



15 NEW REASONS TO GO TO

NEW YORK

Make a brand new start of it in old New York at the hottest bars, coolest design stores and tucked-away neighbourhood locals

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The bustle of West 14th Street, as seen from the High Line, the city's latest park



1 BREATH OF FRESH AIR ◀

To see New Yorkers in a completely different light, take a stroll along the High Line. This is the city's newest park, situated 10 metres above street level on an old train line running through the Meatpacking District. Apart from the beauty of the wild gardens and the views across the Hudson, it's where the usually fast-forward locals come to chill out. During the day, they stake out huge wooden chaises to read and sunbake; at dusk, they meet to stroll its 10-block length, buy dinner from the Chelsea Market (it runs underneath near West 15th Street) and eat it al fresco at the cut-out looking down into the street at 10th Avenue Square. **Between Gansevoort and West 20th Streets, thehighline.org.**

2 TRICK OR TREAT ▶

The owners at Clo Wines have ways of preventing you over-indulging. The first is their menu, an interactive projection on the communal table. You scan the 90-plus wines by moving your finger along the bottle images and then you insert a card above the bottle of your choice in the climate-controlled cabinet to garner a glass. Try to pour two at once and your card freezes. Perfect for those who prefer to avoid their shout. **Time Warner Centre, 10 Columbus Circle, +1 212 823 9898, clowines.com.**



3 MEET THE NEIGHBOURS ▶

Ben (pictured) and Hall Smyth design exhibitions for museums, but wanted to have some fun, so they launched Grand Opening, a tiny space that combines community spirit and what can best be described as interactive performance pieces. So far, exhibitions have included Pong, a drop-by table tennis club; Drive In, a cinema with a '65 Ford Falcon to seat six people; and Wedding Chapel, a faux chapel where couples book in to tie the knot, either for real or as a bit of a laugh. **139 Norfolk St, +1 646 875 8078, gopublicprojects.com.**



4 SILK TRADER ▼

Illisa's Vintage Lingerie is a hidden gem in the enormous Showplace Antique Centre. For 22 years, proprietor Illisa Goldman has been collecting underwear that predates the 1940s. Find wisps of silk and lace, some with fine embroidery, others still sporting their washing-instructions tags. Illisa's is a favourite haunt of Hollywood costume designers and fashion mags, and we love it, too, as the best advert for the 'underwear as outerwear' trend. **Shop 206, 40 West 25th St, +1 212 627 2800.**



OVER THE BRIDGE ▶

If you haven't heard, Brooklyn is New York's coolest borough and Williamsburg is its hip heartland. Stroll down North Sixth Street and check out homewares and design stores A&G Merch (**no 111**) and The Future Perfect (**no 115**), and, at the weekend, Artists & Fleas (**no 129**), an indoor market with indie designers, artists and collectors. There's also a great local art scene (visit wagmag.com for a map) and plenty of people-perving to be had from cafes along Bedford Avenue, such as Blackbird Parlour (pictured, **no 197**). Stay for dinner at El Almacén, for fantastic Argentine braised short ribs, **557 Driggs Ave, +1 718 218 7284.**

5

BEDFORD AV

Hang out with the locals at Blackbird Parlour cafe in Williamsburg

ONE WAY





Take tea while pondering what scents to walk away with from Bond No 9 at Noho

6 SMELL OF SUCCESS ◀

After September 11, parfumeur Laurice Rahmé wanted NYC, the city she'd lived in and loved for more than two decades, to smell good again. The result is Bond No 9, where each of the city's neighbourhoods is captured in a scent, in an individually designed, star-shaped bottle. Visitors to the luxe flagship store in Noho (its signature Eau de Noho has notes of mandarin, violet leaves and cashmere woods) can linger over flacons of the 36 scents at the custom-blending table. **9 Bond St, +1 212 228 1732, bondno9fragrances.com.**



7 REIGN OF SPAIN ◀

Husband and wife Eder Montero and Alex Raij of bar/restaurant Txikito (pronounced chikito) focus on the delicacies of the Basque region on the Spanish/French border. It's a casual affair, with people dropping in for a quick txakoli – a wine poured from high above the glass for aeration – or to linger over sharing dishes, such as squid ribbons with sweet onions and pine nuts. **240 Ninth Ave, +1 212 242 4730, txikitonyc.com.**



8 DOWNTOWN DICS ▲

Thompson Hotels have something of a reputation as being particularly cool, and often play their part as party central for the hipster crowd. Enter the latest of the company's offerings: Smyth Tribeca. The rooms – larger than most in NYC – are soothingly low-key, while the public spaces are all quirky elegance: nooks, crannies and overstuffed Chesterfields in the bar, retro clocks and robots in the lobby, and, if such elements sway your accommodation decisions, the best-looking bellmen in town. Interestingly, there's no 'scene', even though you're within walking distance of some of the best restaurants and clubs. **85 West Broadway, +1 212 587 7000, thompsonhotels.com.**

SMALL PACKAGES ◀

Set in an old carriage house, the unpretentious Smith & Mills is a hot favourite among neighbourhood locals, but it's tiny. We're talking 'six steps from the door to the bar' tiny. It's worth persisting, though, for a Dark & Stormy (made with rum, lime, soda and fresh ginger) and the delicious fennel mac and cheese.

71 North Moore St, smithandmills.com.



10 TIP YOUR HAT ▶

Ever noticed the natty trilbies sported by the off-papped Brad Pitt? They're all the work of Harlem-based milliner Rod Keenan (pictured). "He saw one in *Interior Design* and said to his assistant, 'I want that hat,'" says Rod. "I think he bought 20 that week." From his garden studio, Rod makes chapeaux to order by appointment, or check out his more affordable ready-to-wear line, Rod NYC, at Barney's. **155 West 121st St, +1 212 678 9275, rodkeenannyc.com.**





11 SKY-HIGH SANCTUARY ▶

It can be hard to find a little peace in Midtown, NYC's home to just about every tourist attraction you can think of. Thankfully, the Hudson Hotel opened its normally guests-only Sky Terrace to the public this summer. Located on the 15th floor, it has amazing views over the Hudson and down Ninth Avenue. During the day, spread out and enjoy a bar snack, though get there early to seize the coveted hammock, shaded by a lush arbour of vines. After dark, things step up a notch with the cocktail-sipping crew, but you can call ahead and reserve a table. **356 West 58th St, +1 212 554 6217, hudsonhotel.com.**

12 FRISKY BUSINESS ◀

So, you mix a mean Negroni, your friend's a spotter of fashion trends and you like hanging out together. What to do? Forget about the traditional demarcation of talents and open a mixed-concept business. The Smile (**26 Bond St, +1 646 329 5836, thesmilenyc.com**) is the newest, with daytime cafe, general store and tattoo parlour all in one basement. But our favourite is Freemans Sporting Club (**8 Rivington St, +1 212 673 3209, freemansportingclub.com**), which sells handmade menswear, while out back, funky barbers trade in haircuts and banter. Down the lane, enjoy rustic fare at their hunting lodge-chic restaurant (pictured), **Freeman Alley, +1 212 420 0012, freemansrestaurant.com.**

13 FOR ART'S SAKE ▼

It's hard to define Partners & Spade. The owners, Andy Spade and Anthony Sperduti, will tell you it's a gallery shopfront for their agency, but there's more to it. For a start, almost everything is for sale – some of it quite affordable – and then there are the kooky found objects, their limited-edition books, and their preschool workshops where kids create with artists. "Everything has to be unique and interesting on some level, whether witty or beautiful," says Anthony, of how he and Andy choose their pieces. Open weekends or by appointment. **40 Great Jones St, +1 646 861 2827, partnersandspade.com.**



NICE AND TEASY ▶

Forget about the ol' bump and grind. There's a new style in town, known as neo-burlesque, and its purveyors are a sassy bunch of broads guaranteed to make you want to don nipple pasties. The Famous Pontani Sisters lead the charge with their *This is Burlesque* show (visit thisisburlesque.com for upcoming dates), although it's hard not to become besotted by the gorgeous Melody Sweets (pictured). Unlike most of the other stage stars, Melody writes her own songs and sings live, while slowly peeling away her costume. So far, so cheeky. Those seeking more extreme entertainment, however, should try The Box (**189 Chrystie St, +1 212 982 9301, theboxnyc.com**) – you have been warned. **VE+T**



14 LAND OF NOD ◀

Imagine falling into a deep slumber on a glowing, vibrating, warm pod... for just 20 minutes. The Alpha Lounger (pictured) is the latest in energy blasts. In the city that allegedly never sleeps, Yelo Wellness is the centre for power napping. The less sci-fi option is to recline on one of the zero-gravity chairs – each in its own private cabin. Before the flight home, book in for a Travelade treatment, a blissful 40-minute reflexology session. **315 West 57th St, +1 212 245 8235, yelonyc.com.**



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High-rise hideaway
- Sky Terrace at
the Hudson Hotel