

## Memories Mark the Menu at Vickers

By Susan I. Shiber  
Photography by Spark Photography

*Vickers*

Long before chefs became celebrities competing for rock star of recipe acclaim, an unassuming master with an easy smile quietly served up culinary rapture that would make even irascible Gordon Ramsey smack his lips and cry for more. Arturo Burigatto put Vickers on the map as a Chester County destination for fine European-inspired dining in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. He sold the restaurant in 1999, and after a brief retirement, re-purchased it. Once again Arturo presents his unrivaled tradition of tableside preparation and flambé that attracts discriminating diners throughout the countryside.

In the past, if anyone planned an event deemed important or beyond special, Vickers was the venue of choice. Today it's no different. From



*Above: Sarah and Dave Lukens are among the restaurant's most enthusiastic admirers. The couple, who held their wedding reception at Vickers this spring, is ecstatic with its extraordinary quality and personal care.*





formal to corporate, spread out to intimate, elegant to chic casual, each occasion is customized, and every detail enhanced.

Sarah and Dave Lukens are among the restaurant's most enthusiastic admirers. The couple, who held their wedding reception at Vickers this spring, is ecstatic with its extraordinary quality and personal care.

"When we discovered Vickers, we fell in love with the beauty and wrapped our wedding around its historic charm," says Sarah. "Another big selling point was Amanda (Burigatto Brogan, Vickers' director of marketing and events). She was so professional and responsive. Behind-the-scenes orchestration was absolutely priceless. We were able to truly enjoy every minute of our reception, thanks to her event team's impeccable attentiveness."

A wedding party of 120 mingled throughout the bar and patio before sitting down for dinner and dancing in the Plantation Ballroom. In addition to the magnificent ballroom, the historically favorite Hunt Room was made private for the Lukens' wedding, bridal party waiting area, and gifts. "We are thrilled with our photographs, as well," remarks Sarah. "We got stunning shots in the gardens, with rustic farm equipment, by a wall that was part of the original 1822



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structure, and indoors posed by original paintings. We didn't give a lot of thought to photo opportunities and, *wow*, there they were."

The Lukens' wedding menu was vintage Vickers' perfection. Heritage spinach salad drizzled with creamy house dressing and topped with crisp bacon was followed by either filet mignon au chasseur or filet of sole with crab. "One couple is vegetarian," notes Sarah, "and Arturo prepared two special platters for them. They raved and now dine at Vickers on a regular basis."

Other kudos came when the bride and groom's cake was served. Moist vanilla bean sponge cake iced with luxuriously rich vanilla butter cream nestled in fresh berries. "All the food was fantastic and so beautifully plated," gushes Sarah. "The portions were surprisingly large, and a handsomely attired wait staff quickly responded to any and every request. To say the least, we were just blown away by Vickers."

To help other couples attain the Lukens' experience, Vickers set up a wedding website. "We're a popular place for receptions and bridal-related events," says Amanda, "and there are those proverbial *frequently asked questions*. The site addresses many of them. We're not merely a venue, but event planners dedicated to fulfilling dreams. Weddings are not cut-and-dry because not every couple is the same. We meet with every bride and groom, their sisters, their maid of

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honor, and whomever they want to visit, because we want to create an event that reflects their style.”

A typical wedding party includes one hour of passed hors d'oeuvres, a four-hour open bar, choices of appetizer and entrée, a spectacular wedding cake, and pre-wedding cake-tasting. When Vickers is secured for a reception, Amanda provides a preferred list of some of the best wedding vendors in the area. “Vickers has relationships that exceed 35 years,” she reveals. “We know the outstanding musicians, florists, photographers, limousines, invitation artists, printers, and even hotels for out-of-town guests. Because of our association, clients often receive special pricing.”

Amanda suggests that couples getting married next summer should call now to ensure a flawless day. “Because everything is customized, we prefer having ample time, but don’t worry, we’re here for those who have a tighter time schedule.”

Additionally, Vickers is a prime location for family parties, special occasions, business meetings, corporate gatherings, and charity functions off-and on-site. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, Chester County Day VIP patrons will delight to Arturo’s Continental cuisine at the Chester County Historical Society on the eve of The Chester County Hospital fundraiser.

Holiday parties sparkle from first toast to scrumptious dessert. Last year, numerous companies hosted lunches, dinners, and festive receptions in November, December, and January. The events were so memorable that reservations were immediately made for 2010. For that reason, Amanda and Arturo advise smart corporate party planners to schedule now for popular dates that go quickly.

As a big fan of this captivating restaurant and Chef Arturo’s magic, I agree. Don’t miss out on a great party. When selecting a menu, I heartily recommend filet of bison. Vickers introduced this healthy entrée 35 years ago, and it still remains a customer favorite. Bison is lower in fat, calories, and cholesterol, and higher in protein than most other meats. He serves it in a morel demi-glace accompanied with fresh asparagus and braised fennel.

You don’t have to be invited to a party to share the culinary thrill of Vickers. Have lunch, a light snack in the bar, or an incomparable dinner six

days a week. And – if you’re seeking hero status, give a friend or loved one a gift certificate. •

**Vickers Restaurant**  
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