

Chef's Spotlight: *Welcome to the Avenue*



It is often said that the kitchen is the heart of the home. It's where family and friends gather around food and talk about their lives. Perhaps there is nothing more welcoming than inviting someone into your kitchen.

Kwane Haywood and his wife, Akiai Worthington, did more than roll out the welcome mat to the community when they opened Welcome to the Avenue in Pottstown about three years ago. They put it right in the name. Then they brought the welcome to life each day from the kitchen to the table.

"People like to feel welcome," said Haywood. "I want to welcome them in and go above and beyond. I might not be able to please everyone but I'm going to try."

Born and raised in Saint Vincent, Haywood spent a lot of time in the kitchen watching and learning from mother. His father was a fisherman, so she cooked a lot fish.

"Most of the flavors are my mother's but the technique isn't."

Haywood has worked in the food service for over thirty years. Before coming to Pottstown he spent thirteen years in New York City working with renowned chefs and at high profile venues like Madison Square Garden and Yankee Stadium. When Haywood and Worthington arrived in Pottstown, they started with a pop-up mobile kitchen, catering and participated in special events. In 2017 at "The Carousel of Flavor" in Pottstown, their curry chicken won the award for Best Main Dish.

With a unique style and a passion for the craft, Haywood aims to bring fresh ingredients and inspired dishes to Montgomery County diners. He rises early and goes to Philadelphia to buy fresh produce. Then he returns to the kitchen in Pottstown where he focuses on freshness and flavor. He prepares a different soup and cooks everything on the menu fresh daily. If he runs out of oxtail, it's gone for the day.

"My background is Caribbean food and I wanted to give it a facelift. Most of the Caribbean restaurants I know are takeout. I add an artistic flair to each dish. People eat with their eyes first."



Chef Kwane Havwood



Fifty percent capacity due to coronavirus restrictions isn't enough for a place like Welcome to the Avenue that doesn't have the luxury of outdoor seating. Still, guests can experience the delicious flavors in each dish through takeout.

"I'm staying true to why I am and blend a lot of flavors and ideas," said Haywood.

The menu is Haywood's way of traveling - fusing together flavors.

There is jerk shrimp pasta with Alfredo sauce made from coconut milk. Bacon wrapped shrimp, an American favorite, paired with papaya mustard.

OTHER POPULAR MENU CHOICES ARE:

- Curry chicken (it won the award for Best Main Dish in 2017 at the "Carousel of Flavor" in Pottstown)
- · Braised turkey
- · Quinoa and avocado hot pot

"I want to make Caribbean food more spectacular," said Haywood.

CLOSING TIME WITH CHEF HAYWOOD

At-home kitchen tool I can't be without: Wooden spoon

Favorite Philly food you've come to love: Hoagie

WELCOME TO THE AVENUE

107 E. High St Pottstown, PA 19464 484.752.4076 Exhausted your go-to at home dinner recipes? Montgomery County gets it, and we're here for you. Enjoy local favorites from the comfort of your own home with take-out and delivery from Montco's **1,600+ restaurants**:



Welcome to the Avenue

Welcome to the Avenue

Welcome to the Avenue is known for its authentic Caribbean food and specialty cuisine. You can either visit them at their downtown Pottstown location or have them cater your next event.

welcometotheavenue.com

Creekside Sports Bar & Grill

Located on the grounds of the Landis Creek Golf Club, the Creekside Sports Bar and Grill offers all the game day favorites you crave, including wings, burgers, and craft beer.

creeksidesportsbar.com/food-menu.html

Grumpy's Handcarved Sandwiches

Don't let the name scare you away, Grumpy's is a friendly place with great food. Choose from one of 12 sandwiches, homemade soups and daily specials. If you're more of a morning person, they also serve breakfast burritos and sandwiches.

grumpyssandwiches.com/menu

Pottstown United Brewing Co.

Serving up fine brews and good eats in a comfortable rustic setting in Pottstown, PA.

pottstownunitedbrewing.com



Annamarie's

Juan Carlos Fine Mexican Cuisine

Juan Carlos is a B.Y.O.B restaurant introducing authentic and modern Mexican cuisine with a South American flair. Each meal is prepared with fresh local products and selected by the chef daily to create an exquisite dining experience.

jcmexicanfood.com/menu

iCreate Café

For all Vegans in Montgomery County. iCreate Cafe serves Mediterranean inspired dishes including falafel, hummus and salads with iCreate's signature dressings like fresh garlic and organic apple cider vinegar.

icreatecafe.com/menu

Copperfield Inn at Lakeside

Not far from downtown Pottstown is the beautiful Copperfield Inn at Lakeside. The Inn hosts lunch and dinner daily (the salads are a great choice at either time) with an impressive Sunday brunch buffet. copperfieldinn.net/menu/

Annamarie's Place

"If it ain't Annamarie's, it ain't breakfast!" Bustling, unfussy eatery dishing out hearty American breakfast & lunch specialties. menumodo.com/app.php/viewer/outlet/7391?lang=en



Copperfield Inn

Main Street Café

Main Street Cafe is a family-run restaurant in Royersford, serving breakfast & lunch for the past ten years.

mainstreetcaferoyersford.com/menu/

Brewed Awakening

Hometown coffee and tea shop in downtown Royersford. brewedawakeningcoffeehouse.com/menu

Tom's Bar & Grille

One of the oldest businesses in Royersford, PA. Tom's Bar & Grille is simply referred to as "Tom's" and offers pool tables, dart boards, small games of chance and features a variety of local bands. tomsbargrille.com/menu

Giovanni's Pizza & Restaurant

Homey, family-owned fixture providing brick-oven pies along with hearty Italian & American staples.

giovannis724.com/menu/

The Big Easy

Bar and Grill located on Main Street in Royersford specializing in seafood, Cajun food, and more.

thebigeasybargrill.com/menu.htm

A'Dello Winery: Montgomery County's Hidden Gem

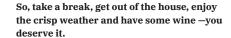
Somewhere in Montgomery County, up Route 73, an unassuming driveway turns away from a cornfield. Only the rustic wooden sign gives it away. At the end of the driveway lives a hidden gem: A'Dello Winery. You'd never know this place is here, but now we do!

As an Italian wine maker of 22 family-recipe wines, this winery has stayed strong during the pandemic due to their winery secret—they host customers mostly outside. This unique winery has kept people happy with their wines over the spring and summer, going on 17 years of producing great wines. Clearly Dom and Tina Dellose produce a product and an atmosphere that people want. In addition to the spacious outdoor area, the winery is also open for private events in their indoor space that opens to a picturesque stone patio. During this current climate, being able to travel locally and enjoy local wines safely has tremendous appeal.

Enter through a festive doorway into the tasting room and safely sample ten wines for \$10. Then buy a bottle or two and settle in under the trees and enjoy the sunshine. Bring your own food and snacks and make an afternoon of it. The Tasting Room is open every Thursday through Sunday, 11am to 6pm, with live music every Saturday and Sunday.* In addition, A'Dello has curbside pickup available daily.

All winemaking is done onsite with PA fruit, using family recipes to create great-tasting wines, all made with no harsh chemicals or additives. They produce their wines from September to November for the whole year, as using fresh fruit means production is limited to harvest season. Red wine is fermented in barrels for at least 2 years, while white and fruit wines are created and enjoyed as soon as possible. "One thing we consistently hear," says Tina, "is that our wines are the cleanest folks have ever tasted."

In the tasting room, you can sample and enjoy their Signature Red Wines, like Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon, Merlot, Chambourcin, or Sangiovese. Signature Whites include Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, and Chardonel. But don't walk away without trying all the fruit wines—they're the stars of this show. One might think fruit wines have to be syrupy sweet; that's not so with these wines. Forbidden Apple, Passionate Peach, Pearberry or Razzadello (a raspberry wine) fairly dance on your tongue. These refreshing wines are fabulous at any time of year.











A'DELLO WINERY

21 Simmons Rd Perkiomenville, PA 18704 **Open Thursday thru Sunday**

*Please check wine availability and curbside pickup status, current tasting room and winery hours and rules, mask requirements, social distancing, and other COVID-19 protocols at A'Dello Winery.

Christine Tarlecki is a local food and lifestyle writer, seeking out the best bites in the area and writing about them. She pens an award-winning food 8 lifestyle blog, Engchik Eats, at engchik.blogspot. com and teaches small business social media marketing classes. And don't miss the new Engchik Eats #podcast at https://anchor.fm/engchikeatsbychristinet Christine can be reached at engchik@gmail. com and under @engchik on all social media. #LocalLove



iCreate Café: Recipe Share & Side Dish

Farm-to-table vegan cafe located one block behind Pottstown's main street, between York and Hanover.



Falafel Burger

Served on a vegan multi-grain roll or whole wheat pita, with lettuce, super greens, slice of tomato, parsley and tahini dressing and/or mayo. Comes with a pickle on the side!

Made with:

Ground chickpeas, onions, garlic, and special spice blend

Still hungry?

Choose from one of these delicious Mediterranean favorites as an optional side dish:

- Hummus
- Baba Ghanoush
- Grape Leaves
- Falafel

ICREATE CAFÉ

130 King St Pottstown, PA 19464 484.312.0404

