



10 BEST ROMANTIC SPOTS

By Tara Nurin

BISTRO ROMANO

Enjoy Italian cuisine within the rustic, converted home of a wealthy 18th-century sea merchant. Exposed brick, wooden ceiling beams and a bar salvaged from a luxury sea liner create a magical mood. Mark a special occasion with a reserved, secluded table-for-two in the wine cellar (complete with rose petals and a complimentary glass of imported limoncello). Even a regular night out—with weekly lobster, pasta and entrée specials—can be as affordable as a night at the movies.

• 120 Lombard St. • 215-925-8880
• bistoromano.com

HIGH NOTE CAFE

“Philadelphia’s Singing Chef” Frank Borda started singing and serving as a 7-year-old pretzel-cart pusher who loudly serenaded his customers with his *Fresh Pretzel* aria in South Philly. He trained himself to cook, opened a pizzeria and an adjoining Italian restaurant, and now features pianists, opera singers and servers who serenade dining-room patrons. From 5 to 9 p.m. Sundays, romantic vocalist and pianist Kenny Gates helps set the mood.

• 1549 S. 13th St. • 215-755-8903

• highnotecafe.com

SOCIETY HILL DANCE ACADEMY

Couples can find their rhythm as they learn dances, such as salsa, cha-cha and rumba, during \$20 drop-in classes held nightly Monday through Friday. (Insider tip: The first private dance lesson is free.) On Fridays, an open-house dance party follows class.

• 409 S. Second St.
• 215-574-3574 • 4401 Cresson St.
• 215-482-1611 • societyhilldance.com

DATE NIGHT AT THE CLAY STUDIO

The sexy pottery scene in the movie *Ghost* remains one of the most enduring cinematic images of love found, then lost. Potters at The Clay Studio channel that memory with monthly Friday date nights. Couples can share a wheel and make some magic of their own. “Working with clay is a very tactile and sensuous experience. Date nights are meant to be a fun, playful experience with a creative spark,” says the studio’s

For some couples, a romantic occasion means sipping wine at a secluded candlelit table. For others, it’s an evening spent under the stars. Whatever your vision of romance, Philadelphia offers enough options to seduce the eye of any beholder.



R. KENNEDY/GPTMC

MURAL ARTS LOVE LETTER TOUR

“Romantic” doesn’t often come to mind when describing public transit. But then there’s the Blue Line El train’s tour of 50 rooftop word-murals created by the Mural Arts Program in collaboration with artist Stephen Powers. Romantics can read a series of these painted love notes from 45th to 63rd streets any time, or reserve a spot on a guided tour every Saturday and Sunday. Private guided tours are also available. Says the program’s executive director Jane Golden, “For people taking the El, for people visiting Philadelphia, for the couples who stand in front of the words and hold hands, get photos taken, get engaged or even married, the words speak volumes to them about love and connection and the power of art to touch us deeply, even when the images fly by.”

• 215-685-0754 • muralarts.org/tour/love-letter-train-tour-0

education director, Josie Bockelman. The studio provides beer, wine, snacks, materials and instruction. Be sure to reserve a spot at least two months in advance.

• 137-139 N. Second St.
• 215-925-3453 • theclaystudio.org

PHILADELPHIA CHOCOLATE TOUR

A \$40-walking tour takes couples to chocolate hotspots around the city. Stop in for delicacies such as champagne truffles at Teuscher Chocolates of Switzerland and handmade creations at Marcie Blaine Artisanal Chocolates.

Choco-philes will learn about the history, health benefits and, yes, aphrodisiac properties of this luscious treat. Founder Valerie Beck says marriage proposals have happened on the tour. “How can a woman resist her love, a diamond and chocolate?” she asks. The tour runs along different routes six days a week, and private tours are available.

• 215-833-0044
• philadelphiachocolatetours.com

TEA AT THE FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

Sweethearts can transport themselves

to a more elegant time by taking afternoon tea in the hotel’s formal bar/lounge, where a fireplace, a baby grand and a view of the graceful Swann Memorial Fountain add even more polish to a space already defined by warm wood and marble-topped tables. During Royal Tea service, sip a sparkling wine, sweet sherry or a raspberry cocktail. Or try the Social Tea package, which proffers scones, clotted cream, finger sandwiches, pastries and loose-leaf tea.

• One Logan Square
• 215-963-1500 • fourseasons.com/philadelphia

NIGHT SKIES IN THE OBSERVATORY

Lovers have long gazed at the heavens and whispered proclamations of love. Modern romantics can climb to the roof of The Franklin Institute to visit the Joel N. Bloom Observatory, where on the second Thursday of every month chief astronomer Derrick Pitts awaits with five telescopes and the opportunity for guests to gaze at the stars and the planets.

• 222 N. 20th St. • 215-448-1200 • fi.edu

SYNERGY BY JASMINE

If yoga is good for body, mind and soul, it must be great for a loving relationship. That’s the premise of a \$20-per-person Friday couples yoga session that has partners playfully and sensually connect through joint positions, murmurs of gratitude, meditation, breathing exercises and Thai massage. “It’s buoyant and bonding ... weird yet wonderful,” says owner Jasmine Kaloudis. Reservations are required.

• 3901 B Building Main St., 2nd floor
• 610-352-1177 • synergybyjasmine.com

RODIN MUSEUM

The Kiss, Auguste Rodin’s depiction of a lover’s embrace, occupies the main hall in this intimate neo-classical gallery. It’s one of the few large-scale marble editions of what is arguably one of the world’s most famous romantic sculptures. Visit on a pleasant day and stroll through the French garden.

• 2151 Benjamin Franklin Parkway • 215-763-8100 • rodinmuseum.org