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BY KIM-MARIE EVANS

Oh, New York, We Missed You!

READY TO BUST OUT OF THE 'BURBS? WANT A LUXURIOUS CLOSE-TO-HOME GETAWAY? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

Have you heard the rumor that “New York is Dead?” Don’t believe it. New York has seen worse. In 1975 President Gerald Ford told New York to “drop dead.” A few years later, the city was in the midst of a bull market run. Post 9/11, the city began rebuilding efforts that seemed unimaginable at the time. Hudson Yards and The High Line were born from those early efforts. New York is reopening, reawakening and reinventing itself, yet again. Always bet on New York. Before a press conference announcing that New York is indeed open for business, Chris Heywood of NYC & Company, the city’s marketing arm, told us that everyone who can’t get to Europe this summer should consider the city. New York offers an innovative arts scene and the new café culture created by expanding outdoor dining. Here are our top picks of where to not only stay, but play.

Mary Katherine McNeill and Andy Sussman taking a stroll through NYC streets

MELANI LUST

No. 1 THE LANGHAM

The Langham has many things going for it—the largest standard guest rooms in the city, Langham premiere service and its location. At first glance, 37th and 5th might not seem like an ideal location until you stay there. You’re truly at the center of the city, making a jaunt to either SoHo or Central Park quick and relatively easy.

Where the Baccarat and the Carlyle are pure luxury, The Langham is luxury with an edge. You’ll find over \$2 million worth of Alex Katz art hung throughout the property and design-forward penthouses by French retailer Roche Bobois, who also designed the hotel’s Presidential Suite. But you don’t need to book the penthouse to feel like an heiress. The junior suites have a sprawling footprint, with floor-to-ceiling windows and soaking tubs deep enough to swim in.

The five-star property also has a Michelin-starred restaurant, Ai Fiori is up the winding staircase in the lobby. The name means among the flowers (suddenly the floral installations that burst from the front sidewalk and restaurant entrance make sense). The hotel also has a friendly but discreet staff. Every need is catered to before you’ve even thought of it. Room rates start at \$545; langhamhotels.com

COURTESY OF THE LANGHAM



INSIDER TIP

Don’t feel like going to the gym? They’ll bring the gym to you. Book a connecting room at a 50 percent discount, and the hotel will create your own private gym (or office) for the duration of your stay. Any guest can request that gym equipment such as yoga mats, hand weights, and foam rollers be delivered to their room. Also, the website says dogs are welcome, yet alas, cats are not. How can you not love a property that puts that in writing?





No. 2
**THE PENDRY
MANHATTAN WEST**

This 164-room luxury hotel by The Montage brand is slated to open July 15 in a “new” neighborhood. Just outside of the recently opened Moynihan Train Hall, you’ll find the Manhattan West development covering eight acres between 31st and 33rd and 9th and 10th streets. The new West Side is brimming with avant garde architecture, and the new Pendry is no exception. The steel and glass exterior undulates like a drawn set of silk drapes. This striking architectural element also affords a great deal of privacy for hotel guests. Room rates will start at \$625; pendry.com

INSIDER TIP
We’ll be one of the first guests when the hotel officially opens and promise to share what we learn.

A Regarding Oysters evening



NEW IDEAS & OLD FAVORITES FOR A FUN NYC VISIT

1 DINING SECRETS

The silver lining of the pandemic is the explosion of outdoor dining options. New York feels more like Paris, with a new bustling café culture. Last year eighty-three miles of roads were closed, and the city is hoping to expand to 100 miles this summer.

While restaurants are breaking out of their walls, new speakeasies are opening underground—even in people’s homes. Co-author of *Regarding Cocktails* Georgette Moger-Petraske hosts a weekly series from her charming walkup apartment called **Regarding Oysters: An evening of bivalves and curated cocktails.** Go to regardingoysters.com to make a reservation.

For a splashier speakeasy scene, look for the inconspicuous door hidden away at the 28th Street subway station (take the subway staircase, the 1 local). Behind it, you’ll find La Noxe, a secret world that’s right beneath your nose and quite literally the city. Use Instagram DM to make a reservation. [@lanoxenyx](https://www.instagram.com/lanoxenyx)

2 THEY’RE BAAACK

The Tribeca Film Festival is returning to live showings by utilizing outdoor venues and screening films across all five boroughs. And the grand outdoor plaza at **Lincoln Center** will be carpeted with a faux lawn this summer and transformed into an outdoor performing arts center. There will be ten outdoor performance and rehearsal spaces, an outdoor reading room and a wealth of dedicated family programming. Audience members can expect free and low-cost events. tribecafilm.com and lincolncenter.org

3 SURPRISE!

Can’t go to a Broadway show? A performance might pop up as you stroll the New York streets—think skate parks, street corners and parks. **NY PopsUp** is an initiative to bring performing arts to the streets. And not in a pass-the-hat kind of way. It is a well-coordinated festival featuring more than 1,000 performances. It launched in February and will run through Labor Day. (In an offshoot of the PopsUp initiative, Scott Stringer, a mayoral candidate, has even proposed pop-up pools in dumpsters. Don’t laugh. It’s a tradition in Philly and well-loved.) nypopsup.com »

COURTESY OF THE PENDRY MANHATTAN WEST; COURTESY OF GEORGETTE MOGER-PETRASKE

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Top row from left: Brian Deigan, James Parker, Lawrence Haertel, Kenneth Mulreed, Carlos Casas
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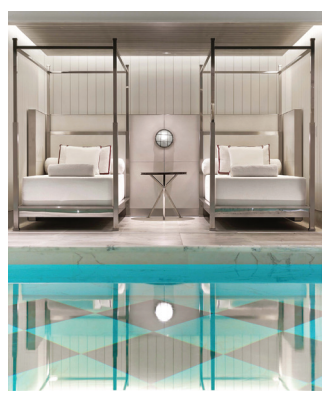
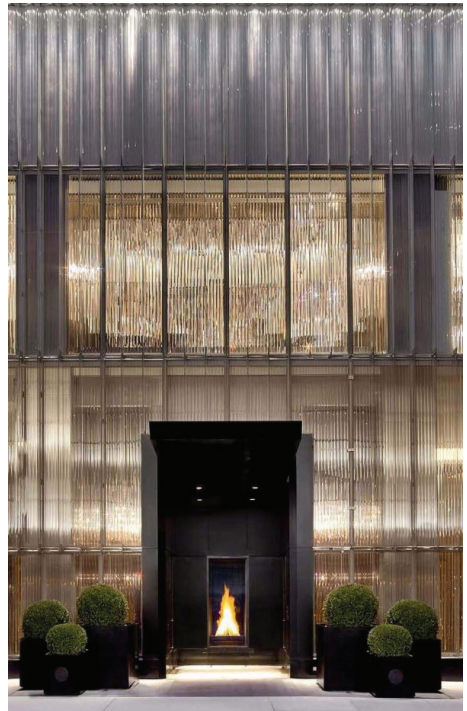
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**No. 3
THE BACCARAT**

This glittering Midtown gem is unapologetically luxurious. It's the only hotel by the famed crystal maker, Baccarat. Fifteen thousand pieces of crystal—from drinkware to chandeliers—are found throughout.

The entrance on 57th Street across from the MoMa is so discreet you might miss it. The dark roaring fireplace at street level evokes the Baccarat factory, where artists have been creating the world-famous crystal since King Louis XV founded the company in 1764.

A quick elevator ride up to the lobby, and you're in another world entirely. Everything about the entrance is unmistakably, and fabulously, French. If chandeliers are considered jewelry for a room, this place is dripping in diamonds. There are two salons, petit and grand, where guests can sip café au lait in the morning or champagne in the evening. For a real cocktail, tuck into the bar

just off the grand salon and grab a table on the terrace overlooking the MoMa.

The lobby shouts French, but the rooms whisper it. Every detail is perfection and also a little sexy. Pendeloque motifs are woven into jacquard sheets, a framed smoked mirror hides the TV, and a red lacquer box holds the mini-bar's Baccarat glasses. There are also three lighting scenarios, ideal for

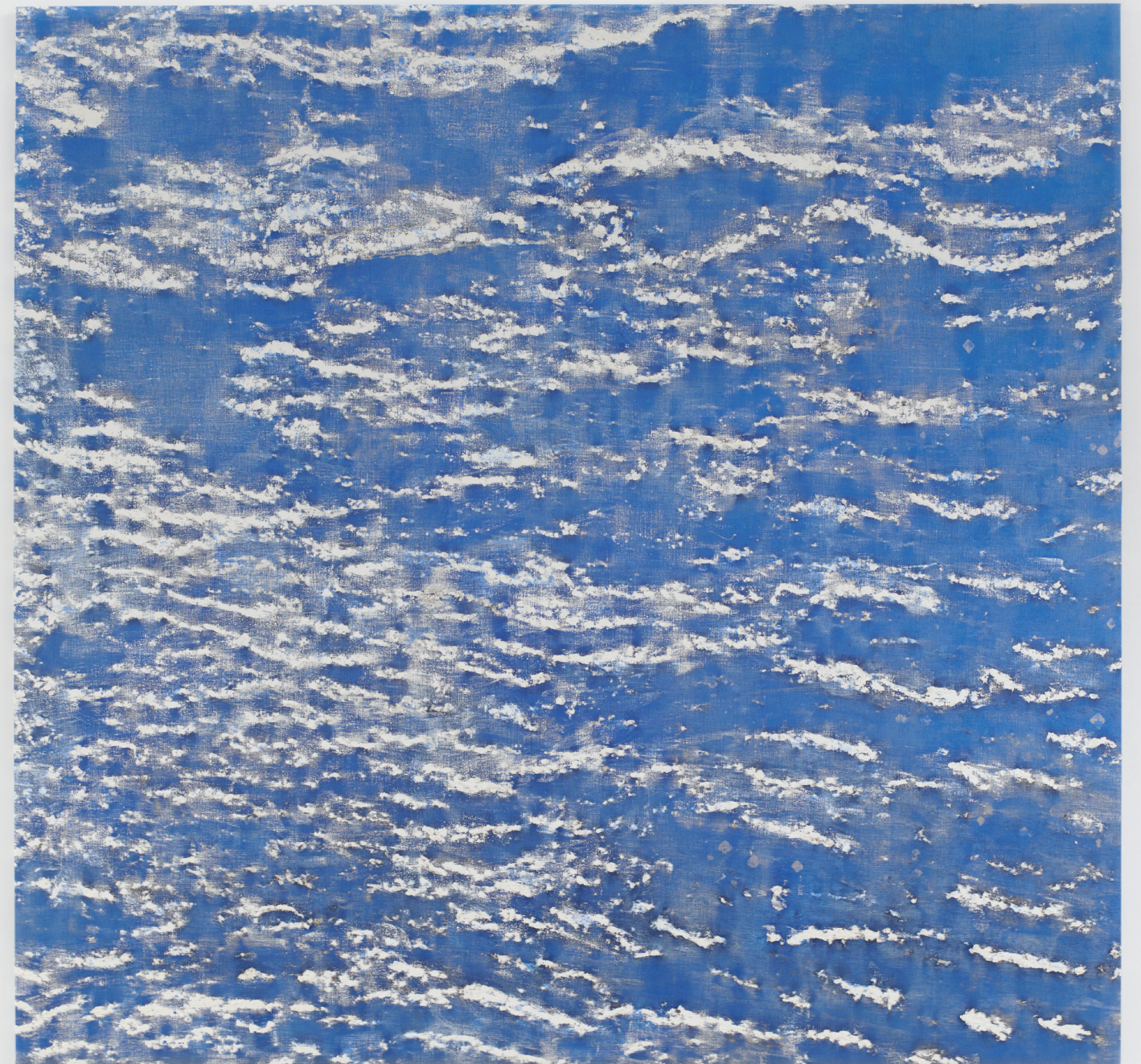
day, cocktail hour and night.

The highlight of the hotel, in our opinion, is in the basement. The sunken marble pool that is part of Spa La Mer is reminiscent of the pool at Ritz Paris. Gorgeous four-poster beds line the pool in a hedonistic cabana manner. Take a nap post-massage or order champagne from room service. Room rates start at \$925; baccarathotels.com. »

INSIDER TIP

You don't need to be a hotel guest to enjoy the spa. Book an appointment, and you'll have access to the pool, bespoke cabanas and "room" service. And don't miss the hotel's toiletries created with a signature scent. You can't buy them—we know because we tried.

COURTESY OF BACCARAT HOTEL





The RealReal

Hey Greenwich, the Future of Luxury Is Here

SHOP. SELL. REPEAT.



No. 4 THE CARLYLE

There's one place in New York that has rarely changed, and New Yorkers, Presidents, royalty, and celebrities like it that way. The Carlyle is an iconic hotel for all the right reasons. The service, even in a pandemic, is always perfect. Elevator operators may not be manning the gilded interiors, but everything else is like a warm, expensively scented, welcome hug.

The hotel is renovating some of the guest rooms. Each room is unique, and the updated spaces have modern touches like Bluetooth speakers and custom wet bars. But the decorators have stayed true to the Carlyle roots, with black lacquered paneling, bespoke illustrated wallpapers that echo the Bemelman's murals, and thoughtful curation of artwork, books and everyday finds that leave you feeling more like a resident than a hotel guest.

Over twenty suites have Steinway or Baldwin baby-grand pianos. Many were Bobby Short's former pianos from Café Carlyle, where he played to sold-out crowds for thirty-six years. Famed Bemelman's Bar reopened in May—a favorite of Jackie O and decorated with hand-painted murals by Ludwig Bemelman, the author of the *Madeline* books.

Executive Chef Sylvain Delpique, recently joined the hotel following a six-year stint at the iconic 21 Club. Upon reopening, Bemelmans Bar will debut a new signature cocktail menu including drinks such as Elaine's Smokey Martini named for longtime guest, and Broadway royalty, Elaine Stritch. For the first time in seventy-five years, Bemelman's is taking reservations. exploretock.com/bemelmansbar

You may have just checked in, but you'll find the staff will likely already know your name. Whether you're George Clooney or a lowly travel writer, you'll fall in love with the feeling of being welcomed home every time you walk through that famous revolving door. Room rates start at \$650; rosewoodhotels.com

INSIDER TIP
Ask for the house car. Unless you're famous, they won't just offer it (we're not even confident it's extended to celebrities—no one will confirm or deny this). A Cadillac Escalade is usually sitting just outside the front door and is available for a nearby jaunt. The ride is free but forgetting to tip the driver is gauche.



COURTESY OF THE CARLYLE

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