

Edited by Nick DiUlio
Photographs by Matthew Wright



Best of the Best!

SOUTH JERSEY MAGAZINE '08



IT IS OFTEN ARGUED THE DUALITY of good and evil is a necessity, that without one we would not comprehend (or appreciate) the other. Here at *South Jersey Magazine*, we feel the same way about our annual Best of the Best list. If there were no challenge, no clamoring for recognition, no rivalry, well, we'd have a pretty boring list on our hands, wouldn't we? For this reason, compiling the 2008 feature that follows was no simple task. But we never bemoaned it.

Instead, we saw the volume of possibilities as a badge of honor, a realization that South Jersey really is bursting at the seams with possibilities for everything from beautifying the body to shakin' it on Saturday night. What follows is the distillation of our (and our readers') efforts, the largest and most comprehensive feature of its kind. So sit back, get comfortable, and take notes.





Nightlife & Entertainment

Happy Hour

Adelphia Restaurant and Lounge

1750 Clements Bridge Road,
Deptford
(856) 845-8200



Sure, they've got some incredible drink specials from 3 to 7 p.m. during the week. Sure, they've got half-priced appetizers and an outdoor deck. And sure, they've got 24 High Def plasma televisions as well as the largest LED-lit dance floor in the country. But beyond all of this, Adelphia's got the groove to get you going. It's called Happy Hour for a reason folks. So come on now. Get happy!

Best Kept Day Trip Destination Secret

Cohanzyck Zoo

45 Mayor Aitken Drive,
Bridgeton City Park
(856) 453-1658

Shhh...Don't talk too loudly or you'll alert the rest of the world. We kid, of course, but only because we're so very conflicted about this entry. We want to scream about how cool it is to have this tucked-away zoo right in our back yard (and how wonderful it is to get such a satisfying dose of wildlife without the crowds and traffic and general city mess), but as all birds must eventually fly the nest, we suppose it's only inevitable the Cohanzyck Zoo must make itself known to the rest of South Jersey.

Treat her kindly, folks. She's a gem of a zoo.

Movie Theatre

Showcase at the Ritz Center

900 Haddonfield-Berlin Road,
Voorhees
(856) 770-9065

OK, so we're still a little bitter about the whole "now allowing kids" thing (Sure you still won't reconsider guys?), but the fact remains that the Showcase at the Ritz still reigns supreme when it comes to catching worthwhile cinema in South Jersey that digs deeper than the same, tired summer blockbusters, banal teen comedies, and mindless action flicks for the intellectually inept. Besides, where else will you be able to see Woody Allen's upcoming August release this side of the bridges?

Bowling

Pinsetter Bar and Bowl

7111 Maple Ave., Pennsauken
(856) 665-3377



Quick. Name a famous bowler. Tricky, huh? All we could come up with was Ralph Kramden, whom, you'll recall, bowled at Acme Alley with his buddy Norton. In "The Honeymooners," Jackie Gleason's character Ralph is a lot like bowling; clumsy and unsophisticated. But that was in a black and white world, and we've come a long way baby with both television and bowl-



For Libations like...

Red Wine

Max's Seafood Café

34 North Burlington St.,
Gloucester City
(856) 456-9774

Study up before you come here or you may find yourself lost in a sea of dozens upon dozens of options.

White Wine

Kitchen 233

233 Haddon Avenue, Westmost
(856) 833-9233

From the moment you walk in and behold 233's gorgeous glass-walled cellar featuring many of California's heavy hitters, you know you're in for a libational treat.

Scotch

Birches Restaurant

354 High St., Burlington City
(609) 239-5111

Like your dry and peaty Islays? Perhaps you prefer the sweetness of a good Speyside or the depth of a Campbeltown. No matter. Birches has it.

Champagne

Swanky Bubbles

482 Evesham Road, Cherry Hill
(856) 428-4999

"Tiny bubbles in the wine, make me

happy, make me feel fine," so said Don Ho. He must have been singing of Swanky Bubbles, with a wide selection of the bubbly.

Martini

Café Madison

33 Lafayette St., Riverside
(856) 764-4444

Four words: Dramatic Waterfall Martini Bar. This is the drink that may define the last decade of America's bar-going experience.

Tap Selection

The Tap Room & Grill

427 West Crystal Lake Ave.,
Haddon Township
(856) 854-4255

To quote Benny Franklin: "Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy." And The Tap Room is proof that God loves South Jersey with particular verve. Amen.

Tequila

La Esperanza

40 East Gibbsboro Road,
Lindenwold
(856) 782-7114

There are more than 50 tequilas from which to choose here.

Let us say it another way:
Más Cincuenta!

ing. Strike one up for the Pinsetter Bar and Bowl, which features a cosmopolitan bar and lounge, hipster lighting, music and erivable footwear. Not since poker became a spectator sport has an activity seen such a radical makeover.

Bingo

**Thursday Nights at
Congregation Beth Tikvah**
115 Evesboro-Medford Road, Marlton
(856) 983-8090

You think it's silly, don't you? You think it's something only bored senior citizens or friendless outcasts find exciting. You think you're above it. Well, it's time to get the chip off your shoulder because you clearly haven't experienced the B-GO scene at Congregation Beth Tikvah on Thursday nights, where regular diehards set up their tables with myriad good luck charms (and their faces with steely-eyed focus befitting a Texas Hold 'Em tournament in AC). One visit will change the way you think of bingo for the rest of your life. Oh yeah, and the prize money can sometimes climb into the thousands.

Bed and Breakfast

Haddonfield Inn
44 West End Ave., Haddonfield
(856) 428-2195

Whether you're looking to impress visiting friends and relatives with your refined lodging sensibilities, or just want to escape the confines of your familiar bedroom for a night, the Haddonfield Inn is a peerless way to go. With nine luxurious rooms that each reflect a thoroughly unique experience—like Monaco, Tokyo, Dublynn, or Safari—this bed and breakfast combines the pleasures of spending a night in its namesake historic town with the thrill of the exotic.

Private Dining

Café Aldo Lamberti
2011 Route 70 West, Cherry Hill
(856) 663-1747

Deep below the swanky clamor of Café Aldo Lamberti's main dining area are a series of dimly lit, hushed private rooms, replete with enormous semi-circle tables and wine-cellar shelves. Most restaurants make bold claims about the

exclusivity of their private facilities, but only Aldo Lamberti makes you forget that you were not, in fact, born into royalty.

Grape Expectations

Moore Brothers Wine Company
7200 North Park Drive,
Pennsauken
(888) 686-6673



Someone once said, "Wine is like sex—something about which men pretend to know so very much but really know so very little." Well, a few visits to Moore Brothers should

alter this axiom. Opened in 1996 by Greg Moore—who left Le Bec-Fin after twenty years as sommelier, Moore Brothers sells hand-picked, small-farm wines from producers the world over (most for \$15 or less). Your purchases are saved in a database each time you buy here, so the next time you come in the staff can make educated recommendations based on your tastes.

Open Mic Night

Studio LuLoo
1001 White Horse Pike, Haddon
Township
(856) 869-7464

Bring some wine, a humble donation, and copious amounts of good vibrations. Every Tuesday night, Studio LuLoo, a "creative, performing, and healing arts center," hosts an open mic night that is about as far from the clichéd coffee shop and sandals experience as Jay-Z is from Liberace. It's not just naval-gazing, wanna-be Beat generation folkies here either. LuLoo features cats that rap, play exotic instruments like the didgeridoo, and perform spoken word.

Stage Venues for...

The Thrill of the Musical **The Ritz Theatre Company**

915 White Horse Pike,
Haddon Township
(856) 858-5230

Paul Simon once pondered, "Is the theatre really dead?" Well, had he seen the Ritz, he probably would have avoided the question altogether. Since 1927, this historic and grand playhouse has been a relentless champion of the stage performance. Check out "Footloose" this summer, which runs through August.

Professional Theatre **The Lenape Regional Performing Arts Center**

130 Tomlinson Mill Road, Marlton
(856) 983-3366

It seemed like darkness was descending last year, when reports surfaced that the Lenape Regional

Performing Arts Center was going to be forced to shut its doors due to funding problems. Well, it's since recovered and we're thrilled to be witness to the resurrection. Check out "Gershwin's New York: Sweet and Lowdown" in August and a live performance from Linda Eder in September.

Live Music or Bands **Scottish Rite Auditorium**

315 White Horse Pike,
Collingswood
(856) 858-1000

It's not so much about quantity (sometimes live shows here can be few and far between) as it is about quality. The Scottish Rite

Auditorium—an exquisite historic theatre well worth the visit—will occasionally play host to some of the most intimate live music experiences in South Jersey. So keep an eye out. If you get wind of someone coming to the Scottish Rite, it's going to be a special experience.

Classical Music **Symphony in C Performing at the Gordon Theater at Rutgers-Camden Center for the Arts**

1 Market St., Camden
(856) 963-6683

Symphony in C may be one of South Jersey's most understated gifts to the music world, featuring nationally renowned talent and a repertoire as passionate as a Viennese concerto. And before you cringe at the thought of going to the orchestra, remember: All music was once new!

Outdoor

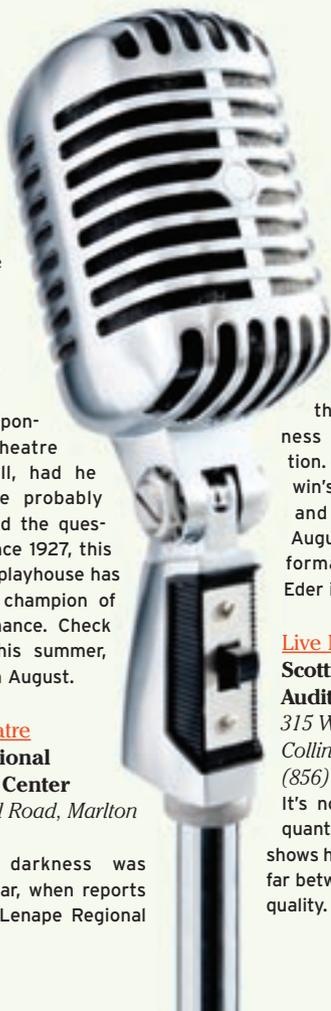
Appel Farm
457 Shirley Road, Elmer
(856) 358-2472

Is there any summer experience more innocent and ethereal than going to an outdoor concert? Do you think the gathering at Yasgur's Farm would hold such a bright spot in music history had The Who rocked from inside a tidy, enclosed venue? We say *no way*. So put some flowers in your hair and head on down to Appel Farm for some tunes and good times under the sun and stars this summer.

Poetry and Literature **Walt Whitman Arts Center**

2nd and Cooper Streets,
Camden
(856) 964-8300

Charles W. Bechtel, new executive director, has some big plans for this arts center that bears the name of perhaps Camden's most well-known resident. Poetry and literature workshops will abound as will a palatable sense of South Jersey's resurgence as an epicenter for the well read and expressive. Everybody, sing the body electric!



Music With Your Meal

High Street Grill

64 High St., Mount Holly
(609) 265-9199

Going your entire life without experiencing live piano music while you dine is like living a lifetime without ever owning a Tom Waits album. No, it's not essential in the survivalist sense of the word, but it should be. Check out the upscale piano-accompanied atmosphere at High Street on Fridays and Saturdays.



**Our readers
voted online and also
think you should
check out...**

"Dining With Sinatra" at Blue Grotto on Saturday nights
300 White Horse Road,
Voorhees (856) 783-8888

Jazz

Cork Restaurant

90 Haddon Ave., Westmont
(856) 833-9800

Cork knows its wine. It also knows nothing goes better with a glass of vino than a little of America's music: jazz. With styles that range from upbeat to bee-bop to slow, ambient jazz, the tunes here are an ideal compliment to the joint's suave ambience.

Eclectic Museum

Noyes Museum

733 Lilly Lake Road, Oceanville
(609) 652-8848

No other museum but Noyes could run such avant-garde exhibits, ranging from an aesthetic exploration of the book form to historic black and white photography by local artists. Through August, check out their exhibit titled "SCENES: Contemporary Art to Wear."



**Our readers
voted online and also
think you should
check out...**

Home Fine Art
2 Church Street, Mount Holly
(609) 261-8634



Shopping

Inland Surf Shop

Elite Surf and Skateboard Shop

413 Route 70 East, Cherry Hill
(856) 427-7873



Through the hum and fuzz of a thousand cars, a small, seemingly incongruous gem sits on Route 70 East in Cherry Hill. Tucked amid gas stations and shopping plazas, Elite Surf and Skate is as righteous a surf shop as one would find on the benign beaches of Costa Rica. Sure, they have a wide array of boards and apparel. Sure, their surfboard repair services are top-notch. But most importantly, dudes here love their surfing and will happily talk stoke and tides with you for hours on end.

Ski Shop

Threads and Sleds and the Powder Room

33 Kings Highway East,
Haddonfield
(856) 429-3555

It's summer, so skiing and snowboarding are probably as far from your mind as candy canes and turtlenecks; but since Mother nature is a faithfully cyclical mistress, you can bet the cold will once again be upon us. And when it comes, you'll fret about where to find some new bindings (or at least a ski shop where you can go and not feel like a sheepish outsider). And that is when you will recall the rhyming Threads and Sleds.

Consignment Shop Central

Haddonfield

Up and down Haddon Avenue
and Kings Highway

Finding a quality consignment shop is not to be taken for granted—although with such a boundless selection right in Haddonfield, it's easy for us South Jerseyans to lose perspective on that fact. With seven different consignment shops clustered within a five-mile radius (such as Nifty Thrifties, Raks Thrift Avenue, Secrets, and Evergreen Furniture), the conflict of deciding where to focus your buying energies could be overwhelming.

Bike Shop

Mr. Bill's Bicycle Shop

9 West Broad St., Palmyra
(856) 829-0922

Ah, the bike shop. Sounds kind of nostalgic, doesn't it? Like a TV repairman. Well, as anyone who truly cares about cycling—and the value of an individualized experience—knows, a good bike shop is as precious as two wheels on which to ride. Whether you're in the market for a new pedal machine or need that pesky rattling chain fixed on old trusty, you'll probably find what you're looking for here. Future Armstrongs of the world unite!



**Our readers
voted online and also
think you should
check out...**

Black Diamond Mountain Sports

400 Route 38, Mount Laurel
(856) 778-8806

Cigar Shop

Village Tobacco

41 Clementon Road, Berlin
(856) 768-5181



Like so many subtle sins in contemporary America, tobacco has been slightly demonized as of late; but make no mistake about it, a good puff on a cigar now and then is a sublime pleasure to which nothing else can compare. Hidden deep within the confines of the eccentric Berlin Mart, Village Tobacco resides as a testament to this pleasure, boasting more flavors and varieties than Castro could wag his beard at. You won't just stumble upon this place, so we thought we'd help you get there.



**Our readers
voted online and also
think you should
check out...**

Cigar Alley
17 South Centre St.,
Merchantville
(856) 663-9190

Unique Card Store

The Paper Trail

45 Kings Highway East,
Haddonfield
(856) 429-4001

The greeting card is almost as old as paper itself, with some of the earliest exchanges occurring in ancient Egypt and China, when emperors would wish goodwill

upon soldiers in battle. Little did Usimare Ramses III know that thousands of years in the future we would be sending clever messages back and forth for occasions ranging from weddings to Secretary's Day. So pay homage to those warriors who died for your right to write and sit down with some card experts at The Paper Trail, who will craft custom cards for any occasion.

Antique Shop

River Road Antiques

1101 River Road, Cinnaminson
(856) 829-0522

We've been hearing about this place for some time now; the way the front of the shop overflows with an encyclopedic assortment of miscellany and beckons the historian in us all to come forth. And we finally took the bait. For whatever reason, antique shopping has come to bear an unduly stuffy reputation. But it's not yachting folks, so have some fun with it. For a dash of the irreverent, head down to River Road and start sorting through the history.

Gift Shop (KnickKnacks)

Binkley's Five and Ten

684 Stokes Road, Medford
(609) 654-2401



Soda jerks and jukeboxes. Baseball cards in spokes and radio plays. Hop scotch and shoe shines on city streets. All of these Rockwelian staples of Americana seem to be fading from the landscape at a precipitous rate—which is why we love Binkley's so much. It is what a five and dime should be—a place where you can find everything from nostalgic lawn decorations to frying pans, children's toys to arts

and crafts supplies.

Gift Shop (High-End)

Wishing Well Gifts

486 Evesham Road, Cherry Hill
(856) 616-2996

You've been invited to a wedding and you need to find a gift—but you loathe the idea of printing out a list from some cold, calculated registry on a chain store's Web site. Really, how much thought goes into a popcorn maker and X-Box 360? Stretch your imagination a little and find something certifiably unique at The Wishing Well. FYI, make sure you do all of your shopping online until late August, when the store hopes to re-open its doors after making repairs to damaged areas caused by a fire in an adjacent building.

Eclectic Newsstand

Roger's News Agency

15 East Broad St., Palmyra
(856) 829-9833

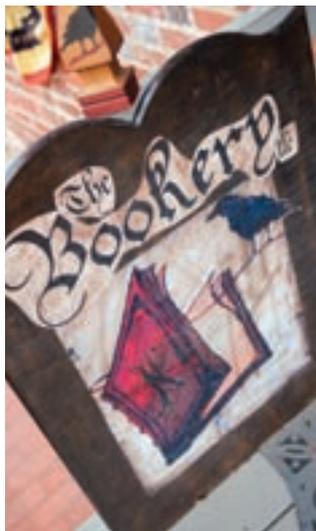


Part of what makes magazines so much fun is their niche appeal. Some of us are motorcycle enthusiasts, while some of us have a penchant for stuffed animals, the Civil War, or the history of U. S. Presidents' pets. Roger's understands this, and, since 1931, they've been stocking their shelves with one of the most diverse periodical selections in South Jersey. And guess what? If they don't have what you're looking for (Stamp Collector Monthly, anyone?), just let them know and they'll hunt it down.

Independent Bookstore

The Bookery

20 White St., Mount Holly
(609) 845-1396



Finding a quality nookish bookstore is like falling in love. You want a place that understands you; a place to which you can escape when the world becomes too severe and frightening; a place that reminds you of home. And it's not easy (especially in today's landscape of big box behemoths); but when it happens, you realize how much it was worth the effort. Try

going on a date or two with The Bookery, which is an ideal purveyor of the written word not only because of its vast selection, but also because this place actually looks and feels like something from the pages of a book.

Record Shop

Tunes in Marlton and Voorhees

910 Greentree Square Route 73
North, Marlton
(856) 983-2566

Damn those Mp3s! They've wormed their way into our pop music buying experience like a bittersweet virus. Sure, they're fast and easy, but so are ladies of the night, and Mp3s have robbed us of the joy we feel as our thumbs walk over record titles amid the clamor of the store's latest favorite album coming in through the stereo. Tunes remains a staunch defender of this experience, providing not only an incredibly diverse selection of everything from the Meat Puppets to Yanni, but a staff that would love nothing more than to sit around and shoot the bull with you for hours, debating why "Viva Hate" is superior to "Louder Than Bombs." You can't get that from iTunes!



Fashion

Bridal Shop

Bridal Garden

900 West Route 70, Marlton
(856) 988-8188

The bridal gown—hell, the whole bridal experience—has come a long way in the last few decades, and decisions are not simple. This intimate Marlton boutique for brides-to-be embraces the expansiveness of the modern day marriage phenomenon, while at the same time soothing the potential fluster such grand decisions can inspire.

Sunglasses

Optique Boutique

3223 Route 38 East, Mount Laurel
(856) 234-7881

The sunlight bouncing off Cooper River isn't any less powerful in December than July, but during this time of year sunglasses are transformed from mere objects of utility to expressive statements of fashion and sass. At Optique Boutique, the staff can guide you to looks that are not just trendy, but lasting. And for those who haven't noticed, big is

back. So check out this exhaustive collection of brands like Coach, Gucci, Prada and Juicy Couture.

London Calling (or After-Hours Apparel)

For Men:

Addiction Boutique

9 South Maple Avenue, Marlton

(856) 810-0111

We know men love their T-shirts and jeans (you may even say they're *addicted* to them), but we also know they have a tendency to wear out these staple fashion items until they are thread-bare. So ditch the tired, beer-stained Jimmy Buffet concert tee and start updating with some cutting edge vintage tees by the likes of R. Steger and patterned jeans by Laguna Beach.

For Women:

Six Clothing

6 Mechanic St., Haddonfield

(856) 216-0666



The city be damned! Step into this urban paradise in the suburbs whose motto is, "We're here because we needed a good place to shop...seriously!" With clothing from lines like 1921, Bartack, James Jeans, and Rock & Republic—as well as an exposed-brick interior that looks like it was transplanted right from the streets of Center City—you'll forget there's even another side to the Delaware.

Unique Prom Wear

Nola Blue

230 Maple Ave., Marlton

(856) 355-1501

Remember what it was like to be in high school? How you wondered what sort of cruel God would

decide that the best time to perform science experiments on your physical appearance and emotional makeup was at the very same moment you realized how important it was to look good and act cool for others? Yeah, it was rough. But prom always holds the possibility for redemption, so make sure your teen shows up looking as stylish as possible. Nola Blue is an oasis in a desert of uncertainty and confusion.

Intimate Apparel

Georgie Girl Boutique

Route 73 & Greentree Road,

Marlton

(856) 596-3343

The world is so much more than what can merely be seen. A breeze is no less majestic because it escapes the eyes, love no less sublime because it transcends the field of vision. In other words, a woman's intimate apparel is no less important to the way she feels simply because most of the world will never see it. With locations in Marlton and Haddonfield, Georgie Girl compels one to realize sexiness is sometimes about what is beneath the surface.



Michelle and Friends Boutique

2110 Route 70 East, Store 6,

Cherry Hill

(856) 396-0220

Handbags and Accessories

Aenigma

6 Powell Lane, Collingswood

(856) 833-9200

Life without accessories is like a clock without hands. They're essential, turning the veritably functional aspect of clothing into canvases splattered with light and shade, sparkle and zest, salt and pepper. And just as no work of art should be like any other, so should accessories—whether handbags, watches, or belts—be as individualized as the woman choosing to wear them.



The Seasonal Main Street

To quote Joni Mitchell: "And the seasons, they go round and round..." And the Main Street experience never stays the same. Where one place thrives on summer festivals, another may relish in the briskness of autumn's bitter sweet melancholy. Here are four South Jersey main streets as diverse as the seasons for which they are known:



Collingswood in Spring—Boasting everything from an

Easter Egg hunt to the town's annual May Fair, Haddon Avenue in Collingswood is a delightful place to spend spring's warming days.

Alfresco dining options also abound.



Moorestown in Summer—When walking down Main Street, half the fun is in the potential for digression. It's warm well into the night, so veer off every now and then to soak in the breathtaking architecture of the homes here in between your window shopping.



Mount Holly in Fall—This historic town has everything an autumnal experience requires: spooky colonial architecture, winding streets, and curiosity shops aplenty. They also have the Cirque de la Lune (formerly the Mill Race Village Witches Ball) in October, which features a night of masquerade, music, art, entertainment and revelry by the light of a harvest moon.



Medford in Winter—If Charles Dickens were alive today (and not such a bloody anglophile), he'd probably want to live on Main Street in Medford—not only because it's buildings and vibe would remind him of home, but also because every December this historic town hosts a joyous Christmas festival, bearing his name, that spans the length of Main Street.

IT MAY BE SUMMER, but that does not give you an excuse to ignore every fashion rule in the book. Here's an array of the best options for dressing up and dressing down in South Jersey.

Men's Formal Fashion

Richard Bennett Clothing

207 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield
(856) 795-5885

The suit is making a serious comeback, and Richard Bennett is the place to enjoy the party. Here's a word to the wise: drop your size by almost a full number. The more form-fitting European styles are not only once again en vogue, but they will remain classic as long as men wear pants, ties and jackets.

Super 120's navy double-striped Italian suit (\$1,795) and cotton shirt (\$230) by Canali; Silk tie (\$150) by Italo Ferretti.



Men's Casual Fashion

Davison's Men's Shop

150 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield
(856) 795-0070

Formal wear can be a breeze for men. Just get out the suit. It's when they are faced with dressing down but still looking like they didn't fall off the couch that problems for the male gender begin. Davison's is perfect at helping you walk this fine line.

Soft constructed sport coat (\$495) by Jack Victor; Stretch denim jeans (\$180) by Jack of Spades; Crew neck shirt (\$75) by Tulliano; Shoes (\$250) by Allen Edmonds.



Women's Casual Fashion

Maxwell James

137 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield
(856) 795-0222

It's a delightful time of year, when women can finally shed the winter's oppressive layers and start having fun with breezy fashions again. There's an air of hip at this Haddonfield boutique that will only stoke the seasonal excitement more.

Black distressed stripe shorts (\$84) by Worn; Silk camisole top (\$194) by Joie; Oversized faux crocodile clutch bag (\$42) by Urban Expressions.



Women's Formal Wear

Shimmer

200 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield
(856) 616-9000

The implication is in the name—shimmer. Whether it's something as understated as a little back dress or as breathtaking as this look here, Shimmer understands the formalities of dressing formally.

Special occasion gown, steel color, (\$730) and Rhinestone formal necklace (\$200) by Dina Bar-El.



Our readers voted online and also think you should check out...

Antoinette Gabrielle | 802 Haddon Avenue, Collingswood | (856) 833-0606



Health & Beauty

Beauty Supplies

Ulta Beauty

1470 Nixon Drive, East Gate Square, Marlton
(856) 642-7390

Today's man or woman is just as existentially conflicted as he or she was back when Sartre was first beginning to explore the seeming futility of life—but at least we now have myriad ways of coping with the incongruities. If you can't explain life, at least make it beautiful. At Ulta, you should have no problem finding every tool you need to bring a shine to your mortal coil.

Spa

Rizzieri Salon and Spa

Route 73 & Greentree Road, Marlton
(856) 985-5500

You're busy. You're stressed. You're feeling a little weary of the journey. Let it go at Rizzieri, where you can enjoy everything from hot stone to deep tissue massages, facials, and detoxification rituals. Rosemary mint body wraps, re-oxygenating cellulite treatments, mud therapy, glycolic peels, and a whole host of additional options you'd think would only be offered at some granola retreat in the mountains.



Our readers voted online and also think you should check out...

Louis Christian • Wayne • Robert Salon and Spa
1990 Route 70 East, Cherry Hill
(856) 751-2233

Racquetball Court

Cherry Hill Health and Racquet Club

1820 Old Cuthbert Road, Cherry Hill
(856) 429-1388

Racquetball is still a relatively young sport—and we love it. The activity was invented in the late 1940s by Joe Sobek, who sought a fast-paced sport that was easy to learn and play. He designed the paddles, devised the rules (based on those of squash, handball, and paddleball) and originally called it Paddle Rackets. CHHRC has five courts with Fibersin wall panel systems in each. Raise a racket that would make Mr. Sobek proud.

Spin Class

Smart Bodies

117A Route 73 South, Marlton
(856) 983-2625

We've always known how valuable the personal training experience is at this intimate gym, but it wasn't until a few of their regular spin classes seriously kicked our butts into gear that we realized how well they do the group thing as well. Of course we're still a little confused about why people stopped calling it indoor cycling, but what the heck. Go on, spin your brains out.

Yoga

Aquatic and Fitness Center

5 Esterbrook Lane, Cherry Hill
(856) 751-5177

Yoga is about motion, about the way the body, mind, and spirit move through this world, and finding the pure center of its harmony. Too often, however, we find ourselves trapped in inharmonious patterns of mobility. We're desk



For Hair Raising...

Men's Shave and a Haircut

Executive's Den

16 South Main Street, Medford
(609) 654-4330

Your granddad had it simple. He took a stroll downtown for a cut and a shave, shot the breeze with the other patrons, left a tip, and came home looking polished and refined. Executive's Den on Main Street in Medford brings this simplicity back and updates it for the 21st century. Men need a place they can trust with their personal aesthetic. A place that knows what it feels like to be a man.

Styling

Salon Christopher

137 Egg Harbor Road, Sewell
(856) 401-9500

A full head of hair is a stylist's blank canvas, and the possibilities are as vast and infinite as a painter's inspiration. Down at Salon Christopher, these hair virtuosos consider it a sin to limit the human mane's potential. Life is short. Allow yourself the thrill of a new look this summer and throw caution to the wind—but entrust your wild side to the experts.

Coloring

Julian's Hair and Color Studio

1902 Marlton Pike East, Cherry Hill
(856) 489-1110

Like cosmetic surgery, hair coloring used to be something about which people remained in the closet. The idea was to *not* notice. Well, that is no longer the case, and in 2008 the ways in which creative hair coloring can change a person's perspective on life are thrilling. The big three (blonde,

brunette, and redhead) are as passé and outdated as gun-shot jeans, so don't limit yourself.

Cut

Suede Salon and Spa

500 Route 73 South, Marlton
(856) 985-0700

Remember that scene in *Wayne's World* where Garth is sampling the new home haircut product "The Suck and Cut." Remember the look on his face as the machine yanks at his locks and he screams, "It's sucking my will to live!" Well, trusting the importance of a haircut to just any old joint would be just as imprudent, because it's not only about being proficient with a pair of scissors, but also understanding the subtleties of human nature. It's what separates the craftsperson from the hapless barber—and what separates Suede from the rest.

A-Head of the Curve Hair

Thriv Salon

2076 Route 70 East, Cherry Hill
(856) 751-0014

Did you know there are national and international conventions devoted solely to presenting salon owners with not only the latest trends in hair styling but also that which will eventually become a trend? It's like fortune telling for the styling set, and no other salon in South Jersey has its hip finger on the pulse of what is to come the way Thriv does.

Owner Christian Yong Kim is constantly traveling from one major city to the next, staying in front of the spectrum. If it's new, Kim's probably already done it.

creatures, monotonous beings more inclined to ignore the inner yearnings of our bodies than answering them. Get started on some yoga here (don't be intimidated) and get on the path down which your body has always wanted you to travel. Classes at Aquatic and Fitness Center are gentle, unassuming, and life-changing.

The Swanky Experience

Posh Salon Style

17 East Main Street, Marlton
(856) 983-7774

Posh: 1. elegant, fashionable. 2. typically intended for the upper classes. That's Webster's take on the word, and we know he could have just as easily been defining the experience at this high-end salon, where it's assumed you deserve to be treated like you know you deserve to be treated like someone special, offering everything from massages to manicures in one of the most relaxing environments you can imagine.

Victorian Experience

Tranquility Salon and Spa

1299 Route 38, Hainesport
(609) 267-5600

With so much focus on the contemporary, we often forget the joys contained in experiences of years gone by. Tranquility focuses on delivering a Victorian salon experience with some laid-back pampering befitting the time period to which it owes its inspiration.



Juice Bar

Animo Juice

113 Kings Highway East,
Haddonfield
(856) 427-9070

You wouldn't pour Windex into your gas tank, so why do you continue filling your body with sugar-laden soft drinks that do nothing but gum up the internal machinery of your body? Spend some time cleansing your interior at Animo with fresh-made juices like the Animo Glow (orange, carrot and cantaloupe), Garden State (apple, carrot and Animo greens), or Pura Vida (orange, carrot, kiwi and strawberry). With over a dozen signature juices, the folks at Animo (pronounced AH-nee-mo) will be happy to mix up whatever healthy concoction you'd like.

Environmentally Friendly

Verde Salon

4 Powell Lane, Collingswood
(856) 858-0911

We're all caught up in the green craze right now, considering how to drive less and recycle more. Well, have you ever thought what happens to all those chemicals and containers used at salons? Verde has, which is why they are determined to become the greenest salon in South Jersey. Verde is a 98-percent paperless business that offers all-organic skin care lines, formaldehyde- and toluene-free nail polish, mineral-based makeup, and recycled wallpaper. They also gave Mother Nature that kick-ass up-do she wore to the ball last winter.



For a Dash of the Dandy...

Bikini Wax

Bernard's Salon and Day Spa
795 Route 70 East, Marlton
(856) 985-5755

A bikini-clad Brigitte Bardot, frolicking in "And God Created Woman," created a hot market for the swimwear—firmly proving that

less is more. And speaking of less, there would be no bikini without the bikini wax. That would be like Abbott without Costello.

Nails

Hands Down by Rebecca
60 East Main Street, Marlton
(856) 596-2700

Stop settling for the nearest and cheapest manicure and pedicure procedures and make the choice like you do when it comes to other matters of your life: based on quality. At Hands Down, the impersonal buffing machines are left in the wings and

everything is done by hand.

Makeup

Spa San Marco
4160 Dearborn Circle, Mt. Laurel
(856) 608-1300

Calvin Klein said, "The best thing is to look natural, but it takes makeup to look natural." So ladies, there is no way around it; makeup is essential, and using quality makeup products is the only way to go. This is your face after all, the only one you have, and the folks at Spa San Marco have your best face in mind.



Food

Tapas

Elements Café

517 Station Ave., Haddon Heights
(856) 546-8840

We live in a world where pink is the new black, and white is the new red, and off is the new on, and hot is the new cold—which makes tapas (small plates) the new entree. And Elements is all about tapas, offering such diminutive bites as short ribs croquettes, slow cooked ostrich chili, herb marinated olives, and crispy truffle-scented risotto. Take some friends and a bottle of wine and share the wealth.

Vegetarian

Health Haven

1443 Route 38, Hainesport
(609) 267-7744

It's a common misconception that vegetarian dishes can't be exciting and unique. That they're only a means to be "healthy." That they can't stand on their own two stalks. Just take a meat dish and eliminate the meat, right? Wrong! There are some vegetarian dishes that will knock the knives right out of your hands, and Health Haven offers up several delights in this regard, like their tempehburger with melted cheese or their bulgur wheat model in a whole-wheat pita.

Friendliest Atmosphere

Joe Palombo's Mirabella Cafe

210 Route 70 East, Cherry Hill
(856) 354-1888

Italian restaurants all claim to treat their patrons like family, because family is, after all, such an important staple of the Italian experience. But the difference between lip service and authenticity is not

so fine a line, and Mirabella Cafe lives up to its familial promises with aplomb. Don't rush the meal experience here. Let the service make you feel welcomed, just as it should.

Cheese Selection

Severino Homemade Pasta

110 Haddon Ave., Westmont
(856) 854-7666

We consider dinner parties to be one of humanity's most distinct traits that separate it from the rest of the animal kingdom (like the Etch-A-Sketch). The next time you're hosting one, check out the wild cheese selection at Severino's. We recommend the Vento D'estate, the Robiolo, or the Primadonna from Holland. And don't be afraid to ask questions of the staff. They know their cheese.

Outdoor Dining

Due Amici

2114 Branch Pike, Cinnaminson
(856) 303-8828

They call it the Great Outdoors for a reason. Obviously Due Amici got the memo. The patio is secluded and flanked by lots of stone and greenery, with a koi pond and a laid-back vibe to boot. This is outdoor dining that's definitely great.



**Our readers
voted online and also
think you should
check out...**

Toscana

1990 Route 70, Cherry Hill
(856) 489-7373



Sandwich Varieties

Pastrami

Kibitz Room

100 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill
(856) 428-7878

Halfway through this juicy, intense sandwich, you may believe you'll be able to eat more than one. But unless you play starting linebacker for an NFL team, don't even think about it.

Turkey Club

The Sage Diner

1170 Route 73, Mount Laurel
(856) 727-0770

Here's the thing about a good turkey club: it's not just the sandwich with which a good T-club is measured; it's also the "comes with" (you know, pickle, coleslaw, chips, extra mayo).

Grilled Cheese

Pop Shop

729 Haddon Ave., Collingswood
(856) 869-0111

Earlier this year, the Pop Shop's grilled cheese defeated Bobby

Flay's creations when the Collingswood favorite played host to "Throwdown With Bobby Flay." 'Nuf said.

Italian Hoagie

Carmen's Deli

42 East Browning Road,
Bellmawr
(856) 931-7203

These are not just hoagies, they're eight-pound bundles of manna straight from the heavens.



Comfort Food with a Twist

Oliver a Bistro's Lobster Mac-and-Cheese
218 Farnsworth Ave.,
Bordentown
(609) 298-7177

Who would have thought? Lobster in Mac-and-Cheese! We bet you didn't get it this good when you were a kid (or a poor college student eating Ramen and Easy Mac from a plastic cup). It's rich and decadent, and more comforting than any bedtime story could ever be.

A Spot of Tea

Mulberry Tea House
60 South Main St., Medford
(609) 714-0640

Get your British on and forget the coffee for a second. The Mulberry Tea House, a quaint Victorian tea shop, is a testament to the diversity and thrilling potential of dried leaves in hot water. So the next time you feel like grabbing lunch with a friend at the nearby diner, think again and break for tea like they do on the other side of the pond.

Unique Appetizers

Onasis
800 Haddonfield Road, Cherry Hill
(856) 488-5888



The first time we beheld the octopus appetizer, we were a little nervous. Would it be cold? Would it be slimy? Would its suction cup tentacles stick to our tongues? Well, just one bite and we realized how foolish we were to ever worry. This is one of the most tender and delicious starters you will ever taste, applewood fire grilled with olive oil and served with fennel and capers.



Unique Dessert

Tuscan Tavern's Table-side Flambe

2001 College Drive, Blackwood
(856) 309-8883

The folks down at Tuscan Tavern get so excited when they're asked to prepare this flaming table-side dessert that you'd think it was the first time they ever did it. Strawberries, cherries, vanilla bean ice cream and a thin crepe are cooked with fresh orange peel and zest, fresh lemon twist, sweet butter, extra fine sugar and 100-year-old Grand Marnier for flame. Close your eyes and sigh your sighs.

Downtown Farmer's Market

Collingswood
713 North Atlantic Ave.,
Collingswood
(856) 559-0234
& **Haddonfield**
Chestnut Street (just off Kings
Highway), Haddonfield
(856) 616-8311

OK, so we may be starting the greatest battle since the clash of Grant and Lee with this one, but we're sorry, it was just too hard to decide. Both are extraordinary fresh food experiences. Both are as

friendly and welcoming as a family picnic. And they just happen to be next door to one another. So pick a weekend and check out one. Then take the next weekend to check out the other.

Most Anticipated Make-Over

Braddock's
39 South Main St., Medford
(609) 654-1604

The new owners of Braddock's have landed—and none too soon in one editor's opinion. Listen, when a guy on a date can't end a Saturday night with an anticipated glass of wine, things around here are wrong, very wrong. Thank heaven for new beginnings that are upon us.



Our readers voted online and also think you should check out...

Penang
480 Route 38, Maple Shade
(856) 755-0188

Roadside Markets

Rosie's Farm Stand
Tuckerton Road, Medford

Driving down Tuckerton Road during a late-summer sunrise—perhaps on your way to The Shore—you'll find Rosie and her fresh offerings. Fruits, vegetables, and even water ice abound here. Pay attention, otherwise you'll blow by it.



Our readers voted online and also think you should check out...

Sandy's Roadside Stand
526 North Elmwood Road, Marlton
(856) 988-3906
& **Red Top Market**
1801 Route 70, Southampton
(609) 859-2125

Coffee Shop

Grooveground
647 Haddon Ave., Collingswood
(856) 869-9800

Get your music and your dose of caffeine in one shot at Grooveground. Where most coffee shops go for that earthy, Birkenstock, guitar-strumming vibe, Grooveground takes a less provincial approach. Here you'll find the latest My Morning Jacket release as well as flavored cappuccinos and chai teas. The artwork on the walls is also worth a stare.

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Filet Mignon

The Library II

306 Route 73, Voorhees
(856) 424-0198

Who would think a cut of meat could be so butter soft, heroically thick, and love me tender? Apparently, the chef at Library II.

Beef Wellington

Beau Steak and Seafood

128 Taunton Blvd., Medford
(856) 983-1999

A classic served in a classy restaurant. And if that's not reason enough to love it, know this: food historians say the dish is named for Arthur Wellesley, First Duke of Wellington, the man who crushed

that pesky Frenchman at Waterloo.

Chicken Breast

Los Amigos

461 Route 73 North, Berlin
(856) 767-5216

It's easy to take a meat as ubiquitous as chicken breast for granted. But after the Los Amigos experience, you'll never make the mistake again.

Duck

Tortilla Press Cantina

7716 Maple Ave., Pennsauken
(856) 488-0005

Even those who don't fancy themselves fans of this fowl must try this dish, which is served in an orange-

guajillo chile sauce. Perfection.

Unique Game

Creole Café

288 Egg Harbor Road, Sewell
(856) 582-7222

Ever had southern fried alligator? How about kangaroo? No? Well get thee down to Sewell and give them a try.

Rabbit

Nunzio Ristorante Rustico

706 Haddon Ave., Collingswood
(856) 858-9840

Fresh pappardelle pasta in a braised and shredded rabbit-marinated red sauce. Savor the moment.

Lamb

Word of Mouth

729 Haddon Ave., Collingswood
(856) 858-2228

New Zealand baby-back rack of lamb with goat cheese and Ratatouille vegetables, this is one of Word of Mouth's most popular entrees. Just try it and you'll see why.

Pork Chop

Giumarello's

329 Haddon Ave., Westmont
(856) 858-9400

This 16 ounce Jack Daniel's barbecue chop is a proud cut of meat that will have you forgetting pasta was even an option.

Meat Lovers by Land

Meat Lovers by Sea





Our readers voted online and also think you should check out...

The Chophouse
4 South Lakeview Drive,
Gibbsboro
(856) 566-7300

Bronzino

Joe Pesce

833 Haddon Ave., Collingswood
(856) 833-9888

Day-boated whole Mediterranean fish filleted tableside, the bronzino here is peerless.

Salmon

Filomena Lakeview

1738 Cooper St., Deptford
(856) 228-4235

Pan seared with black and yellow mustard seeds and served with risotto and sautéed spinach, it makes you wonder why God doesn't just make them come out of the water this way.

Crab

Back Bay Seafood

350 Haddon Ave., Westmont
(856) 858-0622

Not all crab cakes are created equal,

and this nondescript takeout joint is head and claws above others you've tried (even those from he whose name we will not mention).

Sushi

Akira

447 Larchmont Blvd., Mt. Laurel
(856) 778-8818

You can't trust just anyone with your sushi needs, which is why we dig the creations at Akira. Creative, fresh and plentiful, just the way we like it.

Surf & Turf

Kunkel's Seafood and Steakhouse

920 West Kings Highway,
Haddon Heights
(856) 547-1225

It's tough sometimes to take rhyming menu items seriously, but Kunkel's "create your own" surf and turf is both fun and delicious.



Semper Pie

White

Passariello's Pavilion

13 West Main St., Moorestown
(856) 840-0998

Some consider white pizza a sin. We consider it salvation. Which, we suppose, makes the folks at Passariello's Saints.

Traditional Round

Tacconelli's Pizzeria

450 South Lenola Road, Maple Shade
(856) 638-0338

Minimalism is a talent, and when a pizzeria can make the minimal seem extraordinary, that talent becomes a virtue.

Tomato Pie

Alfred's Tomato Pie

9 South Blackhorse Pike, Blackwood
(856) 228-1234

The key here is the sauce. No, it's called gravy. Sauce. Gravy. Sauce. Gravy. Join us here next year as we continue the endless debate: Sauce vs. Gravy. In the meantime, check out Alfred's tomato pie.

Grandma's Pizza

Riviera Pizza

6 Stokes Road, Medford Lakes
(609) 654-4300

A thin crust Sicilian with a "special sauce" topped with parmesan cheese. Further words escape us at the moment.

Classic Italian Thin Crust

Venuto's Old World Pizza

Many locations in South Jersey
(856) 582-5590

When more than ten unrelated people tell you a particular place is known for its thin crust pie, you perk up. Well, we perked up and Venuto's lived up.

Sicilian

Cacia's Bakery

2081 East Route 70, Cherry Hill
(609) 704-9002

Dryness: There in lies the danger with the crust of Sicilian pizza. Well, Cacia's is a danger-free zone, because these people know how to turn out a perfect pizza.

Crazy Pizza Concept

Luigi's Pizza Fresca's

"The Godfather"

529 Old Marlton Pike, Marlton
(856) 810-8888

Check it: Prosciutto, ricotta, fresh tomatoes, pesto, mozzarella, and parmesan cheese. This is the pizza you can't refuse.

Stromboli

Botto's Italian Market

1411 Kings Highway, Swedesboro
(856) 467-1570

Take a pizza and turn it inside out. Sounds easy enough, no? Well, don't be fooled. There is an art to the inside out.

Grocery Shopping for the 21st Century

Whole Foods

940 Route 73 North, Marlton
(856) 797-1115

We're lucky down here in South Jersey. Very lucky. Not everyone gets a Whole Foods, which means so many people miss out on some of the best organic produce and meats on the market today. They also miss out on the olive and cheese bars, the home-made peanut butter machine, the bulk spices, nuts and cereals, the mouth-watering bakery, the infinite vegan options, the holistic cosmetic products, and everything in between. That's a lot to remember. Just remember two words: Whole Foods.

Best Kept Secret

Village Pub

539 Chatsworth Road, Tabernacle
(609) 268-7129



Right across the street from Nixon's Deli in Tabernacle is one of the most unassuming buildings you've ever seen. It's the kind of building that looks like it would host dog fights. Or illegal gambling rings. Or large meat lockers. But fear not, the Village Pub is one of the best discoveries you'll make this year, with a tap selection far more nuanced than the exterior would imply (last time we visited they even had a Flying Fish Belgian Abbey Dubbel on draft), Italian food worthy of an intimate city cafe (do not leave without trying the mussels), and a bartender willing to shoot the bull.

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Bakery for...

Chocolate

Classic Cake

2010 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill
(856) 751-5448

Chef Robert Bennett makes all the chocolate at Classic Cake in house, from cocoa imported from the exclusive Barry-Callebaut Chocolate Company in Europe. Look out for vanilla caramel and peanut crunch this summer, which Bennett says are soon to be revealed. Who needs Willie Wonka?

Fresh Rolls

Del-Buono's Bakery

319 Blackhorse Pike, Haddon Heights
(856) 546-9585

The rolls are so fresh that when they come out on the conveyor belt, patrons are warned not to burn themselves. Some people actually bring huge plastic bags in which to collect these baked bundles of goodness.

Pies

Penza's Homemade Pies at the Red Barn Café

375 Route 206, Hammonton
(609) 567-3412

We know the gas price situation this summer, but if you take just one trip south on Route 206 over the next few months, make it to the Red Barn. The pies here will blow your mind right back to 50 cents a gallon.

Donuts

Gallo's Bakery

200 Tuckerton Road, Medford
(856) 983-8370

Homer Simpson called. He said he'll be taking a nightly trip to this place for the next four weeks if anyone cares to join him.

Cookies

Bread Board Plus

605 North Haddon Ave., Haddonfield
(856) 354-0333

Oatmeal raisin cookies can't be too dry—but they also can't be so moist they fall apart. They have to be just right, and these, folks, are indeed just right.

Birthday Cakes

Sweet Eats Bakery

230 North Maple Avenue, Marlton
(856) 596-0331

What else can they do with the cake? How about fill it with Bavarian cream flavors like orange creamsicle, heath toffee crunch, and amaretto with sliced almonds. Um, stop. You're drooling.

Euro Pastries

Zena's Patisserie and Café

308 Broad St., Riverton
(856) 303-8700

Pastry chef Zena Zemirtevirin was born and raised in Turkey and trained in European cooking traditions that are now South Jersey's to savor and enjoy.



**Our readers
voted online and also think
you should check out...**

Yokohama

300 South Lenola Road, Maple Shade
(856) 608-8812

Kuzina by Sophia

404 Route 70 West, Cherry Hill
(856) 429-1061

Diner

Ponzio's

7 West Route 70, Cherry Hill
(856) 428-4808



Here's where we insert a joke about Flo, right? About the "Hun"-heavy vocabulary of diner waitresses? About the attitude? Well, not this time folks. This is Ponzio's, which not only gets our vote because of its kickin' food and snappy service, but also because they serve booze. Ever had Jack on the rocks with some blueberry pancakes? Well, neither have we. But if you ever want to try it, Ponzio's is the place.

Burgers

Mr. Bill's

453 Route 73 South, Hammonton
(609) 561-5400

You know him as the giant, freakish axe man you pass on Route 73 while heading down to the Jersey Shore, but we know Mr. Bill as the Pope of the Hamburger, serving up thick, juicy slabs of salvation. Don't be scared. Try the bacon. And the cheese. And the pickles.

Brunch

Café Gallery's Sunday Buffet

219 High St., Burlington
(609) 386-6150

"Hi, it's Sunday here. How are you on this fine day? Good. That's nice to hear. Look, I uh, I have a confession to make. I think I'm in love. Wait, just hear me out. It's a good thing. Everyone's known about it for some time, someone just had to come out and be the one to say it. So here goes...I'm uh, I'm in love with brunch. Hear me world? I'M IN LOVE WITH BRUNCH, AND I DON'T CARE WHO KNOWS IT!" Want to properly celebrate this love? Head down to Cafe Gallery.

Milkshakes

The Dutch Wagon

109 Route 70, Medford
(609) 654-0338

Every weekend the wagon comes to town, and every time it does you should be right there waiting for it to set up shop. Forget everything you think you know about the possibilities of a milkshake experience. Made with rich, creamy custard, they will wreck you for every shake to come down the pike.

Ice Cream

Daddy O's

300 East Greentree Road, Marlton
(856) 983-0011



First of all, they're all homemade. No, really, we're not kidding. Homemade, like they used to do before the grocery store. And they have over 200 flavors (with 50 available at any one time). No, you can't go wrong with the classics here (vanilla, mint

chocolate chip, coffee), but we suggest going right for the jugular and spooning the "Happy Birthday Cake," which is made with real cake and real frosting.



**Our readers
voted online and also think
you should check out...**

Tropical Island Café
210 Medford-Mt. Holly Road, Medford
(609) 714-9922

Hibachi Bar

Megu Sushi

1990 Marlton Pike East, Cherry Hill
(856) 489-6228



Who doesn't love the hibachi? Watching the flames rising high, grown men in suits are suddenly transformed into awe-struck children (and children who witness the show feel the power of flame for the first time, like little wizards discovering a new spell). Bring the whole family and sit around the grill for unrivaled dining majesty.

Candy

Aunt Charlotte's Candies

5 West Maple Ave., Merchantville
(856) 662-0058



In their fourth generation of candy making, Aunt Charlotte's Candies provides the sweetest treats. You'll feel like (wait for it...) a kid in a candy store. Aunt Charlotte's offers unique handmade delights for every season, like fresh daily candy or caramel apples in the fall, decorated chocolate Easter eggs in the spring, and shore-shaped candies in the summer. Sweet dreams are, indeed, made of these. ■