



# West Chester

## Morning, Noon and Night

SO MANY WAYS TO ENJOY YOURSELF IN THE BOROUGH THIS SUMMER

Cara Corridoni

**W**HEN YOU VISIT THE BOROUGH OF WEST Chester this summer, be prepared to party like it's 2019.

Come for the new events planned to draw folks outside, including the kickoff festival — “Fête de la Musique” that has the Borough suspending its no busking ordinance for one evening — plus the new weekly West Chester TAPS Happy Hour event on Wednesdays.

Then there's the highly anticipated return of the Gay Street Open-Air Market, back this year on weekends, along with plenty of outdoor patio dining scattered along High, Walnut, Church and Market Streets.

You can hang out by the fountain at 44 West Plaza (corner of Church and Gay Streets), the place to be and be seen. The courtyard has evolved since its 2020 opening, now featuring pastel colored cafe tables perfect for sipping coffee from nearby Gryphon Cafe or munching donuts from Yori's Bakery.

And come to sample West Chester restaurants, like award-winning Spence Cafe, popular Sedona Taphouse, redesigned La Baguette Magique, recently opened Blazin' J's Nashville Hot Chicken, a rule-breaking pizza place, and a new late-night destination. You'll want to broaden your idea of dining to a day-long event.

West Chester fans agree, there's excitement in the air. “Most businesses are optimistic about their future business prospects,” says West Chester Business Improvement District Executive Director, John O'Brien. “I think there's a sense among the public and the businesses that strategies need to change with Covid and people want to resume their normal lives.”

Here's what you should know to make the most of your visit.

### NEW THIS YEAR

West Chester's popular Gay Street Open-Air Market, set to return Memorial Day weekend, will move to weekends-only, beginning Friday mornings and extending through Sunday evenings. For its



third year, the Open-Air Market will see restaurants and retailers investing more in aesthetics. “We got all new patio furniture and some new lighting. We'll think of ways to make it look as nice as we can,” said Iron Hill Regional Manager Dave Horowitz.

New this summer, West Chester TAPS features special Happy Hours. Every Wednesday from 5 to 7 p.m., visitors can enjoy \$4 beers, \$5 wines, \$6 cocktails and half-price appetizers at 13 participating restaurants. Choose from a variety of West Chester favorites from Ram's Head to Pietro's Prime, Kildare's Pub to Slow Hand. Check [DowntownWestChester.com](http://DowntownWestChester.com) for locations.

To mark the start of summer, West Chester fills with music with the introduction of the French-inspired “Fête de la Musique” busking festival. Planned for Tuesday, June 21, noon to 9 p.m., Fête, as it's known around the world, invites musicians of all stripes to set up on corners downtown and perform for passing crowds. The free event honors West Chester's rich music, arts and culture scene and highlights the summer solstice. O'Brien says the event is a “celebration of music throughout the town.”

### MORNING

With its popular Saturday morning Church Street Grower's Market and numerous breakfast options (see “Best Breakfast Bets” in May's *County Lines Magazine*), West Chester is the place to pass an enjoyable weekend morning. From always-reliable Penn's Table and the perennial favorite Market Street Grill to more recent additions, there are almost too many satisfying choices.

**Mae's West Chester.** This farm-to-table spot opened just ahead of the pandemic and has been gaining a following for its original brunch entrees and delicious breakfast sandwiches. Looking for something new? Order the chorizo, Swiss and green onion pancake, or play it safe with delicious brioche French toast with seasonal fruit. Whichever direction you go, you'll want to enjoy your meal outside. Their West Gay Street location is perfect for people watching.

**La Baguette Magique.** After closing several months for renovations, the popular West Market Street bakery finally reopened. Gone are the dishes, cafe tables and children's reading nook. In their place are open space and an expansive counter showcasing their signature French pastries and original takeout entrees, courtesy of their part-



1. Fête de la Musique
2. Mae's West Chester
3. La Baguette Magique

nership with acclaimed Andairio's. Grab a table inside or outside, or opt for the new concept — more grab-and-go food, a la the French.

**Fenn's Coffee Shop.** With all that's new, there's also a goodbye. Fenn's Coffee Shop, known for its locally sourced brews, anti-Starbucks vibe, and status as a concert venue and art house, closed this winter after 25 years. The good news is that local Turk's Head Roasters plans to open in the same spot on North Church Street to keep us well caffeinated.

### NOON

Sandwiched (sorry!) between breakfast and dinner, lunch in this country doesn't always get its due. Well, no more. Once dominated by preferences of Chester County courthouse employees on midday break, the Borough's newest grab-and-go meals have been generating plenty of buzz.

**Blazin' J's.** After months of “Coming Soon” signs, West Chester gets a taste of the Nashville Hot Chicken craze taking over the nation — the Pennsylvania version, anyway. “It's different in that it's





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- 4. Blazin' J's
- 5. Spicy Pig Cafe
- 6. Pizza West Chester
- 7. Iron Hill



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not an oil-based sauce,” says Gary Danehower, owner of the West Gay Street location. “It’s something lighter.” Started in Lancaster in 2019, the concept was to keep it simple — just fresh, never-frozen chicken (a couple different ways), hot sauces, salads, Belgian waffles and fresh cut fries. And it’s worked. Today there are four locations, a food truck and lots of happy customers. How do they do it? “You just have to try it,” says Danehower.

Also scheduled to open, on East Gay Street, is FIRE Nashville Hot Chicken, another establishment where quality chicken comes before everything else.

**Spicy Pig Cafe.** Looking for something lighter? Head to the corner of West Market and South New Streets to celebrate the return of Spicy Pig Cafe. After closing during the pandemic, the American-Thai fusion spot returned earlier this year under new head chef Manee Rapt. You’ll find your old favorites plus a few new dishes, all made from scratch, of course. Try the house specialty Red Curry with meat or tofu, cooked in coconut milk with Thai basil and red bell peppers or the popular Sesame Chicken.

**Pizza West Chester.** This tiny place opened last fall with two menu items — plain and pepperoni pizza — limited hours that varied each day, no website or phone, and cash-only. A digital-age recipe for disaster. Instead, by focusing on technique and ingredients, it’s proven a win, generating tons of buzz for their thin, almost-charred pies. Today the East Market Street shop has more than 7,000 Instagram followers. Join them to get daily hours and menu updates. Or just take a chance and stop by. Hours vary, but weekday afternoons are a good bet. Be prepared to wait in line, though — there’s no pre-ordering. Just kill the time watching the process of creating perfect pies.

## NIGHT

You can’t go wrong with a night out in West Chester. With around 60 dining options to choose from, downtown West Chester continues to be a dining destination. Here’s some of what’s new.

**Iron Hill.** Fans of Iron Hill will immediately notice the upgrade. “We got beautiful new glass doors that open up,” said Horowitz.

- 8. Split Rail
- 9. Spence Cafe
- 10. Sedona Taphouse

There’s new furniture, new flooring and new paint — all part of an interior refresh — but the windows are the showstopper. They’re floor-to-ceiling along Gay Street and open completely, giving inside diners access to fresh air but with indoor comforts. “It opens up the building so you have the feeling of being outdoors without being outdoors,” says Horowitz. “At the same time, if you’re dining outside, you have a visual connection to the restaurant inside.”

Iron Hill is ready to celebrate summer. For the first time, they’re making seasonal favorites Lemon Cerveza Mexican Style Lager and Orange Creamsicle Milkshake IPA available in cans. In honor of National IPA Day in August, look for their first East Coast/West Coast IPA competition, along with a month of seafood dishes featured from both coasts.

**Split Rail.** Come celebrate summer at Split Rail with a new selection of \$8 appetizers, including the crispy artichoke hummus plate, and cocktails perfect for cooling down on a hot summer night. Try a Patterned Shirt (dark rum, blackberry liqueur, sherry, orgeat syrup, orange) or the refreshing Sage Against the Machine (sage-infused tequila, grapefruit, honey, salt). Looking for entertainment? Tuesday nights bring Drag Queen Karaoke, or chill out with a pint for Acoustic Night on Wednesdays.

**Spence Cafe.** Did you hear Spence Cafe was recently named one of OpenTable’s “100 Best Restaurants in the US”? The list, which includes some big names like Philadelphia’s Parc, was created by the online reservation site from more than 10.5 million reviews. Chef Andrew Patten’s menus are always delicious, and dining under the stars on the reopened patio is a unique seasonal treat.

**Sedona Taphouse.** Like to dine al fresco? Check out Sedona Taphouse on West Gay Street. “Our patio is now fully open,” said manager Spencer Zinc. Also look for sidewalk tables along Gay Street. Opened last year and offering an American menu — think hand-cut steaks and wood-grilled salmon — this has been a popular addition to the dining scene. “We have 13 patio tables and just got approval to add eight more tables on the sidewalk up front,” said Zinc. So, more space to enjoy summer dining.



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11. Good Bad & Ugly

### LATE NIGHT

In West Chester the fun doesn't end when the sun goes down, even the late summer sun. There's enough to do to make you want to extend that bedtime. If you've ever been out late in West Chester, you know Kildare's and Barnaby's and after a certain age, Side Bar's upstairs.

Here's a new place to check out.

**Good Bad & Ugly.** If you haven't been yet, it's time to join the crowds at Good Bad & Ugly. GBU is a cocktail bar that opened downstairs at Stove & Tap on West Gay Street (GBU's entrance is on South Darlington Street). Unlike other Borough late-night locations, the focus here isn't on dancing — it's on games and socializing. GBU has a pool table and shuffleboard, plus themed nights during the week including Country Night on Wednesdays and Music Bingo on Thursdays. It's still a late-night bar, so expect the music to be loud and the cocktails to be flowing.

For updates and more about what to do in West Chester, visit *DowntownWestChester.com*. ♦

*Cara Corridoni lives in West Chester, is a huge fan and writes the weekly e-newsletter "Hello, West Chester."*

# West Chester Dining Guide

### ♥ Andiaro

106 W. Gay St. 484-887-0919; Andiario.com

### ♥ Bar Avalon

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

### Blazin' J's Nashville Hot Chicken

139 W. Gay St. 484-266-0156; BlazinJs.com

### Dolce Zola

134 E. Gay St. 484-887-0760; iPastia.net

### FIRE – Nashville Hot Chicken

126 E. Gay St. FireHotChicken.com

### ♥ Four Dogs Tavern

1300 W. Strasburg Rd. 610-692-4367; TheFourDogsTavern.com

### ♥ Greystone Oyster Bar

7 N. Church St. 610-241-3369; GreystoneOysterBarWC.com

### ♥ Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant

3 W. Gay St. 610-738-9600; IronHillBrewery.com

### Kildare's Pub

18 W. Gay St. 610-431-0770; KildaresPubWC.com

### Kooma

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

### ♥ Limoncello

9 N. Walnut St. 610-436-6230; LimoncelloWC.com

### Lorenzo and Son's Pizza

27 N. High St. 484-999-8756; LorenzosWestChester.com

### Love Again Local

18 S. Church St. 484-266-7381; LoveAgainLocal.com

### ♥ Mae's West Chester

39 W. Gay St. 484-887-0062; MaesWC.com

### ♥ Más Mexicali Cantina

102 E. Market St. 610-918-6280; MasMexicali.com

### ♥ Mercato Italian Ristorante & Bar

33 W. Market St. 610-701-6326; Mercato33.com

### ♥ Opa Taverna

40-44 E. Gay St. 610-696-4100; OpaTavernaWestChester.com

### ♥ Peter Clark Kitchen

698 E. Market St. 610-783-3004; PeterClarkKitchen.com

### Ram's Head Bar & Grill

40 E. Market St. 484-631-0241; RamsHeadBarAndGrill.com

### Rai Rai Ramen & Hawaiian Barbecue

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

### ♥ Roots Cafe

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

### Saloon 151 Whiskey Bar & Grill

151 W. Gay St. 610-701-8489; Saloon151.com

### ♥ Sedona Tap House

44 West Gay St. 610-738-5104; SedonaTapHouse.com

### Side Bar & Restaurant

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

### The Social

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

### ♥ Spence Cafe

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

### Spicy Pig Cafe

236 Market St. 610-881-5255; SpicyPigCafeWC.com

### Sterling Pig Public House

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

### ♥ Stove & Tap

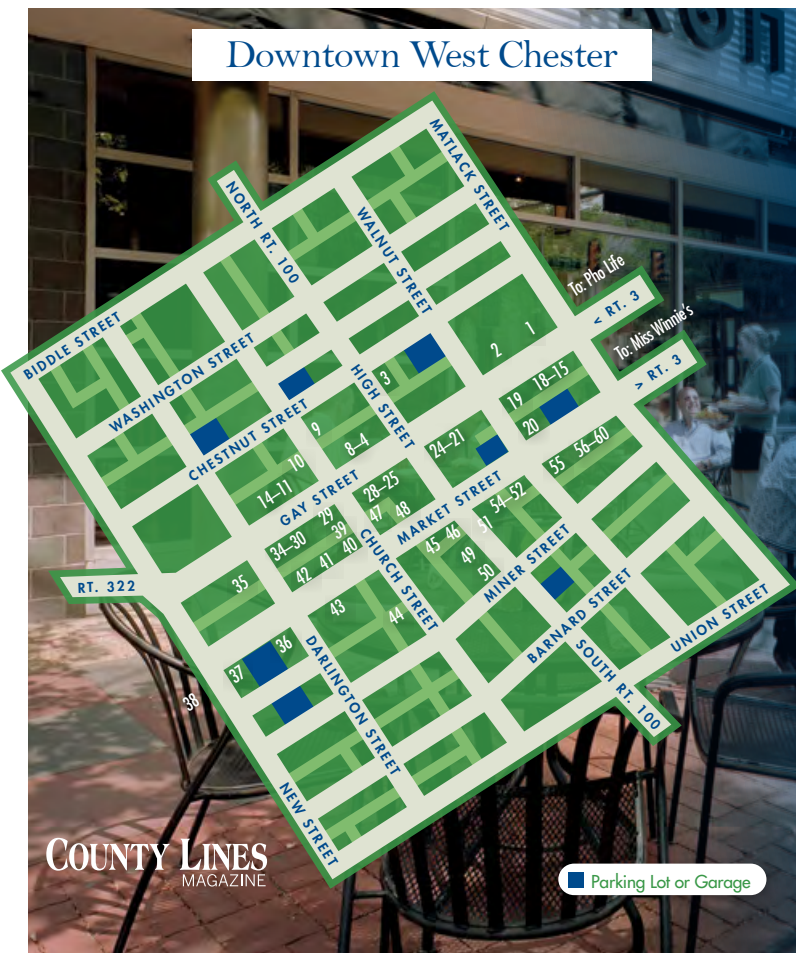
158 W. Gay St. 484-999-0922; StoveAndTap.com

### ♥ Teca

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

## RESTAURANT GUIDE

- |                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Roots Café                    | 31. Ryan's Pub & Restaurant   |
| 2. The Social                    | 32. Jitter's Sports Bar       |
| 3. Spence Café                   | 33. The Mediterranean         |
| 4. Iron Hill Brewery & Rest.     | 34. Stove & Tap               |
| 5. DP Dough                      | 35. Bon Bon Sushi             |
| 6. Buddy's Burgers               | 36. La Baguette Magique       |
| 7. The Couch Tomato Café         | 37. Spicy Pig Café            |
| 8. Mae's West Chester            | 38. Nudy's Café               |
| 9. Kooma Japanese Rest.          | 39. Slow Hand                 |
| 10. Benny's Pizza                | 40. New Haven Pizza           |
| 11. La Tartine                   | 41. Sterling Pig Brewery      |
| 12. Blazin' J's                  | 42. Pietro's Prime            |
| 13. Saloon 151                   | 43. Carlino's Specialty Foods |
| 14. Star of India Restaurant     | 44. Love Again Local          |
| 15. Dolce Zola                   | 45. Tsunami Bistro            |
| 16. FIRE — Nashville Hot Chicken | 46. Market Street Grill       |
| 17. Taco Mar                     | 47. Greystone Oyster Bar      |
| 18. Bar Avalon                   | 48. Mercato Ristorante & Bar  |
| 19. Split Rail Tavern            | 49. Playa Bowls               |
| 20. Limoncello Ristorante        | 50. Meatball U                |
| 21. Opa Taverna                  | 51. Barnaby's of West Chester |
| 22. Teca                         | 52. Saucey                    |
| 23. Side Bar & Restaurant        | 53. Shawarma                  |
| 24. Lorenzo & Sons Pizza         | 54. Rams Head Bar & Grill     |
| 25. Tsaoaca                      | 55. Más Mexicali Cantina      |
| 26. Jaco Juice & Taco Bar        | 56. Rai Rai Ramen             |
| 27. Kildare's Irish Pub          | 57. Rize Pizza                |
| 28. Sedona Tap House             | 58. Bonchon Chicken           |
| 29. Penn's Table                 | 59. Poke Bros.                |
| 30. Andiaro                      | 60. Pizza West Chester        |



### ♥ Pietro's Prime Steakhouse

125 W. Market St.  
484-760-6100  
PietrosPrime.com  
Pietro's Prime is an upscale, casual steakhouse and martini bar in the heart of downtown West Chester, serving prime cuts of beef and a variety of seafood selections. Dine in their rustic dining room setting or enjoy their outside patio seating. Stop by for live music Wed., Fri. and Sat. in the bar area along with their signature martinis and cocktails.

### ♥ Miss Winnie's

211 E. Market St.  
484-266-0508  
MissWinnies.com  
Miss Winnie's is a West Chester restaurant with a unique twist. They serve Caribbean food to take away or dine in the restaurant itself. They are happy to serve their delicious Caribbean food to all the folks in West Chester and the surrounding area, from small businesses to visitors to West Chester University students.





# West Chester Events

## Open-Air Market in West Chester THROUGH SEPTEMBER 5

Gay Street will be closed to vehicles Friday morning through Monday morning. Restaurants and retail alike will line the street, so residents and visitors have more space to shop, eat and explore the town. [DowntownWestChester.com](http://DowntownWestChester.com).

## West Chester TAPS JUNE 1–SEPTEMBER 1 Wednesdays

Enjoy a borough-wide happy hour when you can unwind and relax with friends every Wednesday from 4 to 7 pm. Participating locations will have a select list of \$4 beers, \$5 wines and \$6 cocktails in addition to a list of half price appetizers. [DowntownWestChester.com](http://DowntownWestChester.com) for locations.

## First Fridays JUNE 3, JULY 1, AUG 5

Extended hours at galleries and boutiques, restaurant specials, entertainment and more. [DowntownWestChester.com](http://DowntownWestChester.com).

## Uptown! at Knauer Performing Arts Center JUNE 3–AUGUST 25

*June 3, July 29*, Better Than Bacon: Improv Comedy; *June 6*, Grease Sing-Along; *June 23, July 28, Aug. 25*, Dueling Pianos; *June 25*, Live at The Fillmore: Tribute to the Allman Brothers. 226 N. High St. Tickets and times, [UptownWestChester.org](http://UptownWestChester.org).

## Turk's Head Music Festival JUNE 5

Two stages feature seven local bands performing different genres of music, and approximately 90 artists, craftspeople and vendors set up booths throughout Everhart Park. 100 S. Brandywine St. Noon to 7 pm. Rain date, June 12. Free. [TurksHeadFestival.com](http://TurksHeadFestival.com).

## 2022 Town Tours & Village Walks JUNE 9–AUGUST 18

Explore our Villages — “Founding Mothers and Fathers.” *June 9*, West Chester — Humphry Marshall Birthday Bash, Annual Kick-off Celebration at the Chester County History Center. Tours through Aug. 18. [ChesCo.org/Planning/TownTours](http://ChesCo.org/Planning/TownTours).

## Friends Association Family Reunion JUNE 12

Celebrate the 200th anniversary of Friends Association with a gathering at Chester County History Center. Light fare, beer, wine, signature cocktails and access to the museum. 222 N. High St. 1 to 4. \$50. [FriendsAssoc.org](http://FriendsAssoc.org).

## Chester County History Center JUNE 16, 18

CCHC's Juneteenth Celebration events: *June 16*, “A Night with Dane E. Tilghman,” con-

versation with artist Dane E. Tilghman, 6:30 pm; *June 18*, “A Celebration of Freedom with Nahjee Grant,” children's program, 1 pm; *June 18*, “A Lifetime of Service, a Conversation with Rev. Anderson Porter,” 6:30 pm. All free. 225 N. High St. [ChesterCoHistorical.org](http://ChesterCoHistorical.org).



## Music at Marshall JUNE 16, JULY 7, 28, AUGUST 18

Picnic concerts in Marshall Square Park. Food trucks open from 5 pm. Music at 6:30. *June 16*, Back2Life Band; *July 7*, Chico's Vibe; *July 28*, Fabulous Greaseband; *Aug. 18*, Sin Brothers Band. Check website for weather updates. 200 E. Marshall St. 6:30. Free. [MarshallSquarePark.org](http://MarshallSquarePark.org).

## Fête de la Musique JUNE 21

See *June Picks*.

## Family Fest at The American Helicopter Museum. JUNE 25

See *Family Fun in Best Local Events*.

## Challenge for Cancer Bike Tour JUNE 26

Cycling tours throughout scenic Chester County from 5 to 100 miles to benefit The Abramson Cancer Center at Chester County Hospital and Penn Medicine Hospice in Chester Co. [CCCRide.com](http://CCCRide.com).

## SHiNE in the VINES SEPTEMBER DATE TBD

Celebrating 24 years of supporting patients living with cancer. Benefits The Abramson Cancer Center at Chester County Hospital. Check website for location. [PatientSHINE.org](http://PatientSHINE.org).

## Touch A Truck Day SEPTEMBER DATE TBD

Kids love to see and touch different models of cars and trucks. Chester County Gov. Services Complex, 601 Westtown Rd. Noon to 4 pm. Pkg. \$2. 610-436-9010; [West-Chester.com](http://West-Chester.com).

## West Chester Summer Soirée SEPTEMBER 10

Wear white to this event where guests bring their own picnic dinner and cocktails to share a fun evening with family and friends dining and dancing

under the stars. Live entertainment and lots of fun. Benefits local charities. Location announced closer to event. [WCSummerSoiree.org](http://WCSummerSoiree.org).

## 20th Up On The Roof SEPTEMBER 17

A fundraiser benefiting the West Chester Downtown Foundation, which is the philanthropic arm of the West Chester BID. Enjoy food by Limoncello and John Serock Catering. Desserts provided by some of West Chester's favorite sweet shops. Complimentary beer, wine and the always-popular Rooftop Martini. The rooftop of Chestnut Street Garage. 14 E. Chestnut St. 5:30 pm. [DowntownWestChester.com](http://DowntownWestChester.com).

## Chester County Restaurant Festival SEPTEMBER 18

Local vendors and restaurants take over downtown West Chester, serving up some of their delicious, gourmet, ethnic and unique favorites. The Beer and Wine Garden is a great place to stop and enjoy your food and beverages. [West-Chester.com](http://West-Chester.com).

## 81st Ann'l Chester County Day House Tour OCTOBER 1

Longest running house tour in the country, organized by the Women's Auxiliary to Chester County Hospital, showcases the history, architecture, art, landscape and antiques that exemplify fine Chester County living. Tickets on sale this summer. [ChesterCountyDay.com](http://ChesterCountyDay.com).

## Crush Cancer Wine Tour of Chester County OCTOBER 1–31

A month-long tour of local wineries, breweries, distilleries and dining establishments throughout Chester County. Organized by the Women's Auxiliary to Chester County Hospital. Benefitting Abramson Cancer Center at Chester County Hospital. Visit [2CrushCancer.com](http://2CrushCancer.com).



## Rotary Club of West Chester Chili Cook Off OCTOBER 9

Over 70 chili-cooking teams — businesses, nonprofits, hometown cooks — line the streets and compete for prizes in several categories. Sample as many as you can and vote for your favorite. Benefits local nonprofits. Gay St. West-ChesterChiliCookoff.com. ♦