



## Insider's Guide to

# PHILADELPHIA

**Philadelphia**—Philly, Cradle of America, City of Brotherly Love (and Sisterly Affection) ... no matter what you call it, Pennsylvania's largest city has played a key role in American history. From the First Continental Congress to Rocky jogging up the Art Museum steps, this is a city dripping with history, charm and interest. That's why we've put together the Sonnhalter Insider's Guide to Philadelphia to help you find the best this great city has to offer.

We've asked some of our Philly friends for their recommendations on the best food, nightlife and the out-of-the-way places only locals know about. Because sure, you want to decide for yourself who has the best cheesesteak, but this city has so much more to offer.

A quick note – true to its founding as the "City of Quakers," Philly has sometimes odd liquor laws, resulting in over 300 "BYO" restaurants where the drinks are on you (to bring with you). So make sure to check ahead before you go.

### City Center/Historic Downtown

#### **Amada**

Contemporary Spanish  
(215) 625-2450

[www.philadelphia.amadarestaurant.com](http://www.philadelphia.amadarestaurant.com)

Modern versions of Tapas and a contemporary Spanish mix with warm décor and an excellent wine list in Iron Chef Jose Garces' restaurant.

#### **Campo's / Sonny's**

Cheesesteak  
(215) 923-1000 / (215) 629-5760

[www.camposdeli.com](http://www.camposdeli.com)  
[www.sonnyscheesesteaks.com](http://www.sonnyscheesesteaks.com)

One of Philly's rites of passage is declaring a side on the Best Cheesesteak argument and far be it from us to pick a winner. These two locations go head-to-head in the "new guys on the block" category.

#### **Dim Sum Garden**

Chinese  
(215) 873-0258

[www.dimsumgardenphilly.com](http://www.dimsumgardenphilly.com)

Authentic dumplings and other Chinese fare in the heart of the downtown Chinatown area. Cash-only, but more than worth the trip.

#### **El Vez**

Mexican  
(215) 928-9800

[www.elvezrestaurant.com](http://www.elvezrestaurant.com)

A perennial "Best Of" winner, not just for Mexican cuisine, but for its atmosphere, décor, energy and drink menu.

#### **Fork**

American  
(215) 625-9425

[www.forkrestaurant.com](http://www.forkrestaurant.com)

Sleek and modern décor and takes on classic American cuisine. Famed for its service and brunch.

#### **Khyber Pass**

Pub & BBQ  
(215) 238-5888

[www.khyberpasspub.com](http://www.khyberpasspub.com)

A cozy spot where a dive-bar exterior hides some of the best southern-style favorites and BBQ in the city, and a vast beer selection.

#### **Kisso Sushi Bar**

Sushi  
(215) 922-1770

[www.facebook.com/KISSOSUSHIPHL](http://www.facebook.com/KISSOSUSHIPHL)

Known for its intimate atmosphere and presentation, this sushi and sashimi spot is a favorite of locals.

#### **Mac Mart**

Mac'n Cheesery  
(215) 444-6144

[www.macmartcart.com](http://www.macmartcart.com)

Top your own Mac and Cheese at this truly original fast-casual spot.

#### **Morimoto**

Japanese  
(215) 413-9070

[www.morimotorestaurant.com](http://www.morimotorestaurant.com)

Renowned chef Masaharu Morimoto's flagship restaurant pulls from traditional Japanese influences and modern techniques to create some of the best cuisine in the world.

#### **Oyster House**

Seafood  
(215) 567-7683

[www.oysterhousephilly.com](http://www.oysterhousephilly.com)

New England-style seafood, served family-style with only the freshest selections, has made this stylish eatery a success for over 40 years.

#### **Panang**

Malaysian  
(215) 413-2531

[www.m.facebook.com/pages/Penang/128644860525067](http://www.m.facebook.com/pages/Penang/128644860525067)

Award-winning Malaysian food served in a unique industrial space.

## City Center/Historic Downtown *(cont'd)*

### Reading Terminal Market

Indoor Farmer's Market

(215) 922-2317

[www.readingterminalmarket.org](http://www.readingterminalmarket.org)

Since 1893, this market has served the tastes of Philadelphia natives, immigrants and tourists. Truly something for everyone.

### Sang Kee Peking Duck House

Cantonese

(215) 925-7532

[www.sangkeechinatown.com](http://www.sangkeechinatown.com)

The unofficial heart of Philly's Chinatown district for more than 35 years, this cash-only spot brings the traditional flavors of Hong Kong to life.

### South Street Souvlaki

Greek

(215) 925-3029

[www.southstreetsouvlaki.com](http://www.southstreetsouvlaki.com)

For over 40 years, this spot has offered the best of homemade Greek cooking in a friendly, warm, inviting space. Opa!

### Talula's Garden

American

(215) 592-7787

[www.talulasgarden.com](http://www.talulasgarden.com)

Seasonal American food inspired by local farms and gardens. A "foodie" destination that embodies the farm-to-table ethic.

### Tinto

Spanish Wine Bar

(215) 665-9150

[www.philadelphia.tintorestaurant.com](http://www.philadelphia.tintorestaurant.com)

Tapas and an extensive wine list heavy on the Basque region all immaculately served in a rustic wine cellar atmosphere.

### Verti Cucina

Italian

(215) 732-3478

[www.etricucina.com](http://www.etricucina.com)

Prix fixe dinners, private dining, classes and more. For 20 years, this townhouse-based destination has brought Philly the best in gourmet Italian food.

### Zahav

Israeli

(215) 625-8800

[www.zahavrestaurant.com](http://www.zahavrestaurant.com)

Ever-changing small plates made with deceptively simple modern techniques transform this traditional Israeli menu into a true experience.

## East Passyunk

### Bing Bing Dim Sum

Chinese

(215) 279-7702

[www.bingbingdimsum.com](http://www.bingbingdimsum.com)

Not your grandfather's dim sum. Informed by tradition, but not beholden to it, this hip space adds multiple twists, including a strong Jewish deli slant, to their dumpling offerings.

### Geno's Steaks / Pat's

Cheesesteak

(215) 389-0659 / (215) 486-1546

[www.genosteaks.com](http://www.genosteaks.com)

[www.patskingofsteaks.com](http://www.patskingofsteaks.com)

One of Philly's rites of passage is declaring a side on the Best Cheesesteak argument and far be it from us to pick a winner. Both are open 24 hours, and both have more than 50 years of experience, making these cross street rivals the leaders in the "classic cheesesteak experience" category.

### Laurel

French

(215) 271-8299

[www.restaurantlaurel.com](http://www.restaurantlaurel.com)

With only a 22-seat dining room, and a BYOB status, an intimate experience is guaranteed at this modern French restaurant.

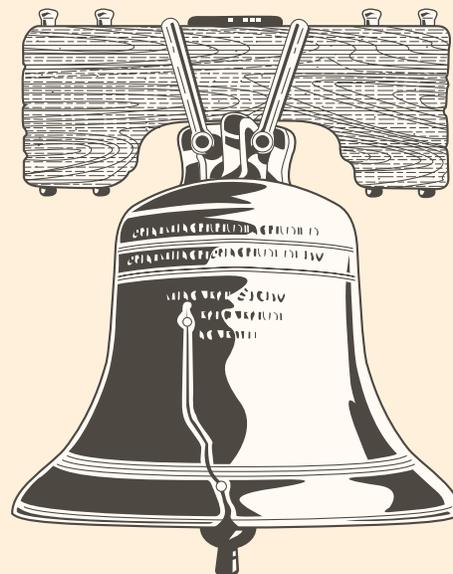
### Noir

Italian

(267) 319-1678

[www.noirrestaurantandbar.com/Home](http://www.noirrestaurantandbar.com/Home)

With as much emphasis placed on the bar as the kitchen, this friendly, welcoming spot is a great choice for a happy hour or a dinner of Italian classics given a fresh twist.



## Fishtown

### Helm

New American  
(215) 309-2211  
www.helmphilly.com

A blackboard menu and, like many, a BYO for liquor, this small spot offers up the best and freshest available ingredients in imaginative ways.

### Kensington Quarters

American  
(267) 314-5086  
www.kensingtonquarters.com

Set inside a repurposed warehouse, this full service restaurant and bar features sustainable, heritage meats and produce from local small farmers in a warm, but industrial space.

### Pizzeria Beddia

Pizza  
(215) 237-0639  
www.pizzeriabeddia.com

Reopening in late 2018 in a larger space to accommodate the crowds that have flocked to this space since it was named best in the country in 2015. Cash only and expect to wait, but it's a wait that's worth it.

### Wm. Mulherin's Sons

Italian  
(267) 314-5086  
www.wmmulherinssons.com

Housed in a former whiskey distillery, and with 4 stunning boutique hotel rooms upstairs, this unique spot highlights pasta, pizza and wood-fired fare.



## Northern Liberties

### R2L

American Fine Dining  
(215) 564-5337  
www.r2lrestaurant.com

With a 37th floor location offering views of over 40 miles, the scenery is almost as breathtaking as the food, which takes old favorites for a creative culinary spin.

### Silk City

Diner  
(215) 592-8838  
www.silkcityphilly.com

Eclectic doesn't even begin to cover it when it comes to Silk City. Originally a 50's era dining car, it now features a beer garden, DJ's and live music as well and funky décor, all of which would be for nothing if the food wasn't any good, but from brunch to dinner, they make it right and delicious.

### Volver

Tasting Menu  
(215) 670-2302  
philadelphia.volverrestaurant.com

Celebrity chef Jose Garces brings elements from all his travels to this unique, reservation only, performance tasting menu concept. Ten or twelve course tastings, as well as a pre-theater menu and a full service bar.

### Yards Brewing

Brewpub  
(215) 525-0175  
yardsbrewing.com

70,000 square feet of restaurant, brewery, event space and more. Specializing in English ales, and brewpub favorites, but with something for everyone in both categories.

## Fairmount

### Figs

Moroccan  
(215) 978-8440  
www.figsrestaurant.com

Equally intimate and energetic, this chef-driven neighborhood staple is known for bringing traditional Moroccan food to life.

### Hickory Lane

Bistro  
(215) 769-2420  
www.hickorylanebistro.com

International flavors and a decided Latin flair bring amazing new flavors to American Bistro favorites in this charming spot.

### Jack's Firehouse

American  
(215) 232-9000  
www.jacksfirehouse.com/Home/tabid/54/Default.aspx

Located in a firehouse originally built in the 19th century, this mahogany-lined restaurant serves BBQ, seafood and other southern favorites.

### Trio

Pan-Asian  
(215) 232-8746  
www.triobyob.com/2016

Three stories high and the collaboration between three renowned chefs give the name to this Pan-Asian restaurant. Known for its Drunken Noodles and other delicious dishes.

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Not Afraid To Get Our Hands Dirty™

## Manayunk

### **Bourbon Blue**

New Orleans  
(215) 508-3360  
[www.bourbonblue.com](http://www.bourbonblue.com)

With canal views and a menu inspired by the Big Easy, this charming spot is a neighborhood hot spot.

### **Lucky's Last Chance**

Gastropub  
(215) 509-6005  
[www.luckyslastchance.com](http://www.luckyslastchance.com)

Award-winning burgers and dogs, all locally made and inventively topped, with a dance hall upstairs.

### **Winnie's**

New American & Brunch  
(215) 487-2663  
[www.winniesmanayunk.com](http://www.winniesmanayunk.com)

A true family run restaurant, crossed with the best practices of new American cuisine; local sourcing, fresh made comfort food and welcoming service.

### **Zesty's**

Greco-Roman  
(215) 483-6226  
[www.zestys.com](http://www.zestys.com)

The owner was born on an island halfway between Italy and Greece, and his menu at this popular eatery reflects the passions, ingredients and dishes of both.

## Chestnut Hill

### **Chestnut Grill & Sidewalk Café**

American  
(215) 247-7570  
[www.chestnuthillgrill.com/Chestnut\\_Grill/Welcome.html](http://www.chestnuthillgrill.com/Chestnut_Grill/Welcome.html)

Some of the best outdoor dining in the city, and great food for lunch and dinner. A great place to sit back, unwind and enjoy.

### **CinCin**

Chinese  
(215) 242-8800  
[www.cincinrestaurant.com](http://www.cincinrestaurant.com)

With Mandarin classics presented with French flair, it's no wonder that CinCin frequently tops the lists of best places to eat in Philadelphia.

### **El Poquito**

Mexican  
(267) 766-5372  
[www.elpoquito.com](http://www.elpoquito.com)

Inspired by the beachside cantinas of Baja in both feel and flavor, this outpost of surfer culture in Philly offers a whimsical approach to food and life.

### **Paris Bistro & Jazz Café**

French Bistro  
(215) 242-6200  
[www.parisbistro.net](http://www.parisbistro.net)

Evoking the classic bistros of the 1930s, with tiled floors and rich red leather upholstery, as well as live jazz, makes for an experience where the décor is almost as good as the food, and both are striking.



## Bella Vista/Queen Village

### The Good King Tavern

French Bistro  
(215) 625-3700

[www.thegoodkingtavern.com](http://www.thegoodkingtavern.com)

Communal seating and a constantly changing menu featuring French Bistro favorites made with fresh, local ingredients, and a wine list that ranges from farmer wines to highly curated bottles, all come together to make this spot a local favorite.

### Hungry Pigeon

American Brasserie  
(215) 278-2736

[www.hungrypigeon.com](http://www.hungrypigeon.com)

An all-day menu where fresh baked pastries, bread and café-style breakfasts and lunches give way to sharing platters and small plate dinners.

### Kanella Grill

Cypriot  
(267) 928-2085

[www.kanellarestaurant.com](http://www.kanellarestaurant.com)

Refined traditional cooking means that diners can expect the traditional Cypriot and Greek meals that are given an energetic twist. Save room for their in-house dessert menu.

### Little Fish BYO

Seafood  
(267) 455-0172

[www.littlefishbybo.com](http://www.littlefishbybo.com)

Ever-changing fresh seafood selections drive the menu at this cozy spot. The Sunday tasting menu is a local favorite.

### Nomad Pizza

Pizza  
(215) 238-0900

[www.nomadpizzaco.com](http://www.nomadpizzaco.com)

Wood-fired pizza at its best from this Philly outpost of a New Jersey favorite.

### Serpico

American  
(215) 925-3001

[www.serpicoonsouth.com](http://www.serpicoonsouth.com)

With an open kitchen facing the bar and small dining room, Serpico offers amazing combinations of ingredients, techniques and taste in both its food and inventive cocktail menu.

## Rittenhouse Square

### Barclay Prime

Steak House  
(215) 732-7560

[www.barclayprime.com](http://www.barclayprime.com)

A boutique steakhouse meant to offer a modern take on convention. Meat and seafood of unmatched quality, prepared with subtle twists, meet service with a personal touch including a curated selection of steak knives.

### Butcher and Singer

Steakhouse and Raw Bar  
(215) 732-4444

[www.butcherandsinger.com](http://www.butcherandsinger.com)

A well-trained staff, and an excess of classic steakhouse staples, combine with a raw bar and curated wine list for a truly outstanding dining experience.

### HipCityVeg

Vegan  
(215) 278-7605

[www.hipcityveg.com](http://www.hipcityveg.com)

By being dedicated to creating a "new normal" but not allowing their philosophy to get in the way of delicious food, this restaurant achieves a perfect balance.

### Monk's Café

Belgian  
(215) 545-7005

[www.monkscafe.com](http://www.monkscafe.com)

Equally famous for its mussels and frites as it is for its extensive and well-cared-for beer selection, but either is a good enough reason to check out this authentic Amsterdam-style pub.

### Parc

French  
(215) 545-2262

[www.parc-restaurant.com](http://www.parc-restaurant.com)

Zagat says this bustling bistro "Out-bistro's most Parisian Bistros." Patio seating on Rittenhouse Square only adds to the first-rate execution of French classics and stellar service.

### Rouge

American  
(215) 732-6622

[www.rouge98.com](http://www.rouge98.com)

Known for its amazing burgers and popular patio, this tiny spot is a perennial favorite.

## Multiple Locations

### Capogiro

[www.capogirogelato.com](http://www.capogirogelato.com)

Some of the best gelato in the country, and more.

### Continental Martini Bar

[www.continentalmartinibar.com](http://www.continentalmartinibar.com)

Choose from the mid-town or old city location for eclectic eats, martinis and more.

### Di Bruno Brothers

[www.dibruno.com](http://www.dibruno.com)

Italian grocer and deli.

### Federal Donut

[www.federaldonuts.com](http://www.federaldonuts.com)

Fresh and fancy donuts and a fried chicken that's consistently named one of the best in the city, all helmed by former James Beard award-winning chefs.

### Han Dynasty

[www.handydynasty.net](http://www.handydynasty.net)

Authentic Szechuan cuisine with nine locations throughout the city.

### Sabrina's

[www.sabrinascafe.com](http://www.sabrinascafe.com)

Breakfast and brunch offerings that have been a favorite of locals for years.

### White Dog

[www.whitedog.com](http://www.whitedog.com)

Three locations featuring local and organic ingredients in eclectic fare served with flair.

## Nightlife and Bars

**Bob & Barbara's Cocktail Lounge** – [www.bobandbarbaras.com](http://www.bobandbarbaras.com)  
**Bok Bar** – [www.bok-bar.com](http://www.bok-bar.com)  
**Boot & Saddle** – [www.bootandsaddlephilly.com](http://www.bootandsaddlephilly.com)  
**Chris' Jazz Café** – [www.chrisjazzcafe.com](http://www.chrisjazzcafe.com)  
**Dolphin Tavern** – [www.dolphinphilly.com](http://www.dolphinphilly.com)  
**Electric Factory** – [www.electricfactory.info](http://www.electricfactory.info)  
**Fillmore Philly** – [www.thefillmorephilly.com](http://www.thefillmorephilly.com)  
**Frank Bradley's** – [www.frankybradleys.com](http://www.frankybradleys.com)  
**Frankford Hall** – [www.frankfordhall.com](http://www.frankfordhall.com)  
**The Franklin Mortgage & Investment Company** – [www.thefranklinbar.com](http://www.thefranklinbar.com)  
**Heritage** – [www.heritage.life](http://www.heritage.life)  
**Johnny Brenda's** – [www.johnnybrendas.com](http://www.johnnybrendas.com)  
**Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts** – [www.kimmelcenter.org](http://www.kimmelcenter.org)  
**Knock** – [www.knockphilly.com](http://www.knockphilly.com)  
**McGillin's Olde Ale House** – [www.mcgillins.com](http://www.mcgillins.com)  
**Morgan's Pier** – [www.morganspier.com](http://www.morganspier.com)

**Ranstead Room** – [www.facebook.com/RansteadRoom](http://www.facebook.com/RansteadRoom)  
**Relish** – [www.relishphiladelphia.com](http://www.relishphiladelphia.com)  
**Ruba Club** – [www.rubaclub.org](http://www.rubaclub.org)  
**The Seven Hundred** – [www.the700.org](http://www.the700.org)  
**South Bowl** – [www.southbowlphilly.com](http://www.southbowlphilly.com)  
**Standard Tap** – [www.news.standardtap.com](http://www.news.standardtap.com)  
**Tattooed Mom** – [www.tattooedmompilly.com](http://www.tattooedmompilly.com)  
**Time** – [www.timerestaurant.net](http://www.timerestaurant.net)  
**Tippling Place** – [www.1tpl.com](http://www.1tpl.com)  
**The Trestle Inn** – [www.thetrestleinn.com](http://www.thetrestleinn.com)  
**Triangle Tavern** – [www.triangletavernphilly.com](http://www.triangletavernphilly.com)  
**Underground Arts** – [www.undergroundarts.org](http://www.undergroundarts.org)  
**Union Transfer** – [www.utphilly.com](http://www.utphilly.com)  
**Urban Axes** – [www.urbanaxes.com/philadelphia](http://www.urbanaxes.com/philadelphia)  
**Voltage Lounge** – [www.voltage lounge.com](http://www.voltage lounge.com)  
**Warmdaddy's** – [www.warmdaddys.com](http://www.warmdaddys.com)  
**Woody's** – [www.woody'sbar.com](http://www.woody'sbar.com)

## Philadelphia Sightseeing

**The Barnes Foundation** – [www.barnesfoundation.org](http://www.barnesfoundation.org)  
**Citizens Bank Park** – [www.mlb.com/phillies/ballpark](http://www.mlb.com/phillies/ballpark)  
**Eastern State Penitentiary** – [www.easternstate.org](http://www.easternstate.org)  
**Elfreth's Alley** – [www.elfrethsalley.org](http://www.elfrethsalley.org)  
**The Franklin Institute** – [www.fi.edu](http://www.fi.edu)  
**Historic Philadelphia** – [www.historicphiladelphia.org](http://www.historicphiladelphia.org)  
**Independence Hall** – [www.nps.gov/inde/planyourvisit/independencehall.htm](http://www.nps.gov/inde/planyourvisit/independencehall.htm)  
**Irish Memorial** – [www.irishmemorial.org](http://www.irishmemorial.org)  
**Laurel Hill Cemetery** – [www.thelaurehillcemetery.org](http://www.thelaurehillcemetery.org)  
**Liberty Bell** – [www.nps.gov/inde/learn/historyculture/stories-libertybell.htm](http://www.nps.gov/inde/learn/historyculture/stories-libertybell.htm)  
**Lincoln Financial Field** – [www.lincolnfinancialfield.com](http://www.lincolnfinancialfield.com)

**Museum of the American Revolution** – [www.amrevmuseum.org](http://www.amrevmuseum.org)  
**Mutter Museum** – [www.muttermuseum.org](http://www.muttermuseum.org)  
**The Palestra** – [www.philadelphiabig5.org/palestra/index.html](http://www.philadelphiabig5.org/palestra/index.html)  
**The Pavilion** – [www.villanova.com/facilities/nova-pavilion-11.html](http://www.villanova.com/facilities/nova-pavilion-11.html)  
**Philadelphia Museum of Art (and the Rocky statue)** – [www.philamuseum.org](http://www.philamuseum.org)  
**Philadelphia Zoo** – [www.philadelphiazoo.org](http://www.philadelphiazoo.org)  
**Philadelphia's Magic Gardens** – [www.phillymagicgardens.org](http://www.phillymagicgardens.org)  
**Please Touch Museum** – [www.pleasetouchmuseum.org](http://www.pleasetouchmuseum.org)  
**South Street** – [www.southstreet.com](http://www.southstreet.com)  
**Talen Energy Stadium** – [www.philadelphiaunion.com/stadium](http://www.philadelphiaunion.com/stadium)  
**Wells Fargo Center** – [www.wellsfargocenterphilly.com](http://www.wellsfargocenterphilly.com)

## Taxis and Ground Transportation

**BHN Limousine Services** – (732) 743-8246  
**Get-A-Cab** – (215) 438-2222  
**OnCabs Philadelphia** – (215) 882-9068  
**Phila Taxi Service** – (267) 309-2675  
**Phila Transportation Service** – (215) 833-9333

**Philadelphia Executive Car Service** – (267) 227-0355  
**Philly Airport Limo & Town Car** – (215) 352-5225  
**Philly Black Car Service** – (866) 433-1738  
**Streamline Taxi Service** – (215) 439-5936

**FOR INSIDER'S GUIDES TO OTHER CITIES:**

[sonnhalter.com/insiders-guides](http://sonnhalter.com/insiders-guides)

