plan your special event at their place or yours.

Pottstown
★ **The Blue Elephant**
152 E. High St.
484-949-9084; BlueElephantBar.com

★ **La Maison**
1470 Old Ridge Rd.
484-680-2631; MartinsKitchen.com

Lily's Grill
115 E. High St.
484-945-1008; LilysGrill.com

Springfield
Tavola Restaurant + Bar
400 W. Sproul Rd., Springfield Country Club
610-543-2100; Tavalas.com
Tavola offers a fun, relaxing restaurant and bar experience along with golf course views and fire pit lounges. Menus feature inventive Mediterranean cuisine and brick oven specialties with fresh ingredients sourced from on-site vegetable and herb gardens. Enjoy live acoustic music along with fast and friendly service. Open daily with happy hour, Mon–Thurs from 4 to 6 or Sunday Brunch that includes a complimentary mimosa for guests 21+.

Swarthmore
Broad Table Tavern
10 S. Chester Rd.
610-543-7500; TheInnAtSwat.com

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

Main & Vine California Bistro
789 E. Lancaster Ave.
484-380-3688; MainAndVineBistro.com

★ **The Refectory**
862 E. Lancaster Ave.
610-519-5786; TheRefectoryGrill.com

Wayne
★ **118 North**
118 N. Wayne Ave.
610-971-2628; 118NorthWayne.com
At The Table BYOB
11 Lovella Ct.
610-964-9700; AtTheTableByob.com

Autograph Brasserie
503 W. Lancaster Ave.
610-964-2588; AutographBrasserie.com

★ ✱ **Black Powder Tavern**
1164 Valley Forge Rd.
610-293-9333; BlackPowderTavern.com
Located just outside Valley Forge National Historical Park, the restaurant's menu features a variety of small and entree-sized plates that pair well with its extensive craft beer offerings. Ask about private dining options. Mon–Thurs, 11 to 10; Fri–Sat, 11 to 11; Sun, 10:30 to 9, brunch until 2. Daily Happy Hour.

★ **Christopher's A Neighborhood Place**
108 N. Wayne Ave.; 610-687-6558
ChristophersANeighborhoodPlace.com

★ **Di Bruno Brothers**
Coming to Stratford Shopping Center

The Goat's Beard
103 N. Wayne Ave.
484-584-4979; TheGoatsBeardWayne.com

★ **Margaret Kuo's, Wayne**
175 E. Lancaster Ave.
610-688-7200; MargaretKuo.com

★ ✱ **Rosalie**
Wayne Hotel, 139 E. Lancaster Ave.
610-687-5000; WayneHotel.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
Terasas-Cafe.com

White Dog Café
200 W. Lancaster Ave.
610-225-3700; WhiteDog.com/Wayne
White Dog Cafe is a local favorite, known for warm hospitality, inspiring and award-winning food, surrounded by charming and whimsical dog décor and artwork. The menu changes monthly using only the freshest seasonal ingredients available from local farms. Open daily with weekday happy hour and weekend brunch. Private Parties are available.

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

★ **Andiaro**
106 W. Gay St.
484-887-0919; Andiaro.com

Bango Bowls
109 W. Gay St.
484-266-7389; BangoBowls.com

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

Bonchon
124 E. Market St.
484-947-2572; Bonchon.com

Country Bagel and Bakery
145 E. Gay St.
610-696-8890; CountryBagel.com
Established in 1998 and family owned, Country Bagel and Bakery offers fresh bagels, pastries, donuts, coffee, breakfast sandwiches, cakes and more. They feature 25 varieties of Kettle-boiled and stone hearth-baked bagels, made from scratch every morning. Open Mon–Fri, 6:30 to 3; Sat–Sun, 7–3. Breakfast, lunch, delicious.

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

Dolce Zola
134 E. Gay St.
484-887-0760; DolceZola.com

Fiorello's Café Old World Italian Cuisine
730 E. Gay St.
610-430-8941; On Facebook

★ ✱ **Four Dogs Tavern**
1300 W. Strasburg Rd.
610-692-4367; TheFourDogsTavern.com

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

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant
3 W. Gay St.
610-738-9600; IronHillBrewery.com
At Iron Hill, you'll find fresh, handcrafted beers, creative yet informal new American cuisine and friendly and attentive service from a knowledgeable and courteous staff. Their beers have won national and international acclaim for over 20 years from The Great American Beer Festival and the World Beer Cup. Join them for Happy Hour Mon–Fri from 4 to 6 pm.

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

★ ✱ **Limoncello Ristorante**
9 N. Walnut St.
610-436-6230; LimoncelloRestaurant.com

✱ **The Lincoln Room**
28 W. Market St.
610-696-2102; On Facebook
Enjoy a quiet lunch, a cozy pot of tea or High Tea for one, two or three in one of West Chester's most famous historic buildings. Select from their extensive menu of specialty teas, sweet and savory scones and seasonal favorites. Their signature dessert is Croissant Bread pudding with Crème Anglaise. Loose leaf tea available; BYOB. Open Wed–Sat, 11 to 3. Private parties, Sun–Tues. Reservations suggested.

★ **Más Mexicali Cantina**
102 E. Market St.
610-918-6280; MasMexicali.com

Celebrating 10 years in West Chester, this family-owned and operated hot spot continues to please the masses. Serving up award-winning tacos & margaritas along with chef-inspired specialty dishes, the menu has something for everyone. Offering three floors of fun, vibrant decor, Más is the perfect spot for date nights, birthday parties and private events. Full catering menu available and be sure to take home your favorite Más Mexicali Fresh salsas and dressings!

★ **The Mediterranean Restaurant**

150 W. Gay St.
610-431-7074; TheMedWCPA.com

★ **Miss Winnie's**

211 E. Market St.
484-266-0508; MissWinnies.com

★ **Opa Taverna**

40 E. Gay St.
610-696-4100; OpaTavernaPhilly.com

★ **P.J. Whelihan's Pub + Restaurant**

1347 Wilmington Pk.
610-235-4200; PJsPub.com

★ *** Pietro's Prime Steakhouse & 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 until ... Bar open until 2 am. Come have a drink and a bite to see what you're missing.

★ **Poke Bros.**

124 E. Market St., Unit B
484-887-0216; EatPokeBros.com

Bringing Hawaiian cuisine's best kept secret to West Chester. The founders of Poke Bros. developed their own brand of poké bowl flavor and a unique way to build your "sushi in a bowl" while having fun doing so. Start by choosing a base, add protein, other ingredients (veggies, fruit and salads), toppings and sauce and enjoy!

★ **Rai Rai Ramen & Hawaiian BBQ**

124 E. Market St. 610-738-8808; On Facebook

★ **Righteous Tap House**

1548 Shadyside Rd.
484-593-0850; RighteousTapHouse.com

★ **Roots Cafe**

133 E. Gay St.
610-455-0100; RootsCafeWC.com

★ **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 is located in the heart of downtown

West Chester. They are committed to bringing you the absolute best in whiskey, craft beer and delicious meals from their scratch kitchen. Weekly entertainment includes live bands, live acoustic, karaoke, poker, trivia and 22 TV's dedicated to sports.

★ **Side Bar & Restaurant**

10 E. Gay St.
610-429-8297; SideBarAndRestaurant.com

★ **Slow Hand**

30 N. Church St.
484-999-8638; SlowHand-WC.com

★ **Social Southern Scratch Kitchen & Bar**

117 E. Gay St.
610-738-3948; TheSocialWC.com

★ **Spence Cafe**

131 N. High St.
610 918-1272; Spence.Cafe

★ **Sterling Pig Brewery**

113 W. Market St.
484-999-8026; SterlingPig.com

★ **Taco Mar**

122 E. Gay St.
610-455-1400; TacoMar.com
Bringing the authentic flavors of Mexico north of the border, Taco Mar has collected dozens of recipes from Baja California, Central Mexico, Oaxaca and the Yucatan to bring to your back door. Zesty, amazing salsas, Sonora-style tortillas, all crafted from locally sourced wholesome ingredients. There are three convenient ways to enjoy their delicious fare: The Burrito Bar, the Taco Stand and the Baja Grill. Enjoy!

★ **Teca**

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

West Marlborough

★ **The Whip Tavern**

1383 N. Chatham Rd.
610-383-0600; TheWhipTavern.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. Closed Tues.

DELAWARE

Centreville

★ **Buckley's Tavern**

5812 Kennett Pk.
302-656-9776; BuckleysTavern.com

★ **The Centreville Cafe & Monrchet Fine Foods & Caterers**

5800 Kennett Pk.
302-777-4911; CentrevilleCafe.com

Montchanin

★ **Krazy Kat's**

Rt. 100 & Kirk Rd.
At the Inn at Montchanin Village
302-888-4200; KrazyKatsRestaurant.com

Wilmington

★ **At The Rail Wine Bar & Grille**

777 Delaware Park Blvd.
302-994-6700; DelawarePark.com/Dining
Located on the grounds of Delaware Park in the elegant White Clay Creek Country Club, this comfortable restaurant is open to the public for lunch, dinner, happy hour, a weekly champagne Sunday brunch and special events. Wine Down Wednesdays (all day select half price bottles of wine) and live bands in the summer on the partially covered veranda with food and drink specials. Meet your friends after work for a fun, casual evening.

★ **Banks Seafood Kitchen & Raw Bar**

101 S. Market St.
302-777-1500; BanksSeafoodKitchen.com

★ **Chelsea Tavern**

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

★ **Columbus Inn**

2216 Pennsylvania Ave.
302-571-1492; ColumbusInn.net
Columbus Inn offers a superb selection of contemporary American fare that changes seasonally with cocktails and wine options that flawlessly meld the old and the new world styles. The homey warm atmosphere offers casual and upscale dining with its classic tavern areas, comfortable dining rooms, outdoor dining and a choice of private rooms for group dining and private parties.

★ **Domaine Hudson Wine Bar**

1314 N. Washington St.
302-655-9463; DomaineHudson.com

★ **Hotel du Pont, The Green Room**

11th & Market Sts.; 302-594-3154
HotelduPont.com/Dining/Green-Room

★ **La Fia**

421 N. Market St.
302-543-5574; LaFiaWilmington.com

MARYLAND

Georgetown

★ *** Kitty Knight House**

14028 Augustine Herman Hwy.
410-648-5200; KittyKnight.com ♦



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484-718-5121 / www.StottsvilleInn.com

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Tuesday - Saturday 11:30am - Midnight - Sunday 10:00am - Midnight

RESTAURANT • HOTEL • BAR • PRIVATE PARTIES • EVENTS

Spence has had a few incarnations since 1996, but its current location on North High and status as a BYOB help it enjoy a growing fan base. As always, the New American offerings, with an emphasis on highest quality and local sources, are superb, balancing strong seafood options (halibut, seafood lasagna) with full-bodied meat (short ribs, pork chops, filet). Comfortable fine dining means you can grab any bottle of wine or select a special bottle for that special occasion. You'll see anniversary celebrations alongside the pre-theater crowd and couples returning week after week—it's that kind of place. Plus easy parking out back.

BEST CAKES

The Master's Baker

319 West Gay St., West Chester
610-436-9888 / [TheMastersBaker.com](#)

What began as a friend's birthday cake became a thriving business. The Master's Baker celebrates 50 years in 2020. Start with a flavor: extraordinary chocolate, hazelnut praline, orange velvet or pink champagne—"a party on a cake stand." Choose a filling, perhaps a layer of Belgian ganache, Oreo mousse, raspberry jam or mocha butter cream. Add the pièce de résistance. TMB's icing on the cake is edible art—frosting and adornment of icing rosettes, edible violets or flowers painted in butter cream for weddings, a castle for princess birthdays or your imagination's fancy to make any day a red-letter day.

BEST CAT CAFÉ

The Black Cat Cafe

42 Berkeley Rd., Devon
610-688-1930 / [TheBlackCatCafe.org](#)

Try dining for a cause at the Main Line's only nonprofit cat café, where the proceeds support PALS (Pet Adoptions and Lifecare Society). Yummy and very affordable (\$6.50 for 2 eggs, home fries and toast) breakfast and lunch in a charming cottage atmosphere with happy volunteers as staff. Try melty, gooey cheese panini, vegan options and the specialty three bean chili. Adoptable cats are available in the gift store. Isn't that so much better than a doggie bag?

BEST LOCAL CHEESE

Doe Run Cheese

The Farm at Doe Run, 324 Hicks Rd., Coatesville
610-384-1900 / [On Facebook](#)

One of the prettiest and most sustainability-conscious farms in Chester County is home to sheep, goats, cows, people—and cheese. Doe Run Cheese, in fact. Hummingbird, St. Malachi, Seven Sisters and Blow Horn, to name just a few, are some of the creamiest, boldest, buttery-est, earthiest ... well, best, you'll discover anywhere. Find them where you find foodies: upscale markets, restaurants and local wineries. Whether you're pairing, nibbling, baking or grilling, you'll discover the reasons Doe Run receives so many ribbons year after year from the American Cheese Society, Pennsylvania Farm Show, the World Cheese Awards and others.

BEST LOCAL TV CHEF

Kristina Wisneski

Amis Trattoria
138 W. Lancaster Ave., Devon
610-590-4782 / [AmisTrattoria.com](#)

You don't have to be an insider on the reality television cooking show "Chopped" to taste the flavors served up by Chef Kristina Wisneski. Catching her culinary talents is as easy as going to Amis Trattoria in Devon. Wisneski won an episode of the TV contest with three courses: steamed wontons, roasted pheasant and mousse—each with its own adventurous ingredients, including water chestnuts, green tomatoes, tepache liqueur and moon drop grapes. Now she's delighting Main Liners at dinner with pear and arugula salad, swordfish, sage and orange-stuffed chicken and vegan sweet potato lasagna. Everyone's a happy winner at Happy Hour with avocado bruschetta, pizzas and meatballs.

BEST CHESTER COUNTY CLASSIC

The Kimberton Inn

2105 Kimberton Rd., Kimberton
610-933-8148 / [KimbertonInn.com](#)

Couples visit for anniversaries, others go for special occasions, and still others for the many receptions, banquets and events. All enjoy a bit of history in the 1796 building with its quintessential Chester County ambiance. Open Table diners voted it one of the most romantic restaurants in PA in 2019—maybe it's the five fireplaces and many private rooms. After its 25+-year chef left, former sous chef and new head Chef Tom Wolter (Le Bec Fin, Ritz Carleton) has kept the stellar ratings. The menu is evolving—more small plates, sharables, rotating entrees—but the classics remain with salmon, pork chops, liver and onions and "The Best Salad" still getting raves.

BEST CHILI

Saloon 151

151 W. Gay St., West Chester
610-701-8489 / [Saloon151.com](#)

When you're hankering for fries, wings or a quesadilla, maybe with a bowl of award-winning chili (West Chester Rotary 2019 winner), along with a burger, brisket or roast pork sandwich, head for a saloon that's oozing with the hearty, rugged goodness of the Old West—that's Saloon 151. Order one of the whiskeys on the special menu—there are countless bottles and brands behind the bar. Or a beer. Settle in. There are 20 TV screens set to the sports channels. Owner Frank Herron set out to fill a "hole in the market." He filled it with a good one.

BEST COFFEE DRINK

Philter

111 W. State St., Kennett Square
610-444-7687 / [PhilterCoffee.com](#)

Sun streams through the front windows. Patrons' smiles and conversation—of millennials, boomers and everyone between—are as warm and vibrant as the art on the walls. What's cooler than cool at Philter are the seasonal espresso milkshakes. The smooth blend of espresso and vanilla ice cream, served in metal mixing cups to be ecologically friendly as well as fun, is superb. Enjoy one with a freshly made egg and salmon sandwich, mushroom soup or a boutique chocolate bar. If you're a tad sad when winter weather sets in, order a mocha latte and sit in the sunny window. Bliss.

BEST CORN ON THE COB

Pete's Produce Farm

1225 E. Street Rd., West Chester
610-399-3711 / [PetesProduceFarm.com](#)

A friend from Texas said the best reason to across the Mississippi was to eat Pennsylvania's sweet corn on the cob. Surely, he was referring to Pete's Produce Farm. Steamed, boiled or grilled, then buttered and salted, nothing makes a great summer picnic or meal on the deck like peak season corn. Hands at Pete's pick ears seasonally at 7 a.m. each morning. Varieties include Glacial White or Bicolor, Seminole Gold, Kate and Rosie (who knew?). A treat raw, right off the stalk or cooked and cut from the cob combined with Pete's heirloom tomatoes. How sweet it is!

BEST COUNTRY ELEGANCE

Catherine's Restaurant

1701 W. Doe Run Rd., Unionville
610-347-2227 / [CatherinesRestaurant.com](#)

If you're looking for a touch of country elegance, look no farther than Catherine's. The old Unionville home among trees and flowers—in window boxes, bursting from the patio gardens and on tables—is casual and classy. Enjoy unparalleled mushroom soup with crab and eggs Benedict with local Canadian bacon under a patio umbrella, in season, where a rustic blue table and lanterns conjure up Provence. Inside among antique country furniture, glowing candlelight and white tablecloths, enjoy a meal of goat cheese salad, blackened tuna or pork tenderloin. Linger over coffee or head back out to horse country, thoroughly contented.

BEST CSA

Rushton Farm

Willistown Conservation Trust
911 Delchester Rd., Newtown Square
610-353-2562 / [WCTrust.org](#)

Rushton Farm's CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) is almost too good. For 24 weeks, May to October, fresh, seasonal, pesticide- and chemical-free vegetables and fruits are available to fee-paying members. At your farm pick-up, walk the fields, chat with the farmer, pick herbs and flowers. Or just grab your share—your membership portion of what's grown that week—and go. Clean, chop and create meals with your bounty. Oh, and enjoy. From arugula to zucchini, with celeriac, kohlrabi, okra and more in between. Extras go to West Chester's Food Cupboard. Plus fun tastings and a harvest celebration. The bad news is they're such a great CSA, there's a waiting list for membership.

BEST DINER

Miss Oxford Diner

233 S 3rd St., Oxford
610-932-2653 / [MissOxfordDiner.com](#)

Pull up by the neon sign and Old Glory. The entrance clock says one thing but the time is 1955. Welcome to Miss Oxford Diner, where Tuesday is chicken pot pie night and Thursday means meat loaf and mashed potatoes. Built in 1953, the silver diner is now a classic as are its cheeseburgers, fries in plastic baskets, root beers and vintage vinyl 45s, Coca-Cola ads and Cor-

vette photos lining the shelf. How it got its name is a matter of legend. Pam, the friendly owner, says she was never Miss Oxford, just sometimes Miss-Taken. Go—it's the living end.

BEST DINNER WITH A VIEW

Kitty Knight House

14028 Augustine Herman Hwy., Georgetown, MD
410-648-5200 / [KittyKnight.com](#)

Kitty Knight, niece of a member of the House of Representatives, savior of Georgetown, Maryland, in 1812, saved what became known as the Kitty Knight House from British torches. Kitty bought the place after the war and protected much of Georgetown and its residents from disaster. Today, viewing the Chesapeake scenery, sun setting over water, we imagine her there. From the sunset deck or dining room, overlooking a stately marina and watercraft, beyond the manicured lawn and garden, taking in the Eastern Shore landscape, we'll raise a glass and enjoy the hospitality and inviting menu balancing favorites from land and sea—seared duck to crab cakes. And enjoy the view!

BEST APPLE CIDER DONUTS

Highland Orchards

1000 Marshallton-Thorndale Rd., West Chester.
610-269-3494 / [HighlandOrchards.net](#)

One bite and you're hooked forever. Take Highland Orchards' fall hayride among the colorful leaves and pumpkins, see the cider press and finish with the tastiest part of fall: apple cider donuts. Highland Orchards picks apples from their trees, turns them into cider with their press on premises and makes the hot cinnamon sugar-covered donuts in the on-site kitchen. The best news is that their apple cider donuts are made fresh almost every day year round ... so you can enjoy them on Memorial Day, Christmas Eve and even next Saturday if you like.

BEST NEW DONUTS

Factory Donuts

845 N. Jackson St., Media
610-627-2224 / [FactoryDonuts.com](#)

Welcome to Factory Donuts, where some of the fun is watching. Place your order, then watch dough flow into the fryer and emerge onto a plate as a donut. From there, it's decorated to your specifications. The hardest part is choosing—a signature chocolate coconut dream,

cookies and cream, maple bacon explosion—or your custom combination. The best part is eating—warm, light cake inside and slightly crispy outside, glazed, gooey chocolate-frosted, drizzled with peanut butter or covered in nuts, sprinkles and more. Started in Philly when owner Heather's friends couldn't get enough; open since July 2019 in Media. Now we can't get enough.

BEST DUCK

Margaret Kuo's

175 Lancaster Ave, Wayne
610-688-7200 / [MargaretKuos.com](#)

For those who love duck—and what's not to love—"Wednesday is for Duck" at Margaret Kuo's in Wayne. Order the Peking duck, smoked duck (at special prices), or perhaps the Mandarin braised duck or sautéed duck. And, while you're there, plan a return—say on Thursday—for the beef, chicken, pork, lamb, rabbit, shrimp, lobster, squid or fish. It's all excellent. Visit Kuo's in Wayne, Media, Malvern (the Mandarin) or take-out at the Lancaster County Farmer's Market in Wayne. The restaurants have won awards, including three bells from Craig Laban, the award of excellence from Zagat's, and from Philadelphia Magazine four times.

BEST EAGLES VIEWING

P.J. Whelihan's Pub & Restaurant

1347 Wilmington Pk., West Chester
610-235-4200 / [PJsPub.com](#)

Also: *Downingtown, Malvern, Newtown Square*
Where to watch Carson Wentz and company? P.J. Whelihan's has lots of screens—over 40 in Malvern, more in West Chester, Downingtown, Oaks and Newtown Square. Check out the huge central bar, with plenty of local beers—Levante, Victory, Yards—and the other favorites like Guinness, Labatt's and Sam Adams. Plenty of apps, too—about a dozen varieties of wings, assorted styles of fries, five kinds of nachos. Too many to limit yourself to one. But save room for dessert, like Cookie Crunch Brownie Bomb or Salted Caramel Crunch Cookie. PJW Group has a sports bar near you. And maybe—just maybe—you'll watch the Eagles win.

BEST FAMILY PLACE

Christopher's

335 E. King St., Malvern. 484-568-4127
108 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. 610-687-6558
[ChristophersANeighborhoodPlace.com](#)

Chris and Molly Todd wanted a very family-friendly restaurant. For the very young, order mac & cheese, a hot dog or ravioli. For the more precocious, there are more than a dozen appetizers and pizza too, with the pesto, prosciutto, chicken souvlaki or practically any other topping. Maybe mussels, if your kids are really adventurous. As long as they don't throw food at one another, the kiddos can party while you head over to the bar. The wine, beer and other spirits will put you in a more, well, patient mood. After all, you're a member of the family, too.

BEST FIELD TO FORK

SIW Vegetables

Hill Girt Farm
4317 S. Creek Rd., Chadds Ford
610-388-2700 / Brandywine.org/Conservancy

When virtually every restaurant claims to be farm-to-table, it's time for a new level. That's the field-to-fork dinners best enjoyed at the Haskell family's 17th-century barn at Hill Girt Farm, of SIW Vegetables, from July to early October. Wear jeans and boots to the rustic-chic, multi-course, seasonal family-style dinners cooked by guest chefs from Chester County to Philly—from Terrain, Stove & Tap, Banks Seafood, Pasta Labs. Experience where your food came from as you savor fig-stuffed spit-roasted pig and peach and blueberry buckle with corn crème Anglaise. Menus posted on the website for the Wednesday dinners. Around \$75 to help sustain local farming. Plan for this summer.

BEST COUNTRY FRENCH DINNER

La Maison

1470 Old Ridge Rd., Pottstown
484-680-2631 / MartinsKitchen.com

Be transported to the French countryside at one of 24 seats in the first-floor dining room in Martin Gagne's 300-year-old home, now La Maison. Multi-course, authentic French meals are served family style in an atmosphere described as eating with friends. Chef Gagne's storied resume—*Food & Wine's* 1990s Top Culinarian to Watch, relaunch of the Inn at St. Peter's Village—inspires meals at this auberge. Fans wax poetic about whole chicken braised in wine with locally foraged morels, black trumpets, pearl onions; rabbit braised in white Burgundy; cassoulet with confits of goose, duck and pork. Make reservations well in advance, await the e-mailed menu and bring cash.

BEST FUNGI FUN

Kennett Mushroom Festival

101 S. Union St., Kennett Square
610-925-3373 / MushroomFestival.org

How much fun is a festival devoted to fungi? With a community parade, dancing in the streets, fun runs, cook-offs, fried mushroom eating contests, cute-as-a-button (button mushroom) baby photo contest, and plenty of ways to taste and learn about mushrooms, what's not to love? Join 100,000 fungi fans and celebrate the Mushroom Capital of the World (and PA's top cash crop) at its 35th annual festival, September 12th and 13th. Souvenir options include festival t-shirts, cookbooks, artworks and the freshest mushrooms you'll ever taste. Michael Pollan and Andrew Weill can't be wrong about fantastic fungi.

BEST GAME DAY GRUB

Appetites on Main

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

What do you crave on game day? Wings of all flavors and heats. Crispy fries with bacon and cheese. Potato skins with cheese, sausage or pepperoni. Pretzel dogs, cheesesteak rolls, tacos, fried pickles. The list goes on and on. Apps on Main also has several dozen brews, seltzers and ciders, not to mention wines, martinis and other cocktails. In the warm months, you can have a sandwich on the patio with your pup. But, every month, there are TV screens all over. What would game day be without a week's worth of calories, at least to tempt you?

BEST GOAT DISH

Miss Winnie's

211 E. Market St., West Chester
484-266-0508 / MissWinnies.com

Miss Winnie's is a family affair, dedicated to Winnifred Johnston, who emigrated from Jamaica. Today her jerk seasoning is kept alive by Head Chef Bert Johnston and their son Nick. Together they capture the fire and aroma of their island roots with their spicy jerk seasoning (though their curry seasoning is divine as well). The meals are simple. Burgers, chicken, wings, pork, plantains, rice and beans pulse with rhythm of reggae. But go for goat (Fridays and Saturdays). Try the Curry Goat Platter with slow cooked seasoned goat served with cabbage, plantains and

rice. And cool down with plantain tarts or guava cake. Lick your fingers. Miss Winnie's rocks.

BEST HAPPY HOUR

Limoncello

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

While the \$12.95 lunch buffet continues to draw for its variety and value, Happy Hour at Limoncello's two locations is another great reason to visit on weekdays from 4 to 6:30. Seasonal and specialty drinks (salted caramel black Russian, pineapple mojito, blood orange cosmo), martinis (with limoncello) and pizzas (so many varieties and gluten-free, too) are popular, along with other tempting options at Happy Hour prices. When you're looking to brighten the end of a winter weekday, or dreaming of summer afternoons on the well-appointed West Chester patio, this is the place for a quintessential celebration of the end of the workday.

BEST HOMEY MEALS

House Restaurant

110-114 S. Jackson St., Media
610-566-2505 / EatAtHouse.com

Under the prettiest green gables and between evergreen trimmed windows, enter the door to House, a charming restaurant on Jackson Street in Media. In a comfortable, unpretentious space, take a corner table by windows on two walls to watch the snow fall or people chat as they stroll along the sidewalk. Dip grilled cheese into a beautifully presented creamy tomato soup. Try vegetarian celery soup decorated with paprika or a salad of greens, nuts and fruit. Whether you're hankering for eggs at breakfast, specialty lunch-time paninis or suppertime stew, House is your home away from home for comfort food.

BEST HOSTESS GIFT

Éclat Chocolate

24 S. High St., West Chester
610-692-5206 / EclatChocolate.com

You've just been invited to a special dinner party and need a gift for the hosts that's as memorable as the evening they've prepared for you. Éclat Chocolate has a solution that shines. A signature assortment. Caramels. A wine lover's box that includes Mollydooker Shiraz truffles and more. The beer lover's box with truffles

infused with local Victory Brewing Company's Hop Devil and others. Looking almost too good to eat, the chocolates come in a pretty gift box. They're so irresistible, you might need to order one for yourself.

BEST HYPER-HEALTHY FOOD

A&M Factory

360 Lancaster Ave., Malvern
484-318-7537 / TheAMFactory.com

Real food. Real good. That's the promise from Malvern's new all-day café, serving hyper-healthy breakfast and lunch sustainably. The kitchen is grain-free, gluten-free, peanut-free, cashew-free, GMO-free and dairy-free (except for some goat cheese, which makes sense). The produce is organic and the meats are pasture-raised. And despite those constraints, the menu includes plenty of tempting options: açai smoothie bowls, cauliflower cheesesteak, grain-free bagels, chicken and homemade waffles, lemon square smoothies. All served in a bright, sleek space that makes you want to live clean as well as eat clean and healthy.

BEST INDIAN CUISINE

Rasa Indian Cuisine

Village at Painters Crossing Shopping Center
1201 Wilmington Pk., Chadds Ford
484-800-8109 / RasaUS.com

Dell and Sudha Joshi brought tastes of their original homes—Dell's southern Hyderabad and Sudha's northern Delhi—to Chadds Ford with Rasa Indian Cuisine. The result: a delicious lunch buffet—long tables laden with offerings savory, spicy and sweet, from masala chai to kheer. Bites of samosa and pakoda evoked memories of the subcontinent's best street food. Entrees of paneer, dal and butter chicken were fit for heads of state—in fact, the restaurant's Chef Zamin has fed two U.S. Presidents. With walls the warm orange of turmeric spice and aromas of ginger and fresh naan, Rasa lives up to its name, meaning “flavor.”

BEST ITALIAN MAINSTAY

Il Granaio Italian Restaurant & Bar

711 Concord Rd., Glen Mills. 610-459-8469
184 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 484-924-8423
IlgranaioPA.com

Handmade spinach ravioli stuffed with crab and red bell peppers, with shrimp, sun-

dried tomatoes, sweet peas in brandy cream sauce—just one of many reasons loyal fans return to the Glen Mills and Phoenixville locations (Antica in Chadds Ford is also affiliated). One fan said he could eat there every week and not get tired. Fresh local ingredients and house-made pastas get raves (spinach gnocchi, agnolotti porcini, fettuccini aragosto), as do pork and fish specials. Add polished service, BYOB option with no corkage fee (there's also a bar), plus the complimentary homemade limoncello shot at the end and you have a collection of popular dining destinations.

BEST TASTE OF NORTHERN ITALY

La Verona

114 E. State St., Kennett Square
610-444-2244 / LaVeronaPA.com

Savor a bit of northern Italy with a memorable meal at La Verona. Choose a table in the friendly bar, near the dining room's fireplace or by the windows to watch State Street (or patio dining in season) as you enjoy fine dining with impeccable service at this consistently excellent spot. A limoncello martini, Peroni on tap or affordable wine selection complements a wide array of choices from pizza (love the white Vernona) to authentic Italian classics. Favorites include the calamari and pasta dishes—shout outs for the spinach and mushroom and the lobster ravioli—and veal marsala. Owners Sam and Jack Mavraj's motto is “Let us spoil you.” And they do.

BEST JUICE

Aneu Kitchen + Juicery

1556 E. Lancaster Ave., Paoli. 610-251-9600
1225 Montrose Ave., Bryn Mawr. 610-525-1711
AneuCatering.com

Owner Meredith Coyle has been involved in the local food biz for decades. Her current interest in clean eating—making comfort food that's healthy food—has caught our attention, along with *Philly Mag's*, when they gave a shout out for her fresh juice—suggesting a lemon, ginger, turmeric, black pepper, grape-seed oil concoction for their “Best Of” in 2019. We toast Aneu Day shots—lemon, spinach, kale, parsley, cucumber, celery, green apple—that perked up November's Notable Kitchen Tour & Chef's Tasting fundraiser for the Philly Orchestra. Wowza! Find your own fave.

BEST BUSINESS LUNCH

Pietro's Prime

125 W. Market St., West Chester
484-760-6100 / PietrosPrime.com

Pietro's is a Zagat-rated steakhouse—also a Best of Philly pick—in downtown West Chester with a history. Pietro Giunta was early to West Chester. His great granddaughter Marisa opened the steakhouse about 12 years ago, continuing the family legacy. It was an immediate success. The cuts of beef—strip, fillet, rib-eye—are superior and tender. Charred black, yet blood red (or pink, as you prefer) inside. It's made to your order and cooked perfectly. Enjoy a business lunch, perhaps an ice-cold martini, with appetizer of shrimp, crab, oysters or calamari. Take your time. With some fortitude, perhaps you'll revive Don Draper's two-martini—or was it three?—lunch.

BEST MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE

Opa Taverna

40 E. Gay St., West Chester
610-696-4100 / OpaTavernaPhilly.com

Sit down to homemade hummus sprinkled with chopped parsley, gyros and gracious souvlaki platters with an unsurpassed housemade Greek tsatziki sauce at Opa Taverna. Open since last April by owners of the former Opa Opa (about a block up Gay Street), its wicker lamps that cast warm light, stone wall and cozy corner sofa-seating for a group create an inviting space. Locals and out-of-towners are talking about the good food, large portions and pleasant staff. Currently a BYOB, the restaurant has applied for a liquor license, so check to see if you should bring your own ouzo or favorite Mediterranean wine.

MOST PANCAKE WEEK-WORTHY

Avenue Kitchen

Glen Eagle Square
509 Wilmington-West Chester Pk., Glen Mills
484-800-8070 / AveKitchen.com

Whether you're celebrating National Pancake Week in February or National Pancake Day in September, there's a stack at Avenue Kitchen that could turn a picky eater into a breakfast lover. In a chic tan and white space with pretty paper sculptures suspended from the warehouse-high ceilings, opt for simple pancakes powdered with sugar and garnished with a strawberry, or go for chocolate chip, banana

or peanut butter drenched in maple syrup. Go outside the box on Pancake Day and luxuriate in brioche French toast or Avenue's thick chocolate waffle topped with award-winning crème brûlée sauce, crackly caramelized sugar, bananas and strawberries.

BEST PIZZA

Toninos Pizza & Pasta Company

235 Lancaster Ave., Malvern
610-240-9566 / ToninosPizzaAndPasta.com

Whole pie or by the slice. Neopolitan or Sicilian. Square or round. Thin crust or thick. A 14-, 18- or 30-inch pie (Lorenzo's & Sons is a mere 28 inches). You can get any pizza you want at Tonino's Pizza & Pasta Co. Yes, there's also a full menu of entrees at this family-run BYOB with plenty of regulars on a Friday night, but the pizza here is special. Choose a gourmet pizza (spinach, broccoli, vegetarian, seafood), build your own, or pick an Old World, Salad Pie, Chicken alla Vodka or Everything pizza. We love the Grandma Pizza, a square pie that's been called "a life changer." Taste for yourself.

BEST PIZZA AT THE MALL

Pizzeria Vetri

King of Prussia Mall
640 W. DeKalb Pk., King of Prussia
267-422-4201 / PizzeriaVetri.com

Yes, there's still great food at the mall (we miss Mistral, though). For Pizzeria Vetri—of the famed Vetri Food Group—the story is simple: simple food made exactly the right way, using the best and freshest ingredients, served in a space where all are welcome. Even at the KOP mall. For the best pizza, it's all about the crust, and Vetri's fermented, whole-grain crust gets the 700-degree treatment producing its distinctive leopard spots and crave-worthy crispness. Menu options include the seasonal Harvest and Wild Boar, but the classics are ... classic. Try the margherita or crudo (prosciutto crudo, buffalo mozzarella, parmigiano). Plus wine, beer and cocktails.

BEST ROMANTIC DINING

Duling Kurtz House & Country Inn

146 S. Whitford Rd., Exton
610-524-1830 / DulingKurtz.com

A perfect choice for an anniversary dinner or a getaway weekend, Duling Kurtz mixes gracious hospitality with Old World charm. The

menu includes such classic special occasion dishes as escargot, foie gras, rack of lamb, duck, filet mignon and crème brûlée. Its eight period dining rooms and 13 guest rooms and suites let you customize your special celebration. Overnight packages—including a four-course dinner and continental breakfast—fit the bill. Have champagne in your room and plan a hot air balloon ride to make even more memories.

BEST SCRATCH COOKING

Ron's Original Bar & Grille

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

Welcome to Ron's Original Bar and Grille where you'll find food that's good and good for you. Go for the popular vegetarian lasagna. Or try a favorite: one of Ron's Ovals—think oblong pizza, regular or gluten free, without the sauce but piled with toppings like ham and cheese, cheesesteak, vegetarian Italian, Cha Cha Chicken or Red, White and Bleu (cheese). Appetizers, salad dressings and soups are made from scratch—say goodbye to MSG and artificial sweeteners. Enjoy meats without hormones or antibiotics. All great with beer, wine or cocktails in a relaxed atmosphere where you're treated like family.

BEST INLAND SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Ludwig's Grill & Oyster Bar

2904 Conestoga Rd., Glenmoore
610-458-5336 / LudwigsOysterBar.com

Some folks limit ordering seafood to restaurants with a sight-line to water. But if seafood is delivered to the kitchen seven days a week from a quality purveyor, you can tuck into seafood delights any time. For almost 30 years, Ludwig's Grill and Oyster Bar has been serving up seafood classics and more, including their Wednesday and Thursday Buck-a-Shuck specials, featuring oysters from both coasts and Canada. Choose from tuna tacos, lobster bisque, Philadelphia-style snapper soup, U Peel shrimp. There's shrimp and scallop etoufee to fish and chips (albeit with wild Icelandic cod) and organic Norwegian salmon.

BEST SIDES

Epicurean Garage

570 Simpson Dr., Chester Springs
610-615-5189 / EpicureanGarage.com

We do love the bowls, burgers and built-to-order entrees at Epicurean Garage. But it's the sides that add that extra something to your meals. Try Garage fries with toppings of dirty brown gravy or the popular yummy poutine. Or seven kinds of wings, from original jerk spice, Carolina BBQ to Tandoori. Something healthy like Brussels sprouts with bacon, grilled asparagus, roasted root veggies or hericot verts. For comfort sides choose mashed potatoes, mac 'n' cheese or cheddar grits. And there are more options. Just the place for when you want to make a meal just from those tasty side dishes.

BEST SOUTHERN FLAIR

The Gables

423 Baltimore Pk., Chadds Ford
610-388-7700 / TheGablesAtChaddsford.com

There's Southern flair along with the hospitality at The Gables in Chadds Ford, in the southern part of Brandywine Valley. The influence comes from owner Ann Kolenick's Carolina roots and is enhanced by new executive Chef Darryl Butts, who describes the menu as upscale Southern with a European twist. Chef Butts is putting new twists on favorites, like signature shrimp and grits. Sample biscuits and gravy, pimento cheese dips, bourbon pecan pie—edible evidence of the region. Enjoy the welcoming vibe from the seasonal beer garden, stone patio, cozy bar and rustic yet elegant dining rooms in a place where the owner hopes diners "feel like guests in [her] home."

BEST SOUTHERN SCRATCH COOKING

The Social

117 E. Gay St., West Chester
610-738-3948 / TheSocialWC.com

Pass the brick sidewalk and outdoor tables, and step through the doorway on Gay Street into a little bit of Louisiana. The Social's polished dark wood bar and floors along with lights of wrought iron reminiscent of New Orleans' French Quarter provide just the right setting for Chef Dan Funk's Cajun-inspired scratch cooking and spirits. Go for gumbo or chili. Belly up to the bar and grab a Prohibition Era cocktail (how about a Whiskey Smash?) or craft beer and Cajun pierogies. Order up Nola fries—seasoned and mixed with crab—big enough to feed a slew of friends as you enjoy the Southern vibe.



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BEST TACOS

Estrella Tacos y Mas

202 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown
484-237-2423 / EstrellaTacoBar.com

Whether you're at a stool at the bar or a bench at a long table, you'll find bright colors and flavors of Southwest-inspired tacos as well as a good time at Estrella Tacos y Mas. A native Texan and a native Downingtonian teamed up to bring tasty signature tacos, comfort food, cocktails, craft beers and a community vibe to Lancaster Avenue two years ago. Breakfast, lunch or supper, you'll find something tempting wrapped in a tortilla or taco shell: Texas-style brisket, spicy shrimp, fried avocado, jalapen sausage, eggs and a variety of cheeses and sauces.

BEST TAKEOUT DINNER

Carlino's Specialty Foods

128 Market St., West Chester
610-649-4046 / CarlinosMarket.com

No time to cook? Follow happy customers to Carlino's Italian market. On the left, pick up crostini and divine house-made olivata. On the right, choose artichoke dip and delectable cheeses. Toward the center, select a family-sized Caesar or fresh arugula, fennel and tomato salad with pine nut vinaigrette. Mountains of entrees and sides are steps away. Will it be Maná's Lasagna, lobster ravioli or chicken piccata with string bean amandine? Back at the front, the bakery's bread and pastries beckon. Get pizzelles and a cup of coffee for your commute home before laying out the spread on your table. Buon appetito!

BEST TATER TOTS

Liberty Union Bar & Grill

325 Simpson Dr., Chester Springs. 484-359-4061
519 Kimberton Rd., Phoenixville. 484-927-4244
LibertyUnionBar.com

If the best things in life are free, then the best tater tots are also free, right? Get free tots for every table at Liberty Union's two locations—toasty, irresistible tots with a side of spicy ranch sauce. Or order loaded tots—cheese sauce, crumbled bacon, scallions and that same side of spicy ranch. But why not choose another tasty app on the menu—Philly cheesesteak eggrolls are a fave, or something lighter like Pacific Rim lettuce wraps? These lively spots for satisfying pub grub add an extra menu twist by featuring one of the 50 states each week, offering a themed sandwich, entrée and cocktail.

BEST TAVERN

Four Dogs Tavern

1300 W. Strasburg Rd., West Chester
610-692-4367 / TheFourDogsTavern.com

In what was the stable of the 1793 Marshallton Inn nestled in the historic district of Marshallton (that's no typo; check the website on number of Ls for each), is as charming and inviting a tavern as you'll find. Four Dog's Tavern's patio is the site of memorable brunches, complete with portable Bloody Mary bar. Cooler months draw crowds to the fireplace for Happy Hours and sliders du jour, crab nachos and more surprises from talented Chef David Cox. From scrambled egg sushi, twists on muffulettas, and skate wing with avocado, radicchio, cucumber and lime emulsion, the American brasserie menu tempts. Comfort food elevated.

BEST VEGAN FOOD

Phoenixville VegFest

Reeves Park, 401 Main St., Phoenixville
PhoenixvilleVegFest.com

Plant-based eaters have an expanding selection of dining options, but for a veritable smorgasbord of veg fun, try Phoenixville's Veg-fest, a vegan food and street festival with live music and vendors. While Phoenixville touts its many vegan food options—from Gangster Vegan Organics to the less obvious Great American Pub—this August festival offers a chance to veg out, but in the most positive way. Mark your calendar now.

BEST WILD GAME DINNER

Terrain Cafe

914 Baltimore Pk., Glen Mills. 610-459-2400
138 Lancaster Ave., Devon. 610-59-4671
ShopTerrain.com

In 2018, Terrain had its first and in 2019, its second. Held in October, Wild Game dinner, as Terrain calls it, is a celebration of the harvest. Although not exactly too "wild"—they featured lamb tartare, rabbit ragu, and buffalo strip—the fare is nevertheless gourmet delicious, served with wines from Wayvine in Nottingham. The meal was prepared by Styers' head events Chef Robert Toland, and the meats supplied by D'Artagnan Meat Supply, based in Union, New Jersey. A grand tradition in the making. We look forward to 2020. ♦

BEST LOCAL COOKBOOK

Kimberton Whole Foods Cookbook

2140 Kimberton Rd., Kimberton
610-935-1444 / KimbertonWholeFoods.com
And other area locations

We salute the *Kimberton Whole Foods Cookbook: A Family History with Recipes*. Written by the store's co-owner Pat Brett, her son Colin and local writer Courtney Diener-Stokes, the cookbook delivers 60 recipes developed over 32 years and interwoven with family history and stories about local growers and makers. Seasonally inspired recipes range from Summer Rice Salad with Blueberries and Basil to Carrot Ginger Quinoa Soup. (More recipes, including Mac 'n' Cheese with Pecans and Pears, in *County Lines* October 2019 Brandywine Table column online.) The commitment to local extends to printing—Hickory Grove Publishing is in Lancaster County. Copies at local independent bookstores and Kimberton Whole Foods Stores, not on Amazon.

BEST LOCAL INSTAGRAM FEED

FoodInJars

Philly blogger, cookbook author, new mom of twins—Marisa McClellan's multi-faceted life fills her FoodInJars Instagram feed (plus a cookbook of the same name). Posts of artful shots of figs, mixed with rows of filled Ball jars and tales of a tired mother. Get inspired to can, preserve and make a few things from scratch by photos of peach habanero hot sauce, nectarine jam and pinto beans cooked in an InstaPot. See the kitchen where the magic happens, complete with turquoise stove and counters that she shared with her 26.5K followers.

BEST LOCAL PODCAST

Local Mouthful

Need a new half-hour foodie podcast? Join co-hosts Joy Manning (Edible Philly) and Marisa McClellan (Food In Jars) as they cover the food life in Philadelphia and beyond for obsessed home cooks everywhere. This five-star podcast has bushels of fans that come from far beyond our region. Segments are titled Food News, What's for Dinner, How'd You Make That and What We're Loving and are delivered in a warm, companionable tone. Learn about washing your avocados, chicken confit, making biscuits, cookbook dinners, sippable soups and more. Over 300 episodes and still cookin'.

Steel City Coffeehouse and brewery brought their brews to Phoenixville

Cheers for New Beers!

Mercedes Thomas

THE BEER SCENE WELCOMES NEW BREWERIES, POP-UP BEER GARDENS AND SPECIALTY RELEASES.

ANOTHER YEAR CALLS FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF great new beers, breweries and beer news! It likely comes as no surprise that our area has plenty of places on tap that are making and serving beer—with new arrivals released every couple of months.

So let's take a closer look at things we think you'll want to know.

A TALE OF TWO BREWS

Steel City Coffeehouse brought a microbrewery to the already popular coffeehouse in Phoenixville. Owners Laura Vernola-Simpson and Ed Simpson brought in brewer Jeremy Burke to manage brewing operations and offer his own brews in late January 2019. Burke brings traditional styled beers like stouts, IPAs and porters, including Steel Mill Stout made with coffee (no surprise), a favorite among patrons.

Now you can enjoy a craft beer along with local wines from Maple Springs Vineyards and spirits from Manatawny Still Works. And of course, Steel City is still a café, coffeehouse and live music venue. So head there to unwind from a long week with a live show and a brew of your choice—alcoholic or caffeinated.

NEW BREWHOUSE IN KENNETT SQUARE

Kennett Square welcomed the opening of the much-anticipated Braeloch Brewing last March. Owners Kent and Amy Steeves along with Matt

and Kathy Drysdale converted a 1903 historic, 9,200-square-foot building to a 4,000-square-foot taproom and a brewery. The taproom also features a 78-foot-long signature bar, designed by Steeves' brother Brett, that curves and weaves along one wall.

Braeloch offers a wide cross-section of beers from its 10-barrel brewing system, with traditional ales and IPAs to more experimental brews, on 12-rotating-taps.

When the weather gets warmer, Braeloch will reopen its popular dog-friendly outdoor beer garden alongside Red Clay Creek. In January you may only be able to dream of grabbing a couple of friends, getting a cold brew and enjoying the great outdoors. But it's a great dream.

JOIN THE REVOLUTION

Marching onto the site of the Revolutionary War's Battle of Brandywine, Artillery Brewing opened its door this past July at Thornbury Farm Market outside West Chester.

Co-owners Michael Loveless, Paul Zippel and Randell Spackman created this microbrewery's arsenal of good beers with American Revolution-inspired names. In their first season, they served up six handcrafted beers made from ingredients found at Thornbury Farm for a truly farm-to-glass experience. The microbrewery had both an enclosed taproom accommodating 35 people and a beer garden for 350.

With the arrival of cold weather, Artillery closed its doors for the season and is cur-



Artillery Brewing has Revolution-inspired brews



Enjoy a beer at Larimer Beer Company before a Union home soccer game

rently searching for a new location where beer-lovers can visit year-round. Keep an eye on their website and Facebook page for updates.

A GATHERING SPOT FOR PHILADELPHIA SPORTS FANS

When you're headed to Talen Energy Stadium in Chester for a soccer game for the 2020 season, stop by the new brewery, Larimer Beer Company, for a sports-themed beer. Founded by brewer Matt Lindenmuth, Larimer opened the doors to its taproom in July for the Philadelphia Union's home soccer game at the stadium. The rest of the brewery was under construction through early fall, with a completed, fully operational brewery that opened in November.

The brewery has drawn in Union supporters, visiting soccer teams and fans as well as local community members. At the start of the NFL season, Larimer released its first sports-themed beer, Bird Gang, for the Philadelphia Eagles football team, with plans for a Union soccer team beer for the 2020 season. The tasting room will also feature local beers, including brews from Sterling Pig and 2SP Brewing.

We're hop-ful Larimer will be a great hangout for Philadelphia sports fans!

AT LAST!

West Grove has been a dry town since the 1940s, but that changed in 2019, when residents voted to allow malt and brewed beverage licenses in the borough. Blondes and Brewnettes Brewing Co., the passion project of sisters Bernadette Mellon and Beverly Snyder and their husbands Knute and Shane, opened last October at the Twelves Grill & Café, which the Mellons have owned since July 2018.

Check CountyLinesMagazine.com for Beer Events in 2020.

Blondes and Brewnettes will continue to be based at Twelves, but with plans brewing to locate and open a full-service taproom and brewery. Twelves will remain a BYOB and sell Blondes and Brewnettes beers.

COLLEGEVILLE'S NEW BREWPUB

New to Collegeville is Trouble's End Brewing, taking over the former space of Appalachian Brewing Company. Trouble's End is the combined effort of brothers Dave and Nick Bellenzeni, along with brewer Zach Svoboda and Casey Parker.

The 25 taps feature beers by Svoboda as well as outside brews, plus cocktails, mocktails and wine on draft. Make sure to taste your way through the American menu—chicken biscuit pot pie, French onion mac and cheese and a smoked brisket Reuben.

Trouble's End also boasts room for over 200 guests, live music, an arcade and table games. So plan to stay a while.

CHANGES TO THE EXTON BEER SCENE

Iron Hill is bringing its first large-scale production brewery to Exton, expected to open this summer at The Shops on Eagleview Boulevard. Officially called Iron Hill Brewery & Taproom, the new hub will do all the canning

for Iron Hill's signature beers and serve as a test kitchen for new menu offerings.

The location is set to be more than 18,000-square-feet, with a 10,000-square-foot brewery and a 4,500-square-foot taproom. Beer production will start at 6,000 barrels a year, eventually expanding to 20,000.

This new location is a hop forward in Iron Hill's goal of 20 locations by the end of 2020. The current count is 16, with a 17th location expected this spring in Newtown.

FOR A LIMITED TIME ...

Chocolate lovers, rejoice—Yuengling and Hershey put their heads together for the first time to create Yuengling Hershey's Chocolate Porter. The brew is both brands' first collaborative beer and took about a year to develop.

Yuengling's Dark Brewed Porter, which has been made since the brewery opened 190 years ago, is the beer's base. Hershey's chocolate syrup, cocoa powder and cocoa nibs are added for a rich and dark chocolate-flavored finish.

The Chocolate Porter is only available on tap at select locations, and is expected to last only until about mid-February, so try it soon! Find where to sample this limited release by visiting Yuengling's website for locations.

BEST OF POP-UP BEER GARDENS

Everyone loves beer gardens, dating back to when they first started in 19th-century Germany. So beer gardens are always part of our beer coverage. Here a few we enjoyed last summer.

In May, Levante Brewing Company brought a seasonal pop-up beer garden to the 200-acres of Highland Orchards. This



Braeloch Brewery's signature curving bar



Iron Hill Brewery & Taproom is coming to Exton

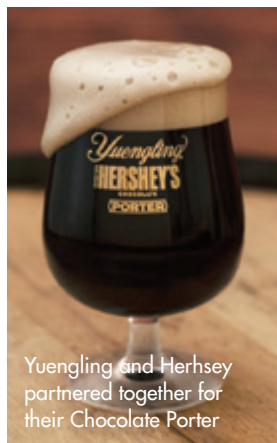
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Yuengling and Hershey partnered together for their Chocolate Porter



Guests enjoy sunshine and beers at Trails on Tap along the Schuylkill River Greenways

was a family-friendly experience, drawing on the best of the partnership, with baked goods and local produce, picnic-style seating, food trucks and special events like live music and the Peach & Corn Harvest Celebration. We were sad to see it close Labor Day weekend.

For summer carnival fun, **Stickman Brews** joined forces with Ludwig's Corner Country Carnival at the Ludwig's Corner Horse Show Fairgrounds. Starting early June and running into October, the Country Carnival also had rides, games and amusements, and carnival fare like funnel cake, snow cones and fried Oreos. Proceeds benefitted the Ludwig's Foundation to maintain and preserve the grounds as

open space for community events, fundraisers, festivals and other events.

A new concept, **Trails on Tap** was a pop-up beer garden along the Schuylkill River Greenways during five weekends from late June through early August. Visitors enjoyed outdoor activities—kayaking, bicycling and lawn games—and had food and drinks while they also enjoyed nature. A portion of the proceeds was reinvested in protecting the Schuylkill River, its trails and its greenways.

We're excited for the weather to warm up to enjoy these beer gardens again. But until then, give another one of these breweries a taste.

And check out Beer Events online. ♦



Levante's beer garden at Highland Orchards

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Growing Good Eaters

The author helping in the kitchen of the farmhouse, 19 months

The author with her summer lettuce harvest, 14 months

A tale of farm life, family and trying new things.

Alyssa Thayer

GROWING UP ON A FARM IN CENTRAL PA, I remember each season had its own unique flavor. In the spring, we'd eat mountains of asparagus from our pick-your-own patch. Summertime was filled with berries, tomatoes, corn and homemade pesto. And by fall, we were in the orchard climbing high on ladders with baskets strapped to our chests. Some apples were cooked down in a big cast iron pot until they became a smoky, thick apple butter, while others were loaded up in crates and taken to the local Amish cider press.

While most kids were watching morning cartoons (cable didn't make it out to our farm) and eating Lucky Charms for breakfast, I was making buckwheat pancakes with homemade berry sauce. At the time, I didn't associate any of these experiences with labels like organic, homemade, rural. It was simply all I knew; it was life.

MOLDING KIDS' TASTES

In my experience, kids are naturally inquisitive and open to trying new things—including new food. They're also strongly influenced by their surroundings and desire to fit in.

We're not born hating vegetables or demanding our macaroni and cheese be bright orange. And although some kids are more open to new foods than others, so much of what we end up liking, as kids and adults, comes from what we're exposed to.

When you're used to a lot of sugar, it's sugar that you crave. Same with salt; same with spices. For better or worse, it's true that parents, caregivers and our culture as a whole have a heavy hand shaping how children interact with food. In the United States, too often we inadvertently narrow the types of foods our kids will accept.

In other countries, there's no such thing as a "kids menu." Instead kids are expected to eat what's served. That certainly doesn't mean they love everything that's offered. But it puts an expectation in place—that children are part of mealtime and try new things rather than being pigeon-holed into chicken-nuggets-French-fries-pizza eaters.

WHAT THE RESEARCH SHOWS

True, not all foods are love at first bite! "Don't give up, keep trying" urges Katherine Dahlsgaard, Ph.D., ABPP, clinical director of the Picky Eaters Clinic in CHOP's Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in a recent article about her team's research. According to their findings, it takes between 8 and 15 times for a child to get used to a new taste. Yet the typical parent only tries 3 to 5 times.

Dr. Dahlsgaard goes on to remind parents it's often "developmentally normal" for children to have a picky phase between ages 2 and 4 and not to be too hard on themselves.



Son Gavin on his cooking tower helping 'measure' the chopped cauliflower during dinner prep



Son Gavin harvesting and tasting cherry tomatoes from the home garden



Letting kids touch and feel ingredients invites tasting. Also, sunflower seeds are a great alternative for nut-free households and schools.

Although there are things parents can do to help their children broaden their culinary horizons, it's important to remember that even siblings—with the same parents—can approach food differently.

MY EXPERIENCE

Fast forward a few decades. I have two little boys of my own and am trying my best to encourage them to develop good food habits and to introduce them to a variety of different cuisines and flavors.

I can't say my current family—unlike my childhood farm family—grows all our own food. And despite our freezer usually having backup fish sticks, we do our best to eat wholesome, seasonal, organic and local whenever possible.

Balance is also key—see the Pick Your Battles sidebar. On Pizza Wednesday in school, I pack some homemade pizza, but I let my kids enjoy snacktime with their friends—a few cheese crackers and veggie straws aren't going to kill anyone.

More than anything else, I've found including kids in the process of growing, cooking and even shopping for food is the *best* way to get them interested in trying new things. Whether it's eating cherry tomatoes fresh from the vine in our garden, or

making homemade kale pesto—my son loves pushing the blender buttons—there's a sense of empowerment that comes from being part of the food prep process. These experiences open kids up to new food in a way they might not otherwise accept.

And I have my own data. The other night as I heard my older son talking to his electronic toy phone, the toy's voice asked, "What's your favorite food?" My toddler responded, "chicken tikka masala." The phone's automatic response boomed back "mine is bananas." I glanced at my husband and we chuckled—probably not the typical 3-year-old answer, but a good one! And we vowed to keep sharing a broad range of food with our little guys.

This fall, my son climbed aboard his cooking tower (a platform with railings so he can stand at counter level and help safely), and we made a big pot of homemade apple-sauce. As the smell of sweet apples and warm cinnamon wafted I thought, "Maybe this will be our new fall tradition."

From my family to yours, may you create your own delicious seasonal memories—in the garden, over the stove, at the table, or in a pick-your-own patch somewhere nearby.

Pick Your Battles

It was my 4th birthday and I was beyond excited to share the strawberry shortcake my mother made for my class. The teachers sliced up the cake and handed it out to my classmates.

They all took one bite and promptly pushed it away. I was crushed. Sadly, the subtle sweetness of fresh berries and hand-whipped cream was too far a cry from the cake and icing my classmates were used to.

From that day on, I ate all my organic, from-scratch food at home. But if I had to bring something to share with friends I demanded it be store-bought with neon-colored icing.

Kids want to belong, and although we want them to eat balanced meals, there's a time to dig in and a time to loosen up. Happy memories are more important than enforcing good habits 24/7, at birthdays and celebrations.

That said, if bringing neon cupcakes to school disrupts your moral compass (I struggle myself), choose fun single-serving snacks or non-food items to celebrate. Pencils, stickers, small toy favors can be a great way to keep it healthy and avoid food restrictions and allergies altogether.

Toddler Approved Dinners

Here are two favorites in our house that are tasty as well as nutritious.

One note on food sensitivity before I start: food pickiness is a wide spectrum. Some children prefer certain flavors, while others will develop strong gag reflexes or completely refuse to eat if given anything other than their approved list. I understand this—and my heart goes out to you if you're dealing with the latter.

I offer the following recipes and tips in the sidebar as inspiration to support families in creating healthy, fun and diverse experiences with their kids and foods.



Kale Pesto

This recipe makes enough to heavily coat one pound of pasta. It can be doubled for a crowd or frozen for quick and easy future meals. To make a hardy meal, we add protein, often chicken sausage, but we've also mixed in cannellini beans or shredded chicken.

- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 3 C. kale (about 1 bunch), washed and roughly chopped
- ½ C. toasted nuts or seeds (I use cashews or sunflower seeds)
- 2 Tb. lemon juice (about 1 lemon)
- 1 tsp. fine-grain sea salt (less if using salted nuts/seeds)
- ½ C. extra virgin olive oil
- ⅓ C. grated Parmesan cheese, extra for sprinkling
- 1 lb. cooked pasta
- Protein of choice

Add all ingredients (excluding pasta and protein) to a blender or food processor.

Blend into a fairly uniform green paste (no noticeable pieces of ingredients). Stop halfway through the blending to scrape down the sides.

Taste and adjust flavor balance to your preferences. For more brightness and acidity, add lemon; for more salt, add cheese or salt; if too thick, add more olive oil or cold water.

Note: When cooking for kids, I err on the side of a smoother consistency. The last thing you want when introducing a new food is your kiddo unknowingly chomping on a big piece of raw garlic. There's no coming back from that!

Stir pesto into 1 lb. of your favorite cooked and drained pasta. Reserve a little pasta water in case you need to thin out the pesto.

Top with desired protein and a sprinkle of extra cheese.

Carrot, Feta Turkey Burgers

Turkey burgers get a bad rap for being dry and lacking flavor, but the addition of veggies and crumbled feta cheese make for a sweet, salty and juicy bite.

A variation that's a favorite in my home: lay a slice of cheese (cheddar recommended) over top of the burger for the last couple of minutes in the oven for optimum gooeyness.

- 1 lb. ground turkey
- ½ C. feta cheese, crumbled
- 1 C. grated carrot
- ½ medium onion, finely diced (⅓ C.)
- 1 generous pinch of ground black pepper
- 2 Tbs. olive oil (for oiling pan)

Preheat the oven to 350°.

Combine ground turkey, feta, carrot, onion and pepper in a large bowl.

Form into desired-sized patties.

Note: The best way to get all ingredients incorporated and shaped into burgers is to roll up your sleeves and dig in. Since you're working with raw meat, this is a better job for mom or dad.

Gently lay patties into a heated and oiled sautee pan. Sear the burgers over high heat and finish in a 350° oven for 10 minutes, or until they're no longer pink in the center. (Smaller sliders take less time.)

Serve on lightly toasted buns (we like thin

Tips and Gadgets to Get Kids Cooking & Eating

HERE ARE SOME PARENT-TESTED IDEAS.

- **Limit snacks.** No snacks two hours before or after mealtime. Make sure kids arrive at the table hungry.
- **Pair known foods** with new foods. Try pancakes with almond butter or pasta with pesto.
- **Cooking platforms** are safer than kids standing on chairs. They're sturdy and have railings on all sides.
- **Create a distraction** by having extra bulk ingredients (oats, rice, dry pasta) and utensils (measuring cups, bowls and spoons) available. Your little helper can stay busy while you do the steps that are less kid-friendly.
- **Pre-measure** ingredients into small containers, so kids can independently pour or scoop the correct amount into the bowl.
- **Get some swag.** There's nothing like a miniature chef's hat and apron to get cooks of all ages in the mood.
- **Use creative names.** My mother-in-law bakes and slices yams and calls them sweet potato cookies—a favorite. Relate new foods to ones kids know. My nieces and nephews would only eat tilapia fish, so my brother served "pink tilapia" for dinner, rather than salmon! #parentingwin
- **Let go of the clean kitchen (and clothes).** None of us need more laundry or messes, but letting kids pour and stir without worrying about that will make the kitchen a happier place.
- **Taste test throughout!** We call them "chef bites," a privileged nibble you get only if you help cook the meal. They make a little chef feel special and encourage kids to try the recipe they've helped create.

sandwich rounds) with a selection of your favorite toppings.

Makes 5 burgers or 8 sliders.

For toppings in our family, that means avocado for mama, mustard for daddy and doused in ketchup for the little guy. As almost any mother of a toddler will attest, ketchup is the condiment of choice! I let them slather it on (within reason). If it gets protein and veggies eaten, that's a thumbs up! ♦



Kale Pesto



Carrot, Feta Turkey Burgers

AREA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS FIND SUCCESS IN FALL SPORTS SEASON

Fall Sports Season Highlights

Edwin Malet

THE FALL SEASON YIELDED A MIX OF SUCCESSES FOR the independent schools in our area. The Haverford School was outstanding in water polo. Bishop Shanahan High School had a great volleyball team, as did Padua Academy. Episcopal Academy was tops in tennis and had a preeminent quarterback on its football team. Westtown School and Friends' Central School fielded winning cross-country runners.

DOMINANT IN WATER POLO

For the second straight year, The Haverford School dominated water polo—it won the Inter-Ac championship and ended its season 27-1. It was the best team in the Commonwealth, winning the Eastern Prep Water Polo Tournament and finishing 3rd in the Beast of the East Tournament.

Four seniors, Matej Sekulic, David Gobora, Koby Degenhard and Ryan LaRocca led the team. Sekulic hopes to continue his water polo career at one of the several Ivy League schools recruiting him. Gobora is applying to the U.S. Naval Academy and Air Force Academy and plans to study economics. Also hoping to continue with water polo, Degenhard is applying to schools like Indiana, Northeastern and Pittsburgh, while LaRocca is interested in several schools including Georgetown and the University of Pennsylvania.

A WINNING FOOTBALL SEASON

Episcopal Academy won the Inter-Ac title and was 9-1 overall, losing only to Germantown Academy in a hard-fought overtime, 56-55. Senior Maurcus McDaniel, Episcopal's quarterback, was a standout—passed for 1311 yards, completed 67% of his passes, and averaged 9.3 yards per completion. Plus he rushed for 1329 yards and scored 21 touchdowns. A "great kid," according to Coach Todd Fairlie, McDaniel is planning a major in architecture and considering Brown, Princeton and William and Mary for college.

Senior Matt Bush played both sides of the ball. At defense, he was responsible for a team-leading 77 tackles; on offense, he averaged over 6 yards per carry. Business, he assumes, will be his college major.

The leading receiver for Episcopal was junior Malcolm Folk, pulling in 29 receptions for 428 yards. Army has made him an offer, but other colleges have shown interest.

In Delaware, Wilmington Friends School was ranked 10th in the state, completing a 7-3 season and shutting out four of their ten opponents. Senior Manny Adebisi has been an "outstanding" lineman at both offense and defense, according to Coach Bob Tattersall, and is considering MIT for college. Senior Will Davis at wide receiver has also been "very consistent."

VOLLEYBALL CHAMPS

Finishing 1st in Delaware—14th in the nation—with a 12-3 record, Padua Academy was led by Jess Molen, who was selected to the state's 1st Team. She signed with Jefferson University. Also selected for 1st Team was junior Mackenzie Sobczyk, who made the American Volleyball Coaches Association list. Michelle Kozicki made 2nd Team All-State and signed with LaSalle University to play basketball.

Ranked 5th in Delaware, Archmere Academy completed its volleyball season 5-1 in the Diamond State Conference. Senior Julia Kochie recorded 197 kills and 150 digs. She was named 1st Team All-Conference and 1st Team All-State. Abigail Kates recorded 68 kills and 45 blocks this season and was named 2nd Team Diamond State Conference. She signed a letter of intent at Bucknell for track and field. Junior Hannah Wright had 34 aces and 201 digs, and was named 1st Team All-Conference and 2nd Team All State. Looking ahead, she has committed to the University of Delaware.

Coach Greg Ashman, head coach of Bishop Shanahan's Eagles, is very proud of his team, ranked 3rd in the Commonwealth and 55th in the nation. The team came very close to winning the state championship, falling just 2 points short in the final set. It had a record of 34-2-1 overall.

Cara Schultz, member of 2018 state All-Star team and headed to Yale next year, led the team with a hitting percentage of .400, 370 kills, 100 aces and 318 digs. Setter Mia Caporellie accumulated 585

assists, 67 aces and 345 digs. Libero Grace Casagrande had a team high 433 digs and 29 aces.

Coach Ashman declared, "Cara was the power, Mia was the elegance and Grace was the glue that ... allowed it all to work!" All three are seniors.

PREVAILING IN TENNIS

Whitaker Powell, girls' tennis coach for Episcopal Academy, called it a "very good season." That's an understatement! The team won the league and the league tournament. Ashley Kennedy is the school's #1 player, the Inter-Ac's MVP, and was selected as All-League. Although only a sophomore, she's also the top player in the area, having gone undefeated this season—and undefeated the past two seasons—at first singles.

Senior Cara Harty and junior Eliza Aldridge were paired at 1st doubles, where they were undefeated in the Inter-Ac, and were named All-League for the second time.

Coach Powell commented, "I'm proud of the girls ... more for who they are as students and young women than I am about winning a title. Of course winning makes it more fun!"

LEADING THE PACK IN CROSS COUNTRY

At the PAISAA state championship, Westtown School beat perennial champs Germantown Friends, which had won the last four times and won the Friends School League only 10 days before. The 5000-meter state championship was a serious team effort. Sophomore Constantin Carls was the 5th to cross the line at 16:45. But team members sophomore William Nagy, senior Aiden Morrison, junior Kari Gandhi, and senior Nichols Hanchak finished

in 18 minutes or less. This team effort was just enough for Westtown's 7-man team to beat Germantown Friends by one point, 69 to 70.

On the girls' side of PAISSA, Lydia Russell of Friends' Central School set a course record of 18:06 for the 5000-meters and won the race by 36 seconds! The team ran away with 1st place and 3 of the top 6 spots. Next year Russell plans to continue running for the University of Oregon. Micah Trusty, who finished 2nd on the team, and 5th overall, is a sophomore. Rebecca Wusinich, who finished 3rd on the team and 6th overall, is a senior.

FIELD HOCKEY'S SURPRISING STICKS

At 15-10, it would appear that a young Villa Maria Academy team had room to grow in field hockey. Nevertheless, it made the state semi-finals!

Coach Katie Evans called Kate Perretta a "tremendous asset" to the team's campaign: a "solid defender," "our rock" and always "cool, calm and collected." She was voted Team MVP and a league all-star in 2018 and 2019.

Evans also cited two sophomores. Forward Lindsey Roberts has "incredible fast hands, a great shot and speed that allows her to be dangerous in every situation." Roberts was responsible for 20% of the Hurricanes' goals. Midfielder Maia DeChairio, Evans said, has "very good instincts" and "the skills to win the ball." DeChairio is "very clinical and controlled but plays with a level of toughness beyond her years."

Congratulations are due to all the coaches and players who participated in the fall sports season. We'll watch the student-athletes as they move on. ♦



Archmere Academy's Abigail Kates, right



Episcopal Academy's Ashley Kennedy



Friends' Central's Lydia Russell



Villa Maria Academy

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