

Take a fun foodie trek around the world in **WEST CHESTER**

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DESTINATION DINING WITH INTERNATIONAL OPTIONS

DOWNTOWN WEST CHESTER HAS PLENTY TO OFFER, particularly with its wide selection of eateries. After all, the Borough got its reputation for destination dining the old fashioned way—it earned it restaurant by bistro by bar by café by diner by bakery.

But one thing that stands out from a quick review of the over 50-some dining choices is the international range of culinary styles served up with a heaping helping of cosmopolitan flair. And the West Chester dining scene just keeps getting bigger. And better.

In the past few months, international flavors have been introduced from around the world. So why not take your taste buds on a tableside trip?

TRAVEL FROM CHURCH TO GAY STREETS

Starting close to home, locavores will be delighted that Elena Mascherino opened **Love Again Local** (18 S. Church St.; LoveAgainLocal.com). Not only is every effort made to bring fresh Brandywine Valley food to the table, it's easily the most extensive vegan menu around. Enjoy healthy and satisfying sandwiches from ingredients that are all plant-based. Plus a selection of all-vegan GMO-free meats, cheeses and dressings. And save room for a delicious Love Chunk Vegan Cookie for dessert.

Chef John Brandt-Lee of Avalon Restaurant fame has recreated this popular downtown bistro, and transformed it into **Bar Avalon** (116 E. Gay St.; AvalonRestaurant.net). It's now being discovered by new fans of the expanded upscale bar menus that take you back in time with Prohibition-era novelties and handcrafted specialty cocktails and bourbons. The casual, bistro-style menu offers gourmet pizzas, handmade pastas, fresh fish and braised meats. For casual get-togethers and conversation, there's an extensive wine list and a dozen draft beers to complement meals and snacks.



Love Again Local



Bar Avalon



Opa Opa



Rize Pizza



Rai Rai Ramen & Hawaiian BBQ

In addition to the stylish wine cellar and bar, the restaurant has large and small rooms, perfect for private events of all sizes—10 to 70 guests.

After months of expansion and remodeling, **Dolce Zola** (134 E. Gay St.; DolceZola.com) is now welcoming diners. No longer an intimate Italian restaurant like its predecessor, i-Pasta, Dolce Zola describes itself as a “Northern Italian Chef House.” The feeling of a family-run restaurant is still there, but the enlarged seating area provides a more relaxed and gracious experience. It’s still BYOB, so bring your favorite Italian wine. Inside tip: all plates are made to order, so on busy evenings, an appetizer or cheese plate adds to the relaxed experience.

Inspired by the beautiful Greek island of Mykonos, **Opa Opa** (122 E. Gay St.; OpaOpaGR.com) refers to itself as “The Small Big Greek Place,” perfect for those looking for quick, fresh and authentic Greek food. Simple and freshly made gyro sandwiches and platters, melitzanosalata (eggplant dip), salads and traditional Greek entrees—moussaka and spanakopita—make for a quick lunch or easy dinner. Of course, their Greek yogurt is “unlike anything you’ve ever tasted.” Eat in, take out or try their catering.

Restaurateur Anthony Mastroianni has fashioned his new eatery as a neighborhood bistro with a name that makes it easy to find: **39 West American Bistro** (39 W. Gay St.; 39WestAmericanBistro.com). It’s a wine-friendly BYOB, focusing its menu on seasonal ingredients from local sources, prepared with a contemporary flair. Whether it’s a flat iron steak with house made fries and Bearnaise (the classic steak frites of every French bistro), or bucatini and littleneck clams, pancetta, with parsley and bread crumbs, all is served up in a casual and friendly atmosphere.

TO MARKET AND HIGH

It’s not often you see a restaurant billed as American Thai, but Matt and Tew Gourley—yes, one was born in America and the other in Thailand—decided there could no better combination. So they opened the **Spicy Pig Café** (234 W. Market St.; SpicyPigCafe.com). Looking for a traditional breakfast or brunch menu? Spicy Pig has it. Craving Asian soup or fried rice? You’ll find that, too, at Spicy Pig.

When Tom Strauss and George Zeppos opened **Pure Fire Pizza** (30 S. High St.; PureFirePizza.com), they did so believing it would be their customers who would build their own best pizza.



39 West American Bistro



Insomnia Cookies



Pure Fire Pizza



Spicy Pig Café



Baked

Don't worry: the friendly staff will walk you through it. Start by selecting a dough, there are four kinds (including gluten-free or cauliflower); then sauce, choose from six different kinds; cheese, seven kinds of cheese; then pick your protein, garden varieties, and top it all off with one of eight after-bake sauces (balsamic fig glaze, anyone?). You now have your own customized personal pizza to enjoy!

A college town like West Chester can never have too many places for great pizza, so there's another new option just a few blocks east. The first thing you notice at **Rize Pizza** (124 E. Market St.; RizePizza.com) is that there are two types of crusts. The signature Rize Crust is used for their selection of slices. It's square, airy, coated with sesame seeds on the bottom, and deceptively light. The Traditional Crust is thin and round, like a classic Neapolitan pie. Try the upside-down pizza served with a thick, deep, crispy Rize crust.

Authentic Japanese ramen and Hawaiian-inspired barbecue dishes are a welcome treat each day starting at 11 a.m. at **Rai Rai Ramen & Hawaiian BBQ** (124 E. Market St.). Menu items include miso ramen, crispy fried shrimp ramen, curry chashu ramen, spicy kim chee ramen, Japanese fried rice, rib eye steak, barbecue short ribs and barbecue chicken. Most orders can be prepared for vegetarian diets. Tofu is an excellent substitute for pork buns. And if you like it spicy, this is the place for you.

COOKIE EXPLOSION

For those who enjoy a little something sweet after a meal, be happy to be in West Chester, which can now brag that it's becoming a cookie capital. So get ready for some serious cookie sampling.

Baked (34 S. High St.; BakedWC.com) has warm cookies, plus edible dough, along with their signature ice cream. **Insomnia Cookies** (142 W. Gay St.; InsomniaCookies.com) loves serving warm, delicious cookies right to your front door. And **Cookie Dope** (28 S. High St.; TheCookieDope.com), which should be open by now, offers edible cookie dough, ice cream, divine toppings and self-described dope combinations, thus the name.

And, yes, late night delivery requests are welcome by all three! Who will know if you try them all? ♦

Other Dining Options in West Chester

BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND MORE

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

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

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

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

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

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), in one of West Chester's most famous historic structures, is the place to enjoy a mid-day meal served in the classic 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.

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

Nudy's Café (300 W. Market St., 610-696-4550; NudysCafes.com) is a 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.

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

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

BARS, PUBS AND MORE

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

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

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

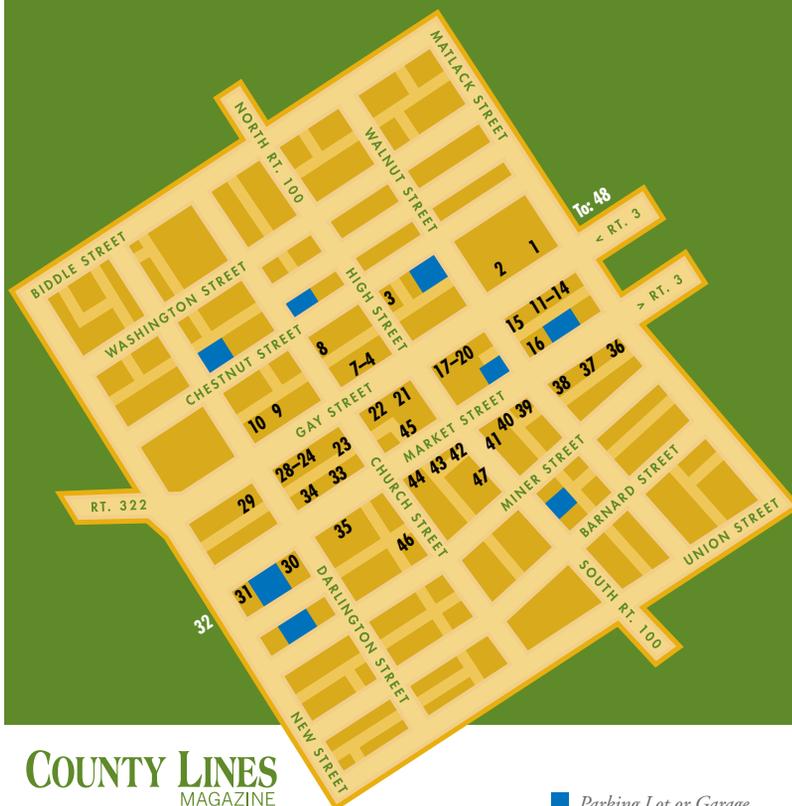
Jaco Juice & Taco Bar (8 W. Gay St., 610-436-4177; JacoJuiceandTaco.com) serves made-to-order fresh juice, smoothies and tacos.

Jitter's Sports Bar (146 W. Gay St., 610-696-0427; KildaresPub.com) has big-screen TVs to catch all the action, along with a lively bar.

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.

Landmark Americana (158 W. Gay St., 610-701-9900; LandmarkAmericana.com) is an upscale-casual restaurant and sports bar with contemporary design and a menu to match.

DOWNTOWN WEST CHESTER



COUNTY LINES
MAGAZINE

■ Parking Lot or Garage

Restaurant Guide

1. Roots Cafe
2. The Social
3. Spence Cafe
4. Iron Hill Brewery & Rest.
5. Buddy's Burgers
6. The Couch Tomato Café
7. 39 West American Bistro
8. Kooma Japanese Rest.
9. Saloon 151
10. Star of India Restaurant
11. Dolce Zola
12. Opa! Opa!
13. Bar Avalon
14. DeStarr's Rest. & Bar
15. Split Rail Tavern
16. Limoncello Ristorante
17. Lorenzo & Sons Pizza
18. Teca
19. The Classic Diner
20. Side Bar & Restaurant
21. Jaco Juice & Taco Bar
22. Kildare's Irish Pub
23. Rest. 51 Tap & Spirit
24. Penn's Table
25. Ryan's Pub & Restaurant
26. Jitter's Sports Bar
27. The Mediterranean
28. Landmark Americana
29. Bon Bon Sushi
30. La Baguette Magique
31. The Spicy Pig Café
32. Nudy's Café
33. Nagasaki Noodle House
34. Pietro's Prime
35. Carlino's Specialty Foods
36. Boxcar Brewpub
37. Rai Rai Ramen
37. Rize Pizza
38. Más Mexicali Cantina
39. Rams Head Bar & Grill
40. Shawarma
41. Barnaby's
42. Market Street Grill
43. Tsunami Bistro
44. The Lincoln Room
45. Mercato Ristorante & Bar
46. Love Again Local
47. Pure Fire Pizza
48. Pho Xua Vietnamese Noodle & Tea House

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 brightly lit 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.

The Social Lounge (117 E. Gay St., 610-738-3948; TheSocialWC.com) specializes in Cajun creations, 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; SpenceCafe.com) offers burgers, sandwiches and Thai dishes as well as vegan and vegetarian.

Split Rail Tavern (15 N. Walnut St., 484-999-8805; SplitRailTavern.com) serves locally sourced food, craft beer and cocktails.

INTERNATIONAL CHOICES

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

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 ambiance sets the stage for family favorites like spicy tacos, plus veggies and tofu, too. With great roof-top views.

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

Nagasaki Japanese Noodle House (113 W. Market St., 484-887-8532; NagasakiSushiRamen-Noodles.com) offers a noodle house and Japanese cuisine for lunch and dinner. BYOB.

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.

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

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 and Italian specialties.

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

See the 2018 Dining Guide in this issue for many more dining destinations in County Lines Country.