

A Romantic's Guide to Philadelphia

Temperatures may be low this month, but romance is heating up all over the City of Brotherly Love. From horse-drawn carriage rides to DIY date nights, these spots and activities around the city are sure to put you in the mood for love. **BY AMY GORDON**

ROMANTIC RETAILERS

Spend some quality time—and maybe a few dollars—at Philadelphia shops and boutiques. The dazzling displays at the **LAGOS** flagship store (1735 Walnut St., 215.567.0770) are chock-full of earrings, bracelets, necklaces and other bejeweled accessories that will make any sweetheart swoon. Planning to visit one of the city's many bring-your-own-bottle restaurants while you're in town? The experts



at **Pinot Boutique** (227 Market St., 215.627.9463) can select the perfect vintage to complement any meal. **The Pleasure Chest** (2039 Walnut St., 215.561.7480) caters to customers who want to spice things up in the bedroom. The knowledgeable and discreet staff at this adults-only shop are on hand to help patrons find whatever they need, whether it's sexy lingerie or something a little more risqué.

DO-IT-YOURSELVES

Couples can get their hands dirty in these classes that combine quality time with hands-on fun. **The Clay Studio** (139 N. Second St., 215.925.3453) hosts Date Nights designed specifically for couples who want to sculpt and throw pottery together, and this

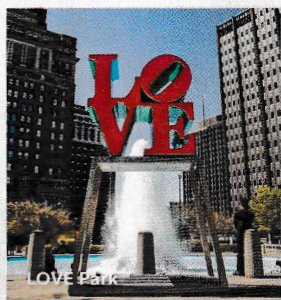
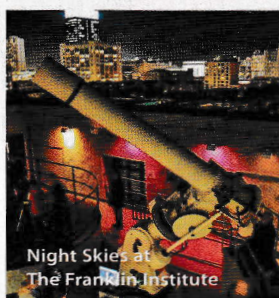
month the powers-that-be have added extra workshops to accommodate the event's high demand. On the food front, Marc Vetri's eponymous restaurant **Vetri** (1312 Spruce St., 215.732.3478) recently built a demo kitchen and private dining room that hosts cooking classes like **Meatless Monday** (Feb. 9) and **Risotto** (Feb. 11). Class sizes are small, so reserve seats early.

TOURS FOR TWO

Prefer to leave the planning to experts? On the **Mural Arts Love Letter Tour** (215.685.0750, muralarts.org), guests travel via elevated train past more than fifty rooftop murals by Philly's own Stephen Powers (aka ESPO) and his team. Tours depart from The Gallery (Ninth and Market streets, 215.625.4962) on Saturdays and Sundays. For old world-style romance, opt for a horse-drawn carriage ride from **76 Carriage Company** (Fifth and Chestnut streets, 215.389.8687).

ATTRACTIVE ATTRACTIONS

Take a walk on the romantic side at some of Philly's local attractions. With its Night Skies stargazing series, **The Franklin Institute** (222 N. 20th St., 215.448.1200) proves that science can be sexy. On the second Thursday of each month,



Chief Astronomer Derrick Pitts invites visitors into the Joel N. Bloom Observatory to view celestial objects like planets and stars through a selection of the museum's powerful telescopes. Back on earth, **Blue Cross RiverRink Winterfest** (Penn's Landing, 201 S. Columbus Blvd., 215.925.7465) feels like a mountain retreat right here in the city. This seasonal complex includes a riverside ice-skating rink, s'mores-ready fire pits and hundreds of shrubs and trees.

AMOUR OUTDOORS

The **Rodin Museum**, (2154 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, 215.763.8100) which re-opens after a full-scale reinstallation on Feb. 7, houses the largest collection of the artist's work outside of Paris, but admirers needn't even step inside to appreciate the works of art. Eight stunning sculptures, including "The Thinker," reside in the romantic outdoor garden, which is free and open to the public. Don't leave Philly without taking a photo or two in front of Robert Indiana's famed LOVE statue in **LOVE Park** (16th Street and JFK Boulevard). You may have to wait your turn behind other couples in love, but you'll walk away with an iconic, profile-picture-worthy snapshot to remind you of your Philly getaway.