

THIS FALL  
THE VERY  
BEST OF

venues: now  
entertaining

devour: private  
dining rooms  
and catering to  
good taste

relax: where to  
prepare

## Down and Out

CESCAPHE EVENT GROUP EXPANDS ITS EMPIRE OF SOUGHT-AFTER VENUES WITH THE DOWNTOWN CLUB, A MODERN ODE TO 1920S ELEGANCE. BY ALEXANDRA LESHNER

Known for over-the-top celebrations and Cinderella-worthy weddings, Cescaphe Event Group has conquered Philly's party and entertaining scene with its many breathtaking event spaces, including local favorites like The Atrium at The Curtis Center and Vie. Adding to its impressive roster is The Down Town Club, Cescaphe's revitalization of a space in the Public Ledger Building. "[We] invested close to \$1 million to transform the 92-year-old historic space, which included the creation of a new cocktail area, a complete hardwood floor and carpet renovation, and the installation of new window treatments to modernize the space and take full advantage of the gorgeous views to the south and east of the city," says Cescaphe owner and CEO Joe Volpe. The venue, which Volpe calls ideal for both "lavish sit-down affairs and high-energy cocktail par-

ties" and which accommodates up to 400 guests, is a stunning combination of old-world opulence and modern minimalism. The building was designed in 1921, and Cescaphe stayed true to the original styling but added contemporary flair with streamlined furnishings and chic, simple décor. Like its other venues, The Down Town Club offers the award-winning menus and top-notch catering that Volpe's team is renowned for. Executive Chef Jayson Grossberg is at the helm here, producing "legendary cocktail hours" and memorable dishes worthy of the Cescaphe name. Says Volpe, "Whether you're planning an affair that includes dinner and dancing or cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, The Down Town Club offers unmatched elegance, incredible views, and the highest service standards in the business." 600 Chestnut St., 215-238-5750; [downtownclub.com](http://downtownclub.com) **PS**