

Insider Tips

TIMES RECRUITED SOME OF OUR FRIENDS "IN THE KNOW" TO TELL US THE SECRETS OF THE CITY'S BEST TO IMPRESS YOUR OUT OF TOWN GUESTS.

by Susan M. Stapleton
with additional information provided by the GPTMC

WHERE TO STAY The Ritz-Carlton is world-renowned as the best place to stay in any city. But, The Ritz Philadelphia has its own special secret: Room number 11 on any of the luxurious hotel's floors. This room's location allows for extra space and gorgeous views, with no extra charges!

RITZ-CARLTON PHILADELPHIA
Ten Avenue of the Arts
(215) 523-8000, ritzcarlton.com

WHERE TO DINE You've heard of Georges Perrier's decadent French delicacies available at any one of his award-winning restaurants. However, you're also probably aware of the hefty price of a meal at Le Bec-Fin, the most extravagant of them all. If you're looking to impress your guests, but not looking to spend spend spend, visit Le Bar Lyonnais, or "Downstairs at Le Bec" to locals. "Downstairs" offers several similar items as it's more costly counterpart, and the ambience is just as authentic.

LE BAR LYONNAIS 1523 Walnut St
(215) 567-1000

WHAT TO EAT Yes, the City of Brotherly Love is famous for its love of cheese steaks, and we have the place to find the one and only for your most discriminating guests: The Barclay Prime. Occupying the ground floor of the former Barclay Hotel on Rittenhouse Square, the Barclay Prime exudes richness in tastes and looks with its grand dark woods, rich leathers and fine glass chandeliers. Owner Stephen Starr was sure to include Philadelphia's most popular delicacy on the menu, with a twist of richness that is certain to impress. The \$100 chesse steak is made with shaved

Kobe beef, foie gras, triple cream tallegio and caramelized shallots.

BARCLAY PRIME 237 South 18th St
Philadelphia, (215) 732-7560

WHERE TO UNWIND The Park Hyatt at the Bellevue's Philadelphia Library Lounge. A perfect spot to sip a martini and smoke a cigar, the Library Lounge is located atop the famous and historic Bellevue Hotel. The Library Lounge is decorated with rich woodwork and cabinetry, a warm fireplace, deep soft leather chairs, and a large collection of books featuring Philadelphia authors and subjects. The Lounge offers an outstanding selection of port wines, single malt scotches, and cognacs. The award winning wine list offers over four hundred selections from all over the world, as well as a humidor with several cigar selections.

THE LIBRARY LOUNGE Atop The Park Hyatt at the Bellevue, Broad & Walnut St, 200 S. Broad St
(215) 893-1776, parkhyatt.com

WHAT TO DO Take a walk with the Mural Arts Program of Philadelphia. Since its inception in 1984, the Mural Arts Program has completed more murals than any other public art program in the nation – more than 2,400 indoor and outdoor murals throughout Philadelphia. This effort has brought art to the cityscape, turning graffiti-scarred walls into scenic views, portraits of community heroes, and abstract creations. The Mural Arts program created the mural tours to help visitors take a "behind the scenes" look at how murals are made. You may even get lucky and get a mural artist as your tour guide.

THE MURAL ARTS PROGRAM
(215) 685-0754. Reservations for tours are strongly recommended.

WHAT TO DRINK Looking to surprise your guests with a selection of superior wine for the weekend? Simply look for the VSI stamp of approval. **VSI, Vine Street Imports**, is a Philadelphia based wine importer of fine, rare and artisan wines from around the world. VSI discovers and imports the world's most flavorful and distinct wines for all occasions. Their latest import is Stella's Garden, 100% Shiraz, a Lost Highway project produced by Two Hands from Australia. Look for Stella's Garden, along with other VSI imported wines at Pennsylvania State stores, and select fine restaurants.

VINE STREET IMPORTS Available at Pennsylvania State Stores.

ONE OF PHILADELPHIA'S MOST RECOGNIZABLE VIEWS, BOATHOUSE ROW ON THE SCHUYLKILL RIVER.

