


# Stroll a Royal Mile... Malvern







# WEND YOUR WAY OFF LANCASTER AVENUE AND MARVEL AT A MALVERN YOU'VE NEVER SEEN.

Story by Emily Hart  
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COLORFUL FLAGS—"Open," "Welcome" and the stars and stripes flapping in the breeze—beckon visitors and residents alike. Abundant blossoms in lamppost baskets, doorstep urns and window wreaths nod in greeting. One-of-a-kind shops offer gifts, home furnishings, fashion, services and food fit for royalty.

Few would argue that Malvern's King Street is anything less than exceptional. So what better place could there be for a royal stroll?

Malvern Strolls are held the third Thursday of each month—but any day is the perfect day to create your own "sip, shop, stroll" adventure. Start at the shops at one end of King Street and walk half a mile to the other end; take a little jog up Warren Avenue to Burke Park. Turn around at the far end of town to return via the sidewalk on the opposite side of the street.

Or meander, as I did, to whichever pleasing establishment catches your eye.

## REMARKABLE MARKETPLACE

Allow yourself to be drawn into Terra Culture Gifts where the storefront window-display sparkles. Among the treasures that support artists and promote fair trade practices, I spied a glittering selection of Firefly earrings and a rain stick with Aboriginal art.

Stroll right up to The Picket Fence, one of the oldest shops on King Street. The charm of the eponymous white picket fence, green door and striped awning invite customers inside. While browsing garden accessories, gifts and more, say hello to sweet Lola the dog.

Stop in at Knots and Weaves where magic carpets—Oriental and decorative rugs—instantly transport you to exotic locations. Co-owner Jim Greim showed me an exquisite Baluchi carpet, handwoven with rich earthy colors made from vegetable dyes in southwest Iran. Up the staircase, don't miss The Loft where an eclectic collection of home furnishings, irresistible women's clothing



(so irresistible that there's a new dress in my closet), pottery and paintings awaits you.

Visit other businesses that tickle your fancy—Wolfe's where brass accessories shine and Nota Bene Boutique where jewelry and fashion accessories dazzle. Or find services to keep you going—auto body shops, shoe repair and a wellness studio.

When it's time for a pick-me-up, head to Julie Anne's Place on Warren Street. My stop for a bite to eat there led to a delightful respite with friendly conversation among staff and customers, as well as a simple yet delicious fresh chicken salad sandwich. Enjoy the genuinely friendly hospitality of owner Laura and her crew while you relax with coffee in a rocker on the gingerbread front porch. Or relax with lunch at the outdoor table with umbrella. Either way, take time to stop and smell the flowers gracing the charming eatery.



## FROM FAR AWAY TO HOME

Cross the threshold of UpHome into southern France. There's all you need to set the perfect table—exquisite French linens, wine glasses, cheese knives and china plates depicting lavender fields and Provençal scenery. Just add some croissants.

Luckily, Malvern's newest venture has those ... plus scones, Bavarian pretzels and more. Brand new Malvern Buttery brings the best of a captivating European bakery, an American coffee shop, and a community café and gathering space to the heart of town. Owners John

and Silenia Rhoads encourage guests to watch bakers shaping bread loaves, to sit in a comfy chair while sipping ethically sourced coffee or to try a warm croissant with homemade jam, cocoa hazelnut spread or butter freshly churned on the premises. At a wooden table, in the company of friends, savor a creative lunch-time salad.

## STROLL IN FASHION

Enter the historic Malvern Inn where this former site of a post office, guest-house and long-standing flap over a liquor license is now 12 West Boutiques. Find fun, casual clothing in addition to must-have trinkets.

For a shopping spree fit for a queen, let a personal shopper at Posh Collections connect you with a designer label. Or take home a new handbag or necklace from Louella's.

Get pampered at Grazia Skin Care Studio & Spa, where you can choose from an array of customized experiences. Try an airbrush tanning session to enhance your summer tan. Or lash extensions. Maybe an anti-aging facial or a deep tissue massage to help you look and feel great as you stroll.

## THE QUEEN'S SUPPER

Ready for a regal repast after your stroll? In addition to comfort foods at Julie Anne's Place, pub grub and beer at the Flying Pig Saloon, delectables at the Malvern Buttery and pizza at Malvern Pizza and Beer—found easily by the giant mural on the side of the



Christopher's—A Neighborhood Place



The Picket Fence



Julie Anne's Place



Louella



building—there are some sophisticated possibilities for dining.

Restaurant Alba's inspired use of locally sourced fare would delight any foodie. Faced with delicious menu items, one option that grants having your cake and eating it, too, is to choose the five-course chef's tasting menu Monday through Thursday nights.

New to Malvern is Christopher's, already popular in Wayne. Boasting of ingredients from local farms, family-friendly meals for kids, gluten-free breads for gluten-free diners, a bar and pleasant outdoor seating, the restaurant has something for everyone.

Growing Roots Partners' Lisa O'Neill summed up a visit to town: "Malvern lives up to our slogan—'Small town, big charm'."

Lace up your walking shoes; come on over. ♦



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|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. 12 West Boutiques             | 10. Knots & Weaves          | 19. Posh Collections                 |
| 2. Anthony's Restaurant          | 11. Louella                 | 20. Restaurant Alba                  |
| 3. Campli Photography            | 12. Love Nails / Spa        | 21. Terra Culture Gifts              |
| 4. Christopher's                 | 13. Malvern Buttery         | 22. The Blue Octagon                 |
| 5. Englund's                     | 14. Malvern Flowers & Gifts | 23. The Picket Fence                 |
| 6. Gingy's Boutique              | 15. Malvern Farm Mkt.       | 24. Tranquil Solutions               |
| 7. Grazia Skin Care Studio & Spa | 16. Moonstone & Sage        | 25. Uphome Ltd.                      |
| 8. Jam Gallery                   | 17. Nota Bene Boutique      | 26. Upscale Consignment              |
| 9. Kimberton Whole Foods         | 18. Occasions Boutique      | 27. Wallace & Nilan Physical Therapy |

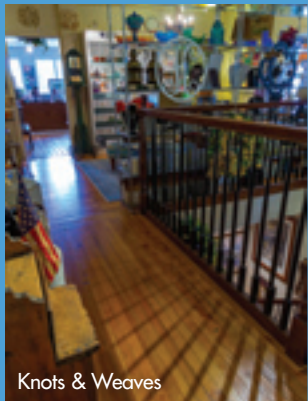
#### THERE'S MORE IN MALVERN THAN KING STREET!

Shop at Sprouts Consignment. Dine at Jimmy's BBQ and Tonino's Pizza & Pasta. Check out easy living at AVE Living and Spring Oak. Or enjoy Paoli Battlefield's Heritage Day and People's Light.

#### BLOOMING, BOOMING MALVERN

When it comes to flowers, events and the town itself, Malvern is blooming. Long-time businesses—the quirky beer lovers' pub The Flying Pig Saloon, 14-year-old Knots & Weaves and long-standing National Bank of Malvern—are welcoming newcomers to town: Kimberton Whole Foods market; Eastside Flats shops and apartments, Benchmark Federal Credit Union and others.

Weekly, monthly and annual events draw sippers, shoppers and strolling pedestrians from as close as King Street's Eastside Flats and as far as a couple of counties away. Check out the weekly Farmer's Market in Burke Park where vendors offer fresh greens and artisanal foods. Enjoy a Malvern Stroll on the third Thursday of each month. Come back each year for the Malvern Blooms Spring Festival, Memorial Day Parade, and Harvest Oktoberfest—where this fall's features include a Bark in the Park and live music by Polkadelphia.



Knots & Weaves



Nota Bene Boutique



Malvern Buttery



Posh Collections



Kimberton Whole Foods



Grazia Spa



Uphome Ltd.



Wolfe's Baldwin Brass Center



Restaurant Alba



National Bank of Malvern

Celebrating 75 years, Benchmark Federal Credit Union now serves anyone who lives, worships, works, or attends school in Chester County. "People are realizing that when they buy local, whether it's at a farmers' market or neighborhood business, they get superior value and dedicated service. The same is true for a local federal credit union like Benchmark," says David LaSala, President and CEO. "We know and care for the Chester County community, and our sole focus is to support and improve the economic well-being of our members throughout their lives, from birth to retirement."

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