

# Manayunk pub shows its love of things Irish

## Kildare's — An Irish Experience

4417 Main St., 215-482-7242.  
www.kildarespub.com.

**Hours.** 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily (limited menu 11 a.m. to midnight). Sunday brunch is served from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Smoking permitted
- Wheelchair-accessible
- Reservations accepted
- Take-out available

**Prices.** Appetizers and sandwiches range from \$6.95 to \$10.95; entrees are \$13.95 to \$22.95.

**Parking.** Street parking can be dicey, especially on weekend nights. Consider using the pay lot on Main Street, across from the restaurant.

**What's the story?** Proprietor Dave Magrohan has become a mini-mogul of the local restaurant biz, opening three popular Irish Experiences in less than two years. First came Kildare's in West Chester, followed by King of Prussia, and most recently, he transformed Manayunk's former Kansas City Prime into a rollicking yet friendly pub environment.

**The scene.** Kildare's is handsomely designed and decorated with authentic Irish artifacts, oaken planks, and a bar that has come from the Emerald Isle. The restaurant is multigenerational: shoppers at lunch; families at dinner; then twentysomethings till the wee hours.

**What we had.** Our enjoyable dinner began with two shared appetizers: the fried calamari served with a mustard dipping sauce (\$8.95), and the crab and avocado medley drizzled with pesto and creme fraiche (\$10.95). From there, we moved on to entrees. My old-style pork chop (\$14.95) was juicy and sweet, lacquered with a spiced apple demi-glace. One guest went with the Connemara-styled salmon, potatoes and vegetables (\$15.95), while another opted for something lighter — Kildare's classic Caesar salad (\$4.95 small; \$5.95 large).

The restaurant also specializes in boxty, a traditional Irish countryside dish, made from potato rolled and stuffed with fillings such as chicken and cheese, salmon, vegetables or shrimp (\$8.95-\$12.95). They also serve build-your-own sandwiches (\$7.95) from a selection called the Carvery.

**Chef's suggestions.** Executive chef Stephanie Goldberg is keen on her Irish Originals, such as the shepherd's pie loaded with ground

beef, peas, carrots, celery and onions, baked in mashed potatoes (\$12.95). She also takes pride in her traditional Irish stew served bubbling in its own natural juices (\$15.95), and the signature salmon sandwich on sourdough and slathered with a citrus mayonnaise (\$7.95).

**Nice touches.** It's a beer-lover's

haven with 22 on draft and 64 bottle offerings including the hard-to-come-by Smithwick's Irish Ale. Kildare's also carries a vast selection of scotches and rare Irish whiskeys.

**After you eat.** Manayunk's Main Street is a boutique mecca, with dozens of nifty shops to peruse during a pre- or post-meal stroll.

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