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Support Greater Philadelphia's Latino-Owned Shops & Boutiques this Holiday Season

Artisan gifts, musical instruments, small-batch whiskey, ethical coffee and more.

PHILADELPHIA, November 22, 2023 – Nearly one in eight Philadelphians are of Latino heritage, with large populations of residents with Puertorriqueño, Dominican, El Salvadoran, Mexican, Cuban, Honduran and Colombian backgrounds.

So it's certainly no surprise that Latino merchants and makers from across cultures and countries offer a wide variety of awesome gifts and goods for purchase here in the Ciudad del Amor Fraternal.

These Latino and Latina small-business owners curate artisan gifts, import delicacies from Central and South America, bolster local authors and game makers, craft small-batch whiskey, local wine and zesty hot sauces, and even run luxury riverboats.

Whether you're visiting the region, moved and made a home here, or have lived in Philly your whole life, you're bound to find new and unexpected treasures when you shop local and explore just some of the city's many Latino-owned shops and boutiques featured here.

This list was compiled with the help of the [Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#) and the [Association of Mexican Business Owners of Philadelphia](#)

Retail Shops, Boutiques & Theaters

[Blissful Aesthetics and Wellness](#)

Blissful Aesthetics & Wellness, LLC, 2418 E. York Street #116

Open since 2020, [Blissful Aesthetics and Wellness](#) offers self-care services including anti-aging and anti-wrinkle treatments, hyaluronic dermal fillers, platelet-rich plasma injections and treatments and products for skin care, hair restoration, weight loss and more. Founder Marybell Rodriguez, a double board-certified nurse practitioner with a background in vascular surgery, interventional cardiology and endovascular medicine, offers services, treatments and plenty of products at her Fishtown shop and studio for both men and women that make for great gifts.

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Casa Papel

Online and at Casa Papel, 804 N. 2nd Street

In a digital and disposable world, the classic gift of beautiful hand-designed stationery, journals, wedding invitations and other high-end artisanal paper goods never goes out of style. That's the timeless story at [Casa Papel](#), founded by Cecilia G. Torres, who designs invitations, note cards, holiday cards, Italian folio sets, bound journals, announcements, letterhead, business cards and more beautiful communications sold through Casa Papel's web store. Shop online or by appointment at the spot's colorful consultative studio for customized service.

Centro Musical

Centro Musical, 464 W. Lehigh Avenue

You might hear music from down the street before you even see the muraled storefront along Lehigh Avenue, thanks to exterior speakers piping out various genres of Latin music. Take a step inside [Centro Musical](#), a Kensington institution for nearly 70 years, and explore a plethora of instruments (for Latin music and beyond), plus records and CDs, gifts, novelties and specialty items, many from Puerto Rico. If you're lucky, you'll catch a stellar in-store performance or impromptu jam.

ChocoArte

ChocoArte, 1168 S. 9th Street

Don't let the name fool you. The chocolate in [ChocoArte](#) (formerly Chocolate Art & Crafts) is a culture, a lifestyle and a vibe at this uber-colorful [Italian Market](#) arts and crafts boutique. Located a block from the [East Passyunk](#) cheesesteak corner, ChocoArte offers an impressive array of handcrafted items from Mexico including pottery, masks, decorations, textiles, statement attire in every color imaginable and a ton of items for your Día de Los Muertos altar.

Julia de Burgos Bookstore at Taller Puertorriqueño

Julia de Burgos Bookstore at Taller Puertorriqueño, 2600 N. 5th Street

A deep-rooted community art center that aims to promote Puerto Rican culture and Latino arts, [Taller Puertorriqueño](#) offers arts education programs, author events and art exhibitions at its West Kensington museum space. Inside Taller is [Julia de Burgos Bookstore](#) — the only Spanish/English bilingual specialty bookshop in Philadelphia — which specializes in works by Latino authors and books about Latin America and social justice. The shop also sells art and gifts (jewelry, tote bags, candles) handcrafted by Latino and Latina artists and artisans, with plenty of local representation.

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Latin Fashion

Latin Fashion, 4648 N. 5th Street

Along North Philly's 5th Street shopping corridor, Patricia Arcila's [Latin Fashion](#) sits as an icon for Latina apparel designs and positive body image. Specializing in form-fitting jeans and stylish undergarments, intimate apparel and shapewear, Latin Fashion is the first store in Philadelphia to specialize in Colombian items like faja, lingerie, leggings, corsets and girdles. Seeking to project a positive and healthy image for women of all sizes, the shop even features its own brand of girdles made in Colombia.

Power Street Theatre

Online and various locations including Teatro Esperanza, 4261 N. 5th Street

Founded in 2012 by then-Temple University undergrads Gabriela Sanchez and Erlina Ortiz, [Power Street Theater](#) has become a vital collective of multidisciplinary artists and activists serving Philadelphia's Latino community. With a mission to create meaningful change in the theater world and within multicultural communities and preserve cultural stories, the organization offers both community-driven live theater shows and professional-led classes and workshops in writing and performance at locations around the city. Tickets to shows, festivals and a branded merch line are available online.

Queen & Rook Game Cafe

Queen & Rook Game Cafe, 607 S. 2nd Street

A full-fledged game emporium in [Queen Village](#), [Queen & Rook Game Cafe](#) features a wide variety of puzzles and novelty board games, including some locally produced. An analog game room, neighborhood pub and eclectic burger shop in one, the cozy spot features games to play while browsing in-store or grabbing a bite from the full restaurant menu (lots of vegetarian and gluten-free selections), a coffee from an eclectic café selection, a craft beer or fantasy-themed cocktail from the well-stocked bar. Pick up a favorite game to go for the perfect gift.

Sea Philly

Sea Philly, 215 S. Christopher Columbus Boulevard

Based at [Penn's Landing](#), [Sea Philly](#) — a private picnic boat offering excursions on the Delaware River — is one of just a handful of riverboat companies in the country owned by a woman, and possibly the only by a Latina woman. Imagine the joy of presenting a loved one with the gift of an intimate picnic cruise aboard the Argonaut, Georgette Luna's 1961 27-foot mahogany Chris Craft, for a romantic voyage that can include perks like charcuterie service or free swimming expeditions. The Argonaut was even named Philadelphia magazine's [best place to pop the question](#).

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The Tricycle Cafe & Bicycle Shop

The Tricycle Cafe & Bicycle Shop, 1 Station Avenue, Conshohocken

Billing itself as the “Hub of Conshohocken’s Biking Community,” The Tricycle Cafe & Bicycle Shop is part retail cycle store, part bike repair center and part neighborhood café. A community vibe permeates this Black- and Latino-owned operation just off of the Schuylkill River Trail which not only offers a great selection of new and demo bikes and cycling gear (plus a professional service and repair shop for that needed tune-up) but is also perfect pit stop for coffee, teas, sandwiches and wraps, smoothies and freshmade pastries. Bonus: Bike rentals are available as well.

Food & Drink Shops

El Merkury

El Merkury, 2104 Chestnut Street

El Merkury at Reading Terminal Market, 51 N. 12th Street

Whether out strolling Rittenhouse Square or around Reading Terminal Market, Sofia Deleon’s selection of Central American street food at El Merkury is always enticing. Featuring gift ideas including a wide variety of food stuffs (by the pound or quart) and eclectic crafts, Deleon’s goal is to bring community together through food. Hear more from Deleon in season 3, episode 8 of our Love + Grit podcast.

FAIYA

FAIYA, 3525 I Street

There’s no such thing as too hot for spicyphile fans of Kensington’s FAIYA hot sauce company. Founded by Radhi and Mónica Fernández as a pandemic project, FAIYA’s organic hot sauces can now be found at farmers markets throughout the region and in their online shop. The colorful line of small-batch sauces includes flavors like the mango, spiced whiskey and maple syrup Mama Juana; the blueberry jalapeño Purple Flame; and the mango habanero What the Fuego. Hear more from Fernandez on season 3, episode 19 of our Love + Grit podcast.

Helados Chupi Chupi

Various locations including Juniata Super Market, 901 E. Luzerne Street

Whether you translate chupi as “little sweetie” or “awesome,” both terms describe Alexei Encarnación’s homemade helados (ice cream) and paletas (ice pops). But it wasn’t Alexei that came up with the idea; leave that to his then-nine-year-old daughter, who started making popsicles as a hobby. Today that hobby has blossomed into a business, with Helados Chupi Chupi selling its all-natural artisanal frozen treats — featuring bright flavors like pineapple, piña colada, mango, coconut, passion fruit and more — at retail outlets across the region, including Juniata Supermarket in Feltonville, 7 Brothers Supermarket in Olney

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and J&J Supermarket in South Philly. Got a private party to cater? Hire the mobile ice cream bicycle or popsicles car.

J&J Supermarket

J&J Supermarket, 1839 S. 7th Street

In a city filled with neighborhood markets and small grocers, one of the most beloved for Latin American food and ingredients is South Philly's [J&J Supermarket](#). The stocked-to-the-rafters grocery carries thousands of cultural staples, fresh produce and hard-to-find imports (think bacalao and salchichon) from Mexico, Columbia, Puerto Rico and owner Juan Carlos Romano's native Dominican Republic, along with a generous hot food bar. Romano personally purveys his favorite items (like taino cookies and galletitas de leche), and revels in the diversity of his clientele, reflecting the neighborhood's rich mix.

Máquina Coffee Roasters

Online and at Máquina Coffee Roasters, 139 E. Chestnut Street, Coatesville

Seeing coffee as a mission, founder Gabriel Boscana of [Máquina Coffee Roasters](#) has serious chops as a former roasting manager for Intelligentsia Coffee. His online shop (located in Coatesville with plans for a service window in the near future) offers coffee subscriptions for a slew of blends (ethically sourced from places like El Salvador, Kenya, Colombia and Honduras) then roasted locally with care. Shop-branded gifts including T-shirts and artist collab gear are also available, with proceeds from the business — also LGBT Business Enterprise certified — supporting non-profits like Planned Parenthood, the NAACP and the ACLU.

Mural City Cellars

Mural City Cellars, 2146 E. Susquehanna Avenue

Branding their [Fishtown](#) operation as "Philly's Neighborhood Winery," personal and business partners Nicholas Ducos and Francesca Galarus founded [Mural City Cellars](#) with a goal of making wine more affordable, accessible and local using grapes from small regional farms and minimal intervention. Ducos' sommelier skills and Galarus' eye for arts and community helped Mural City — the city's first independent urban winery — bloom into a welcoming destination for "uncomplicated, un-stuffy, un-manipulated" wine and chill vibes, influenced by the city's beloved local brewery scene. Hear more on [season 2, episode 18](#) of our [Love + Grit podcast](#).

Philly Pop Up Picnics

Growing up underprivileged in North Philly, [Philly Pop Up Picnics](#) founder Christina Figueroa reveled in memories of her family packing up the station wagon with a cooler and a blanket to head off for a picnic. That's the feeling Figueroa wants to impart to others with her Latina- and LGBTQ-owned company, providing a turnkey picnic experience in any location with packages from couples to large groups (even proposals) with accouterments like high-quality décor, cushioned seating, flowers and dinnerware, plus add-ons like charcuterie boards, a donut stand or a professional photographer.

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Strivers' Row Whiskey

Order online and pick up at Strivers' Row Distillery, 3401 I Street, Unit 306

Kensington's [Strivers' Row Whiskey](#) is finding its spot in history, as the only Latino-owned whiskey company in the Northeast and one of the smallest commercial distilleries in the country. Founder Francisco Garcia was born in the Dominican Republic and grew up in Harlem's infamous Strivers' Row, with his story resonating within the spirits community as he broke new ground as a pioneering Latino distiller. His "grain-to-glass" single-malt whiskey and barrel-aged rum can be [ordered online](#) and picked up in-person. Learn more about Garcia on [season 2, episode 16](#) of our [Love + Grit](#) podcast.

Must-Visit Latino-Owned Philly Restaurants

From Nicole Marquis' hip vegan bar-restaurant Charlie was a sinner. to James Beard Award winner Cristina Martinez's [South Philly Barbacoa](#) to Jezabel Careaga's eponymous Argentinian bakery, there are scores of incredible spots in Philly for dinner, drink and dessert. For more, check out Visit Philly's roundup of over [30 of the best Latino-owned Philly eateries](#).

About Visit Philadelphia:

VISIT PHILADELPHIA® is our name and our mission. As the region's official tourism marketing agency, we build Greater Philadelphia's image, drive visitation and boost the economy. On Greater Philadelphia's official visitor website, [visitphilly.com](#), visitors can explore things to do, upcoming events, themed itineraries and hotel packages.

Compelling photography and videos, interactive maps and detailed visitor information make the site an effective trip-planning tool. Visitors can also find loads of inspiration on Visit Philly's social media channels.

Note to Editors: For high-resolution photos and high-definition B-roll of Greater Philadelphia, visit the Photos & Video section of [visitphilly.com/mediacenter](#).