

New York City List
March 2025

Craig Ustler
My New York City...

You can never fully “experience” New York City, and that is what makes it so great. It is bold and overwhelming at first, but you are also immediately drawn to its intensity, activity and excitement. New York is a city that you have to work to get to know. You always feel like there is more to see or do. When you leave, you want to come back. No other city carries the intrigue and wonder of New York. It lives and breathes at a pace and rhythm that is impossible to emulate.

“The City” is the leading urban laboratory in the world. The most unique and diverse collection of neighborhoods and cultures that you can find. A fascinating and always changing patchwork of diversity, culture, intelligence, accomplishment, attitude and achievement.

New York is the most walkable and most urban place I have ever been. I am a perpetual student of great cities and the walks of New York are the ultimate teacher. Density comes to be understood as the great driver of so many wonderful things. The famous urbanist Jane Jacobs called New York a “fantasy of urban life” and it is true. Jacobs was a champion of mixed use, different and creative urban communities and she was at home in New York’s wonderful neighborhoods. If you do one thing in NYC, walk...and walk some more. “If you love to walk, New York is your sweetheart”.

Only in New York City is “urban planning” listed in the annual “best reasons to love New York” issue of the most prominent local magazine. Residents of this city “get it” and they are fiercely loyal and supportive of what they know is the greatest city on earth. People will argue about anything, and that is good. The citizenry is engaged and opinionated.

NYC is never finished. It is always changing. Constantly in motion. To keep up is challenging, and that is the point. NYC embraces reinvention.

This city is the center and concentration of business, culture, knowledge, entertainment, creativity, diversity and expression. A mix of income, age, class and national origin. It all works here. New York is society in motion.

An architectural wonderland with great buildings, places and parks. A “city of readers” that takes pride in being well read. And the food and dining...the “culinary epicenter of the universe”.

Enjoy New York City...the most interesting and inspiring place in the world to learn and live.

HOTELS

Classic NYC

JW Marriott Essex House

160 Central Park South, Midtown

www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/nycex-jw-marriott-essex-house-new-york

Loews Regency

540 Park Avenue, Upper East side

www.loewshotels.com/regency-hotel

Omni Berkshire Place

Good value in a great location, not as luxurious as the others, but still very nice, refined yet comfortable

21 East 52nd Street, at Madison Avenue, Midtown

www.omnihotels.com

Ritz Carlton Central Park

Feels like Europe, quaint and elegant, great location on Central Park

50 Central Park South, at 6th Avenue, Midtown

www.ritzcarlton.com

The Carlyle

Upper East Side institution, high society and old money abound, located in the most upscale neighborhood in the City

35 East 76th Street, at 6th Avenue, Upper East Side

www.thecarlyle.com

The Peninsula

Beautiful historic hotel in the heart of the action, on 5th Avenue shopping stretch, near Rockefeller Center, Times Square/Broadway Shows and the MOMA

700 5th Avenue, at 55th Street, Midtown

www.newyork.peninsula.com

Five Star

Four Seasons

Gorgeous post modern building by I.M. Pei, the best of contemporary luxury

57 East 57th Street, between Madison Avenue and Park Avenue, Midtown

www.fourseasons.com/newyork

HOTELS CONTINUED

Five Star continued

Lotte New York Palace
455 Madison Avenue, Midtown
www.lottenypalace.com

Mandarin Oriental
Hotel is on upper floors of Time Warner Center, amazing lobby, great views of Central Park and Columbus Circle, Lincoln Center and Upper West Side
80 Columbus Circle, at 60th Street, Midtown
www.mandarinoriental.com/newyork

St. Regis
A legendary landmark, beautifully restored and maintained building, with white glove service
2 East 55th Street, at 5th Avenue, Midtown
www.stregis.com

Great Finds

Hotel Giraffe
Similar to a contemporary NYC apartment building, large rooms, comfortable lobby for business, Murray Hill location near Madison Square Park, great home base for a longer stay, cool rooftop terrace
365 Park Avenue South, at 26th Street, Flatiron/Gramercy
www.hotelgiraffe.com

Library Hotel
Each floor is a literary theme per the categories of the Dewey Decimal System, the “library” is on the second floor and is a great place to relax and read in the afternoon, near the NY Public Library and everything else in midtown Manhattan, this is a “non touristy” hotel in a good location for visitors
299 Madison Avenue, at 41st Street, Midtown
www.libraryhotel.com

The Fifth Avenue Hotel
1 West 28th Street, Nomad
www.thefifthavenuehotel.com

The Kimberly Hotel
145 East 50th Street, Midtown
www.kimberlyhotel.com

HOTELS CONTINUED

Great Finds continued

The Whitby

18 West 56th Street, Midtown

www.firmdalehotels.com/hotels/new-york/the-whitby-hotel

Trendy

Bryant Park Hotel

Former home of “Fashion Week” in NYC and still popular with the “style set”, wonderfully restored Art Deco building, perfect location on Bryant Park

40 West 40th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues, Midtown

www.bryantparkhotel.com

Hotel Gansevoort

Trendy and cool, located in the Meatpacking District, the “see and be seen” place in the current “in neighborhood” for nightlife

18 9th Avenue, at West 13th Street, Meatpacking District

www.hotelgansevoort.com

Pendry Manhattan West

438 West 33rd Street, Hudson Yards

www.pendry.com/manhattan-west

Soho Grand Hotel

310 West Broadway, Soho

www.sohogrand.com

The New York Edition Hotel

5 Madison Avenue, Flatiron/Gramercy

www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/nyceb-the-new-york-edition

W Union Square

There are several W Hotels in the City and admittedly they are the corporate version of the “hip urban hotel” trend that Ian Schrager started, but this one in Union Square is great

210 Park Avenue South, at East 17th Street, Union Square

www.wnewyorkunionsquare.com

RESTAURANTS

Trendy

Avra

14 East 60th Street, Upper East Side

www.theavragroup.com/avra-madison

Beauty & Essex

146 Essex Street, Lower East Side

www.taogroup.com/venues/beauty-essex-new-york

Buddakan

75 9th Avenue at 16th Street, Chelsea

www.buddakannyc.com

Catch

21 9th Avenue at 13th Street, Meatpacking District

www.catchnewyorkcity.com

Cote Korean Steakhouse

16 West 22nd Street, Flatiron/Gramercy

www.cotenyc.com

Indochine

430 Lafayette Street near Astor Place, NoHo

www.indochinenyc.com

Nobu 57

40 West 57th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues, Midtown

www.noburestaurants.com/fifty-seven.com

Pastis

52 Gansevoort Street, Meatpacking District

www.pastisnyc.com

Philippe

33 East 60th Street at Madison Avenue, Upper East Side

www.philippechow.com

STK - Downtown

26 Little West 12th Street near 9th Avenue, Meatpacking District

www.stkhouse.com

RESTAURANTS CONTINUED

Trendy continued

Tao

42 East 58th Street near Madison Avenue, Midtown

www.taorestaurant.com

The Standard Grill

848 Washington Street at West 13th Street, Meatpacking District

www.thestandardgrill.com

Zaytinya

1185 Broadway

www.zaytinya.com

Zou Zou's

385 9th Avenue Suite 85

www.zouzousnyc.com

Steak

Bowery Meat Company

9 East 1st Street at Bowery, East Village

www.bowerymeatcompany.com

Del Frisco's New York

1221 Avenue of the Americas at 49th Street, Theater District

www.delfriscos.com/steakhouse/new-york

Hawksmoor

109 East 22nd Street, Flatiron/ Gramercy

www.hawksmoornyc.com

Hunt & Fish Club

125 West 44th Street near Avenue of the Americas, Theater District

www.hfcnyc.com

Porter House Bar & Grill

10 Columbus Circle, Midtown

www.porterhousenyc.com

RESTAURANTS CONTINUED

Steak continued

Quality Meats

57 West 58th Street near 6th Avenue, Midtown

www.qualitymeatsnyc.com

The Grill

99 East 52nd Street, Midtown

www.thegrillnewyork.com

Steak Old School

Delmonico's

56 Beaver Street, Financial District

www.theoriginaldelmonicos.com

Keens Steak House

72 West 36th Street near 6th Avenue, Midtown

www.keens.com

Gallagher's

228 West 52nd Street at Broadway, Theater District

www.gallaghersnysteakhouse.com

Peter Luger Steak House Brooklyn

178 Broadway at Driggs Avenue, Brooklyn

www.peterluger.com

Smith & Wollensky (original location)

797 3rd Avenue, Midtown

www.smithandwollenskynyc.com

Sparks Steak House

210 East 46th Street near 3rd Avenue, Midtown

www.sparkssteakhouse.com

Strip House

13 East 12th Street, between 5th Avenue and University Place, Greenwich Village

www.striphouse.com

RESTAURANTS CONTINUED

Steak Old School continued

Wolfgang's Steakhouse – Park Avenue location
4 Park Avenue at 33rd Street, Murray Hill
www.wolfgangsteakhouse.net

Great Finds

Cecchi's
105 West 13th Street, West Village
www.cecchis.nyc

Charlie Bird
5 King Street near Macdougall Street, West Village
www.charliebirdnyc.com

Dowling's at The Carlyle Hotel
35 East 76th Street, Midtown
www.rosewoodhotels.com/en/the-carlyle-new-york/dining

El Parador Café, old school Mexican
235 East 34th Street near 1st Avenue, Midtown
www.elparadorcafe.com

Empellón Taqueria
230 West 4th Street at West 10th Street, West Village
www.empellon.com

Freemans
Freeman's Alley, Lower East Side
www.freemansrestaurant.com

Fresco by Scotto
34 East 52nd Street, Midtown
www.frescobyscottony.com

Gemma Restaurant
335 Bowery at Bond Street, at the Bowery Hotel, East Village
www.theboweryhotel.com

RESTAURANTS CONTINUED

Great Finds continued

Joe Allen

326 West 46th Street, between 8th and 9th Avenues, Theater District

www.joeallenrestaurant.com

Knickerbocker

33 University Place at 9th Street, Greenwich Village

www.knickerbockerbarandgrill.com

L'Express (late night)

249 Park Avenue South at 20th Street, Flatiron/Gramercy

www.lexpressnyc.com

La Esquina

114 Kenmare Street at Lafayette Street, Nolita

www.esquinanyc.com

Lambs Club

132 West 44th Street, Theater District

www.thelambsclub.com

Marc Forgione

30 Hudson Street, Tribeca

www.marcforgione.com

Maya Mexican

1191 1st Avenue, Upper East Side

www.mayanewyorkcity.com

Minetta Tavern

113 Macdougall Street at Minetta Lane, Greenwich Village

www.minettatavernny.com

Monterey

37 East 50th Street, Midtown

www.montereyny.com

Morandi

211 Waverly Place, between 10th Street and Charles Street, West Village

www.morandiny.com

RESTAURANTS CONTINUED

Great Finds continued

Pete's Tavern
129 East 18th Street, Flatiron/Gramercy
www.petestavern.com

Portale
126 West 18th Street, Chelsea
www.portalerestaurant.com

Quality Bistro
120 West 55th Street, Midtown
www.qualitybistro.com

Red Rooster
310 Lenox Avenue, between 125th and 126th Streets, Harlem
www.redroosterharlem.com

Sardi's
234 West 44th Street, Theater District
www.sardis.com

Thai Villa
5 East 19th Street, Flatiron/Gramercy
www.thaivillanyc.com

The Clam
420 Hudson Street at Leroy Street, West Village
www.theclamnyc.com

The Clocktower
5 Madison Avenue near Park Avenue, Flatiron/Gramercy
www.theclocktowntower.com

The Dutch
131 Sullivan Street at Prince Street, SoHo
www.thedutchnyc.com

The Odeon
145 West Broadway at Thomas Street, Tribeca
www.theodeonrestaurant.com

RESTAURANTS CONTINUED

Setting the Standard

Balthazar

80 Spring Street near Crosby Street, SoHo

www.balthazarny.com

Cosme

35 East 21st Street between Broadway and Park Avenue, Flatiron/Gramercy

www.cosmenyc.com

Craft

43 East 19th Street near Park Avenue, Flatiron/Gramercy

www.craftrestaurantsinc.com

Estela

47 East Houston Street near Lafayette Street, Nolita

www.estelany.com

Gramercy Tavern

42 East 20th Street near Park Avenue, Flatiron/Gramercy

www.gramercytavern.com

Harry's

1 Hanover Square, Financial District

www.harrysbarrestaurant.com

La Grande Boucherie

145 West 53rd Street, Midtown

www.boucherieus.com

Marea

240 Central Park South, Midtown

www.marearestaurant.com

One if by Land, Two if by Sea

17 Barrow Street, Greenwich Village

www.oneifbyland.com

The Modern – The Bar Room and The Dining Room

9 West 53rd Street near 5th Avenue, Midtown

www.themodernnyc.com

RESTAURANTS CONTINUED

Setting the Standard continued

The River Café

1 Water Street at Brooklyn Bridge, Dumbo/Brooklyn

www.rivercafe.com

Union Square Café

101 East 19th Street, Flatiron/Gramercy

www.unionsquarecafe.com

Upland

345 Park Avenue South at East 26th Street, Flatiron/Gramercy

www.uplandnyc.com

Seafood

Crave Fishbar

945 2nd Avenue between 50th and 51st Streets, Midtown

www.cravefishbar.com

Lure Fishbar

142 Mercer Street at Prince Street, SoHo

www.lurefishbar.com

Mermaid Inn – Chelsea

227 10th Avenue, Chelsea

www.themermaidnyc.com

Oceans

233 Park Avenue South, Flatiron/Gramercy

www.oceansnewyork.com

Oyster Bar at Grand Central Station

Grand Central Station at 42nd Street and Vanderbilt Avenue, lower level, Midtown

www.oysterbarny.com

Sea Fire Grill

158 East 48th Street at 3rd Avenue, Midtown

www.theseafiregrill.com

RESTAURANTS CONTINUED

Seafood continued

The Fulton

89 South Street #17, Northeast corner of Pier, Financial District

www.thefultonbyjg.nyc

More Neat Places

Bell, Book & Candle

141 West 10th Street near Greenwich Avenue, West Village

www.bbandcnyc.com

Casa Lever

390 Park Avenue at 53rd Street, Midtown

www.casalever.com

Empellón Midtown

510 Madison Avenue at 53rd Street, Midtown

www.empellon.com

Isabelle's Osteria

245 Park Avenue South, Flatiron/Gramercy

www.isabellesnyc.com

La Masseria

235 West 48th Street near 8th Avenue, Theater District

www.lamasserianyc.com

Milos

125 West 55th Street near 6th Avenue, Midtown

www.milos.ca

Peasant

194 Elizabeth Street at Spring Street, Nolita

www.peasantnyc.com

Scarpetta NoMad

88 Madison Avenue, Flatiron/Gramercy

www.scarpettarestaurants.com/location/scarpetta-new-york-city

RESTAURANTS CONTINUED

More Neat Places continued

Tán

209 East 49th Street, Midtown

www.tannewyork.com

Toloache Mexican

166 East 82nd Street near 3rd Avenue, Upper East Side

www.toloachenyc.com

Tony's Di Napoli

147 West 43rd Street, Theater District

www.tonysnyc.com

Vic's Italian

31 Great Jones Street, East Village

www.vicsnewyork.com

Mostly for Lunch

Anassa Tavern

200 East 60th Street, Midtown

www.anassataverna.com

Bill's Bar & Burger

16 West 51st Street, Midtown

www.billsbarandburger.com/location/bills-bar-and-burger-rockefeller-center

Brooklyn Diner

212 West 57th Street, Midtown

www.brooklyndiner.com

Bryant Park Grill

25 West 40th Street near 6th Avenue, at Bryant Park, Midtown

www.bryantparkgrillnyc.com

Bubby's

73 Gansevoort Street near Washington Street, Meatpacking District

www.bubbys.com

RESTAURANTS CONTINUED

Mostly for Lunch continued

Corner Bistro

331 West 4th Street, West Village

www.cornerbistrony.com

Dinosaur BBQ

646 West 131st Street at 12th Avenue, Harlem

www.dinosaurbarbque.com

Hometown Bar-B-Que

454 Van Brunt Street, Red Hook, Brooklyn

www.hometownbarbque.com

Los Tacos No. 1

125 Park Avenue, Midtown

www.lostacos1.com

PJ Clarke's

44 West 63rd Street, Upper East Side

www.pjclarkes.com

Red Flame Diner

67 West 44th Street, Midtown

www.theredflamediner.com

Rue 57

60 West 57th Street, Midtown

www.rue57.com

Shake Shack, original location

6th Avenue at 23rd Street, Madison Square Park, Flatiron/Gramercy

www.shakeshack.com

The Smith

55 3rd Avenue at 10th Street, East Village

www.thesmithnyc.com

RESTAURANTS CONTINUED

New Restaurants as of March 2025

Bad Roman, Time Warner Center, Midtown
www.badromannyc.com

Barlume, Flatiron/Gramercy
www.barlume.com

Borgo, Flatiron/Gramercy
www.borgonyc.com

Bourbon Steak, Midtown
www.bourbonsteaknyc.com

Café Carmellini, Nomad
www.cafecarmellini.com

Café Chelsea, Chelsea
www.cafechelseanyc.com

Café Commerce, Upper East Side
www.cafecommercenyc.com

Crane Club, Meatpacking District
www.taogroup.com/venues/crane-club-restaurant-new-york

Fouquet's Brasserie, Tribeca
www.hotelsbarriere.com

Four Twenty Five, Midtown
www.425parkrestaurant.com

Koloman, Nomad
www.kolomanrestaurant.com

La Tête d'Or Steakhouse, Flatiron/Gramercy
www.latetedorbydaniel.com

RESTAURANTS CONTINUED

New Restaurants as of March 2025 continued

Lucky's Steakhouse, SoHo

www.luckys-steakhouse.com

Meduza, Meatpacking District

www.meduza33.com

Nightly's, Upper East Side

www.nightlysnyc.com

Santi, Midtown

www.santinyc.com

The Corner Store, SoHo

www.thecornerstoresoho.com

The View, Times Square

www.theviewnewyorkcity.com

Time and Tide, Flatiron/Gramercy

www.timeandtide.nyc

Tucci, East Village

www.tuccinyc.com

Twin Tails, Midtown

www.twintailsnyc.com

JAZZ + CABARET

54 Below

254 West 4th Street between Broadway and 8th Avenue, Theater District

www.54below.com

Birdland

315 West 44th Street near 8th Avenue, Theater District

www.birdlandjazz.com

Café Carlyle

35 East 76th Street at Madison Avenue, Carlyle Hotel, Upper East Side

www.rosewoodhotels.com/en/the-carlyle-new-york/dining/cafe-carlyle

Don't Tell Mama

343 West 46th Street near 8th Avenue, Theater District

www.donttellmamanyc.com

Jazz at Lincoln Center and Dizzy's Club

10 Columbus Circle, Midtown

www.jalc.org

Joe's Pub

425 Lafayette Street near Astor Place, NoHo

www.joespub.com

The Nines Piano Bar

9 Great Jones Street, East Village

www.ninesnyc.com

SPORTS BARS + PUBS

Barfly

244 3rd Avenue at 20th Street, Flatiron/Gramercy

www.barflyny.com

Blue Haven East

493 3rd Avenue, Murray Hill

www.bluehavennyc.com

White Horse Tavern (CTU favorite, cash only)

567 Hudson Street at 11th Street, West Village

www.whitehorsetavern1880.com

COCKTAILS/LOUNGE

Banc

431 3rd Avenue at 30th Street, Murray Hill

www.banccafe.com

Crosby Hotel Bar

79 Crosby Street between Spring Street and Prince Street, SoHo

www.firmdalehotels.com/a/restaurants-bars/new-york/the-crosby-bar

Clocktower Bar at Clocktower Hotel

5 Madison Avenue near Park Avenue, Flatiron/Gramercy

www.theclocktowernyc.com

King Cole Bar at St. Regis Hotel

2 East 55th Street, Midtown

www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/nycxr-the-st-regis-new-york/dining

Lambs Club Upstairs Bar

132 West 44th Street, between 6th Avenue and Broadway, Theater District

www.thelambsclub.com

Lillie's

249 West 49th Street near 8th Avenue, Times Square

www.lilliesnyc.com

Park Avenue Tavern

99 Park Avenue at 39th Street, Midtown

www.parkavenuetavern.com/nyc

Pen Top, Peninsula Hotel

700 5th Avenue, 23rd Floor, Midtown

www.peninsula.com

The Bar Room at Temple Court, Beekman Hotel

5 Beekman Street at Nassau Street, Financial District

www.templecourtnyc.com/spaces/the-bar-room

The Lobby Lounge and Nubeluz Cocktail Bar, Ritz Carlton NoMad

25 West 28th Street, NoMad

www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/nycro-the-ritz-carlton-new-york-nomad/dining

COCKTAILS/LOUNGE CONTINUED

The Palm Court, The Plaza Hotel
768 5th Avenue, Central Park South, Midtown
www.theplazany.com/dining/the-palm-court

Roof at Park South
125 East 27th Street at Lexington Avenue, Flatiron/Gramercy
www.roofatparksouth.com

Upstairs at the Kimberly Hotel
145 East 50th Street at Lexington Avenue, Midtown
www.upstairsnyc.com

GREAT WALKS

Manhattan

The High Line

Financial District, Staten Island Ferry

George Washington Bridge

Central Park

Madison and Lexington Avenues, Upper East Side

Chelsea Piers to Battery Park City, Hudson River Park, West Side

Chelsea Piers to Upper West Side, Hudson River Park, West Side

Broadway, Amsterdam Avenue and Columbus Avenue, Upper West Side

Grand Central Station, Park Avenue, Madison Avenue, Madison Square Park

Madison Square Park to Union Square to Washington Square Park

Bryant Park, 5th Avenue, Rockefeller Center and Times Square

Brooklyn

Brooklyn Bridge, Brooklyn Bridge Park, Dumbo (Jane's Carousel) and Brooklyn Heights

Park Slope, Brooklyn

Williamsburg, Brooklyn

Cobble Hill, Brooklyn

PARKS + MUSEUMS

Great Parks that aren't Central Park

Bryant Park

Madison Square Park

Paley Park

Little Island

Hudson River Park

Union Square

Washington Square Park

Riverside Park, Upper West Side

Carl Schurz Park and Gracie Mansion, Upper East Side

Brooklyn Bridge Park, Dumbo, Brooklyn

Domino Park, Williamsburg, Brooklyn

Prospect Park, Brooklyn (including Brooklyn Botanical Garden)

PARKS + MUSEUMS CONTINUED

Great Museums that aren't the big three (MOMA, America Museum of Natural History, The Met)

Morgan Library

New Museum of Contemporary Art

New York Public Library

Whitney Museum

Cooper Hewitt

Richard Geller Center at America Museum of Natural History

Dia Beacon, Beacon, New York (about an hour train ride north of the City up the Hudson River)