

THE LAUREL *Life*

FALL / WINTER ISSUE 2025

SHOP IN FASHIONABLE STYLE

Joan Shepp Opens on the Square

BALL ON THE SQUARE

An Eventful Look Back

WINTER WONDERLAND

Enjoyment Inside & Out

The Fall Wonders & Winter Wonder Landscapes

OF RITTENHOUSE SQUARE

After the warm days of summer, life at The Laurel transforms, first with the vivid colors of autumn, followed by the sparkling snowfalls of a winter wonderland. New sidewalk restaurants have joined the neighborhood for savoring the flavors of the season in the open air. Fall fashions are inspiring and the Eagles are giving fans reasons to cheer in the Sky Lounge. Winter brings great gift ideas and the return of cherished traditions. Laurel residents are taking walks in the park beneath the falling leaves, enhancing their golf swings at home, and cozying into a relaxing array of quiet indulgences, all against the wondrous backdrop of Rittenhouse Square.



“Let us wonder at the turning of the leaves, the hush of the first snow and the quiet joy of ordinary days.”
— Anonymous

Autumn Wonders Abound

Autumn in Rittenhouse Square paints a crescendo of colors as the leaves change into hues of amber, crimson and gold. The energy enlivens a walk through the park for coffee or reading a book on a bench amid the changing and falling leaves. Crisp apples and pears come to the weekly farmers’ market inspiring seasonal dishes cooked up at home. Locals fill the restaurants for al fresco dining and enjoy cocktails on their private balconies watching the sunset draping its golden colors over the park. Fall here is a time to attend art festivals, sample seasonal fares at an array of new restaurants and walk to museum openings or down to the river amid these beautiful days.



“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.”
— *Albert Camus*



A FINE TIME FOR ART

The Rittenhouse Square Fine Arts Show

Always a fall highlight, the 2025 Rittenhouse Square Fine Art Show happened September 19–21 featuring more than 140 juried professional and student artists exhibiting original, non-functional fine art along the tree-lined paths of Philadelphia’s iconic Rittenhouse Square. The artist-run show by the Rittenhouse Square Fine Arts Association dates back to 1928, making it the nation’s oldest continuously operating outdoor fine art exhibition. Free and open to the public, the event offered locals and visitors an opportunity to connect directly with painters, sculptors, printmakers, and other fine artists over the beauty of art.



ILLUMINATING THE PARK

The Rittenhouse Square Lighting Project

The park is growing brighter in beautiful ways. The Rittenhouse Square Lighting Project is enhancing the safety, accessibility and beauty of the iconic park. Better illuminating pathways and showcasing the park’s sculptural elements, the project is designed to make the square safer and more usable during evening hours. Developed by the Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, in partnership with local organizations, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Friends of Rittenhouse Square, the project is bringing forth a cleaner, greener, more enjoyable public park.

Steps from The Laurel

THE SEASONS ARE SERVED

The Rittenhouse Square culinary scene is ever evolving with new restaurants joining the iconic favorites each season. Within two blocks of home, residents at The Laurel can enjoy fine dining and intimate tastings. Residents can walk out the door to delicious favorites, such as Parc, The Love and Barclay Prime. Uniquely new places have arrived, including Kissho House and Borromini.

Tequilas Upscale Mexican at 1602 Locust Street, reopened in the spring with a refreshed menu, reimagined new interiors and dishes like beef tenderloin molcajete and vegan tinga poblana by chef David Suro. A historic Rittenhouse institution embracing the seasons with earthy flavors and standout dishes Mole Poblano over duck confit and a spicy Smoked Tamarind Margarita.

Borromini Elevated old-world Italian recently opened at 1805 Walnut Street. The dramatic two-story Italian restaurant from famed restaurateur Stephen Starr features refined classics, soaring ceilings and outdoor seating along Rittenhouse. Fireplaces and soft golden light. Try the Pumpkin Ravioli with crispy sage for a fresh fall dish and an Amaro-infused cocktail in winter.

Kissho House Robatayaki and Sushi opened summer 2025 at 1522 Locust Street, with its Omakase Room opening in winter 2025/2026. Elegance and high-end sushi highlight by Miso-glazed black cod with daikon and yuzu foam complemented by a Shiso Plum Martini make great seasonal choices. The coming expansion offers an intimate tasting setting on the basement level.

TRY AN OLD FAVORITE

Vernick Food & Drink Acclaimed bistro by James Beard award-winning chef offers a menu for the seasons amid its minimalist wood-accented interiors. Dishes warm up as temperatures drop, featuring roasted heirloom carrots or a silky butternut squash soup. Sea Scallops with chanterelle mushroom delight. For a winter cocktail, sip a Seasonal Spritz with blood orange and rosemary.

My Loup Another recent addition in 2023, a French-inspired bistro, by Alex Kemp & Amanda Shulman, on Walnut Street. My Loup brings in a menu of richer, cozier dishes as the seasons unfold, such as rabbit confit and foie gras torchon. The escargot bread pudding and the beef cheek bourguignon make for delicious seasonal experiences, as does the warm mulled wine.



From Top Left to Bottom Right
Kissho House / My Loup / Borromini / Vernick Food & Drink / Tequilas

Live the Luxury at The Laurel

BLAZE TRAILS. TRANSCEND LIMITS.
EQUINOX RITTENHOUSE IS RIGHT DOWNSTAIRS.

Fall and winter are great seasons to take health and fitness to new heights. With the high-performance classes and inspiring spaces of the new Equinox Rittenhouse next door to The Laurel, wellness is easier and more elevated than ever. Membership includes unlimited classes and use of amenities with fitness assessments and trainings available at the club or up in your private residence. Explore hot yoga on cold winter days, from Power Vinyasa to Hatha and Slow Flow, or studio Pilates. Take things up a notch with high-energy classes such as Met Con, Precision Run®, Beats Ride cycling, and enjoy on-demand Equinox+ digital workouts anytime.

During the winter season, explore creatively themed classes, such as “Winter Solstice” and “Cold Plunge Community Sessions” or sign up for personal training

to get your health and fitness ready for spring. Tailored for peak results, Equifit assessments and the proprietary EQX OS methodology can help you incorporate data-driven programs for optimum wellness.

The club’s signature amenities — the spa, eucalyptus tower locker rooms, steam and sauna, cold and hot plunges — await for pampering and recovery experiences. While you are there, stop by the curated shop featuring Lululemon, Alo, Vuori and Grown Alchemist brands and grab a refreshing post-workout beverage from the Essex Squeeze Juice Bar.

If you haven’t joined, ask about member discounts for residents of The Laurel. Members enjoy two complimentary guest passes, ideal for visiting family and friends during the holidays.

Image Courtesy of Equinox Rittenhouse



THE LAUREL HOUSE CAR AWAITS YOU

As fall and winter come to Rittenhouse Square, The Laurel’s chauffeured house car is at the ready for drop-offs and pickups around the square. Walk to a delicious meal and have the car bring you back afterward. If you want to go shopping in the snow, the house car will take you there and bring you and your purchases home. For attending a concert at the Kimmel Center on a winter evening or meeting friends at the Four Seasons Philadelphia rooftop lounge, the car turns any walkable occasion into a warm, cozy and convenient drive to and from The Laurel.

GOLF SIMULATOR LESSONS

Level up your game on the 26th floor

Elevate your game without leaving The Laurel. Jamie Hoke, a PGA Teaching Professional from The Union League Golf Club at Torresdale offers indoor private lessons in The Laurel Golf Simulator Room. Whether you are beginner or an elite amateur, now is the perfect time to get your game ready for the upcoming season. Play simulated courses all over the world and receive simple, effective guidance on your strokes. Lessons by appointment: jhoke289@gmail.com.



There's Nothing Like Philly Sports

GET CAUGHT UP IN THE ENERGY OF THE CITY

Fall marks the return of Philly sports with fans getting swept up in a contagious spirit and time-honored traditions, from playoff parties to ringing a replica of the Liberty Bell after big scores.

This seasonal lineup promises to be more exciting than ever with national and international events happening right here in Philadelphia in 2025/2026. The National Baseball League is hosting an all-star game in Philly bringing the top players to the city, and one of the early playoffs for the World Cup will be held in Philadelphia next year. Let's get ready to cheer.

Baseball is a family affair, delighting fans of all ages each season. Red October always promises a fun time with the Phillies playoff games at Citizens Bank Ballpark, named a top baseball park in America for food. Be sure to try hometown favorites such as the sausage sandwich and crab fries.

Fresh off last season's Super Bowl victory, the Eagles are back in flight and ready for another title run. The Sixers storm into the Wells Fargo Center ready to take on the Eastern Conference this season and The Flyers carry the spirit on through the winter with their fast, physical play.



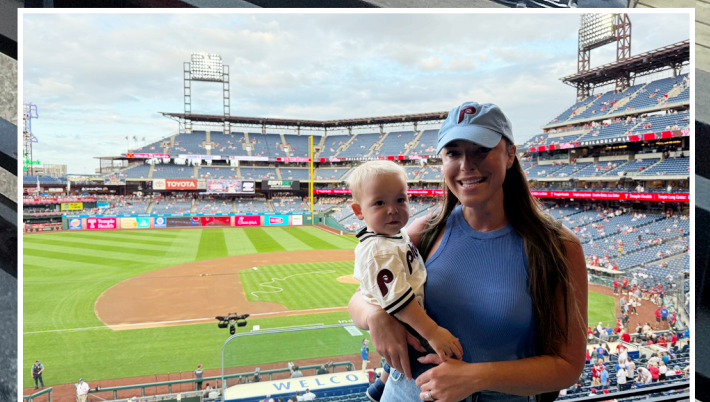
Whether you are beside the field or rink, or watching from the comfort of home, it's hard not to get caught up in Philadelphia sports. On game days, city streets fill with team colors as fans spill out from sports bars and pubs from Rittenhouse Square to downtown. From impromptu parades down Broad Street to communal high-fives at a local watch place, it's fun to be a fan in Philly.



THE BIRDS ARE BACK

Eagles Season in the Sky Lounge

At The Laurel, residents gather among neighborly fans for watch parties in the Sky Lounge on the 26th floor. For private parties intimate and grand, the concierge is on hand helping to arrange catering and bartenders and to assist in planning and setup. The valet parks visitors' cars and escorts guests up to the 26th floor. With big screen TVs and an incredible downtown skyline view, there's nothing quite like a game day celebration or playoff watch party at The Laurel.



Emmons family enjoying the Phillies Game.









BALL ON
THE SQUARE

LOOKING BACK ON
A SPECTACULAR
SUMMER AFFAIR



Immerse in Winter Wonder & Wellness

EMBRACE THE ART OF THE COZY SEASON

Embrace the quiet art of living during the cozy winter season. A time for gentler joys, wintry days invite curling up by the fire with a good book, sipping warm tea after a walk through the park in the crisp air, or hosting a home-cooked meal for friends in the comfort of your residence.

Whether it's an impromptu gathering with neighbors or a chef-catered evening in, The Laurel offers a refined ambiance for meaningful moments. And with the city's cultural offerings just steps or a house car away, you can take in a museum, attend a concert or visit a café amid this winter wonderland.



Pair a cozy afternoon with a book and a blanket. Enjoy a warm mug of tea and inspiring winter skyline view while reading one of these literary good reads: *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon for a historical mystery. *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride for wise, full-of-heart storytelling. If a beautiful tale of friendship is your style, try *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See. Add a little grit to your literary fiction with *Small Mercies* by Dennis Lehane.



TAKE A LUXURIOUS SNOW DAY

When winter weather sets in, residents of The Laurel can enjoy the day without ever stepping outside. The 24/7 concierge is on hand to handle everything from dinner reservations to wine delivery or arranging a private chef for an intimate gathering in the Club Lounge. The house car makes short trips around the city effortless — even in the snow — while valet service and a heated garage ensure coming and going is seamless. Curl up with a classic movie in your residence as snow silently falls outside or enjoy the skyline views from your glass-lined living room. The Laurel can make any snow day into a luxury experience.

WONDERFUL WELLNESS

Snowy days are ideal for experiencing The Laurel's many personalized wellness offerings. The fitness center and yoga studio, just an elevator ride away, make it easy to stay active indoors. Residents can arrange in-home spa treatments through the concierge, enjoy a sauna or steam session, or simply unwind with a guided meditation overlooking the snow-covered city skyline. Cold-weather skincare routines, fresh juice deliveries, or warm herbal teas can be coordinated for the perfect self-care day. Whether you're recharging your body or calming your mind, winter wellness at The Laurel is designed to be restorative without ever having to leave your home.

WINTER CULTURE: NOT-TO-MISS EXPERIENCES

Philadelphia Orchestra Winter Season

A season of symphonic performances at the Kimmel Center and Academy of Music, featuring major holiday concerts, Beethoven's Ninth, and Mahler's Ninth led by Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

Philadelphia Film Festival Highlights

An annual 11-day October event showcasing Philadelphia premieres of international, domestic, and local films, plus retrospectives, Q&As, and creative industry gatherings.

Opera Philadelphia Performances

A season spanning fall to spring at the Academy of Music and Perelman Theater with new American premieres like Mazzoli's *The Listeners* and classics such as Rossini and Vivaldi.

Gallery Hop in Old City on First Fridays

On the first Friday of each month, galleries and design showrooms in Old City stay open late, offering new exhibitions, refreshments, and a lively art lover atmosphere.

Winter Fashion Rittenhouse Style

JOAN SHEPP OPENS NEXT DOOR TO THE LAUREL

Something stylish is happening next door. The beloved Joan Shepp boutique has opened its new location, just steps from The Laurel. Set between Born Yesterday and Equinox on Walnut Street, the new two-story concept store brings 4,000 square feet of curated beauty, luxury, and creative energy to Rittenhouse Square.

Ellen Shepp, who carries on the legacy her mother began in 1971, has created a space that is both high fashion and deeply human. “Our customers don’t want to shop in malls or online,” she says. “They want the experience. They want one-of-a-kind pieces you won’t find anywhere else.”

In just one example, Ellen has commissioned an iconic scarf by Italian designer Faliero Sarti featuring vignettes of Philadelphia, Rittenhouse Square and even The Laurel. While Ellen travels to Europe four times a year to bring back designs by Belgian, Italian and French designers, she also showcases designs by local designers. Community, for her, is at the heart of the store, from customers feeling like friends to a percent of purchases going to local nonprofit organizations.

The boutique features womenswear, some menswear and unisex apparel, offering clothing, jewelry and accessories, along with home goods and gifts, including the exclusive Fornasetti® pieces, rare to US stores. Think buttery Italian leathers, Belgian scarves, and hand-selected pieces from Paris, all layered with intention and individual style. Ellen Shepp says, “Our staff excels at layering silhouettes, textures, colors and detail pieces, so each customer can go beyond their usual selections, and yet feel beautifully like themselves.”



The new space was designed from the ground up to offer a retail experience that feels more like visiting a fashionable friend’s home. You will be welcomed with a glass of champagne, wine, sparkling water or coffee. You’ll find luxurious dressing rooms on both floors. Whether working with a designer or browsing solo, you can discover things that spark joy, from sculptural heels and cashmere hats in luminous shades of melon, pink, and peacock blue to touchscreen-friendly gloves. For gift-giving, designers will help put together gifts that tell just the right story.

Customers may walk in or make a private appointment and Joan Shepp events are highlights of any season. In October, Laurel residents, who enjoy an ongoing store discount, will be invited to an exclusive champagne social at the store. More private local events, meet-and-greets with designers, holiday trunk shows, and party-dressing events are planned. Stay tuned for details.



Seasonal Styles on the Square

ELLEN SHEPP SAYS ELEGANT & EFFORTLESS

Autumn ushers in a palette of deep burgundies and layered browns that mix seamlessly with this season’s standout textures: faux furs, soft leathers, cashmeres, and sheer chiffons. “It’s about contrast and comfort,” says Ellen Shepp. “The fun is in the layering, in mixing silhouettes, moods, and fabrics to reflect your personality.”

Look for feminine silhouettes, cozy yet sculptural knits, and buttery leather jackets that feel cozy to wear and fun to collect. Heels and boots range from artful to architectural, designed not just to be admired, but actually walked in comfortably. Of note, Joan Shepp’s seasonal shoe collection is curated with Philadelphia in mind, a city recently voted the most walkable in America.

As winter arrives, fashions sparkle with elegant separates, dressy shoes and sophisticated jewelry with a twist. Think soft textures and unexpected details, such as Joan Shepp’s faux furs that look like vintage sweaters with rhinestone buttons. Look for gorgeous jewel tones, like the emerald-green satin and sequin design by Norma Kamala coming to the store this holiday season. From one-of-a-kind trendless styles to playful lace gloves, holiday fashions are all about personalizing styles and accessories for effortless comfort and beauty that perfectly matches your style.

Images Courtesy of Joan and Ellen Shepp



Make it a Holiday to Remember

CELEBRATING AROUND THE SQUARE

Celebrate the season and ring in the new year with Philadelphia's beloved winter events, offering festive cheer, cultural charm, and heartfelt community spirit in and around Rittenhouse Square.

The Traditional Tree Lighting in the Square

The official start to the holiday season, the annual Rittenhouse Square Tree Lighting gathers neighbors and friends for an evening of cheer as the 30-foot tree comes ablaze with 5,000 lights. The celebration includes live music, warm drinks and family-friendly activities.

Rittenhouse Row Holiday Celebration

Running throughout mid December this celebration takes place along Rittenhouse Row, pairing an upscale shopping stroll with boutique events, seasonal window displays, festive entertainment, and special promotions at local shops and restaurants.

The Mummers Parade

Start the new year off in Philly style with the Highlands of Enchantment parade, kicking off at 9 a.m. on New Year's Day at 17th & Market Streets. Winding south down Broad Street, this annual tradition features elaborate costumes, live music and distinctive community celebration.

Get Festive for the Holidays

AT FOUR SEASONS HOTEL PHILADELPHIA AT COMCAST CENTER

Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia, steps from The Laurel Rittenhouse Square, wants to make this holiday season more special than ever.

Enjoy a *Festive Brunch* held every Sunday in December, showcasing seasonal dishes in the warm inviting atmosphere above the clouds and overlooking the city skyline, at SkyHigh.

Experience *Feast of the Seven Fishes* at Vernick Fish at Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia. This modern take on a cherished holiday tradition celebrates Philadelphia's rich Italian heritage with a multi-course menu by Chefs Greg Vernick and Dave Paterniti, designed to perfectly complement festive cocktails, sparkling wines and indulgent desserts.

On *Christmas Day*, experience a luxuriously indulgent evening at Jean-Georges Philadelphia, featuring a Christmas Day dinner showcasing a curated tasting menu. Or delight in the elevated Christmas Day menu at SkyHigh highlighting modern interpretations of classic holiday dishes.

Ring in the *New Year Above the Clouds* with a night of opulence and elegance at Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia. Jean-Georges Philadelphia and SkyHigh present the perfect backdrop for celebrating the year to come surrounded by glimmering décor, live entertainment and magical fireworks. The evening begins with a decadent menu by the Jean-Georges' chef and continues through an unforgettable night of music and dancing up above the city. For assistance with reservations, contact The Laurel concierge.

Images Courtesy of Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia



A nighttime photograph of a city skyline. The central focus is a tall, modern skyscraper with a grid-like facade, illuminated from within, making it stand out against the dark blue night sky. To its left is a large, older building with many lit windows. Other various high-rise buildings are visible in the background, some with unique architectural features like a pointed roof. The overall scene is a dense urban environment at night.

A Bright Light Soaring Above The Skyline
THE LAUREL RITTENHOUSE SQUARE



Ask the Concierge

EXPERIENCE THE SEASONS LAUREL STYLE



One of the delightful aspects of living at The Laurel is the friendly and insightful concierge service, guiding residents to the best experiences Rittenhouse Square has to offer. In this issue, Laurel concierge, Cheick, shares some of his favorite things for all to enjoy this fall and winter.

FALL / WINTER PICKS & EXPERIENCES

For cozy dining, Assembly Rooftop Lounge, The Dandelion, and The Mulberry all have fireplaces or firepits — if you request it, you can usually get seated right near them.

Assembly is also a great spot to watch the *Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade*, which is actually the oldest parade in the country.

The *Christmas Village at Love Park* is always worth a visit for that holiday feeling, and the new All Aboard Candy is a fun stop if you have grandkids or little ones in town.

Franklin Square's *Electrical Spectacle Light Show* is another festive experience to enjoy with lights, music, and hot chocolate by the carousel.

For something indoors but still lively, The Franklin Institute usually has a big seasonal exhibit, and it's fun for both adults and kids.

Concierge Tip

For hard-to-get shows at the Kimmel Center or Academy of Music, calling the box office directly can sometimes get you seats that are not listed online.



Image Courtesy of Assembly Rooftop Lounge

THE GIFTS TO GIVE

Celebrate a season of effortless and elegant giving with gift ideas and store local boutique and shop suggestions from The Laurel concierge. Many of these stores offer personalized shopping experiences and special holiday events in and around the square. Happy Holidays!

- Boyds Philadelphia — Great for high-end fashion, accessories, and gifts.
- Joan Shepp — Newly opened in September, just a few doors down from The Laurel.
- Tiffany & Co. — Classic jewelry or keepsakes that always make an impression.
- Levain Bakery — Oversized cookies that make the perfect hostess gift.
- Season Tickets to the Kimmel Cultural Campus or Philadelphia Orchestra.
- A Spa Package at the Four Seasons Philadelphia Spa for something extra special.
- Anthropologie, the Rittenhouse flagship, for unique home décor and pretty little gifts.
- Coffee Gift Sets from Verve Coffee or Elixir delights any coffee lover.
- Gift Cards to Vernick Fish or Laser Wolf for a memorable dining experience.
- Gift Card to Borromini, to try this new restaurant on Walnut Street.
- For something playful, a “night out” package for a cooking class or wine tasting or candle making is always a favorite.

THE
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NEW LUXURY TOWER RESIDENCES FROM THE \$2 MILLIONS
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