

RAISE THE ROOF

Summer's here and the city's bubbling with energy and life. Lawns awash in bright yellow dandelions and purple lilacs. Rich, multihued vegetation explodes throughout the parks, a lush housewarming for New York's winged warblers. The carefree voices of children playing in the streets ring out as ice cream trucks send out their musical siren's call. Sweet smells waft out from the carts of street vendors, enticing hungry pedestrians and drifting into office above. Guarded at first, we soon relent and let the sunshine in, watching the rough New York exteriors melt away. And, when the sun goes down, a couple of cool cocktails under a star-filled Manhattan sky are a mid-summer night's dream come true. Some of the city's trendiest and most desirable open-air bars and *boîtes* are elegant extensions of

some of the city's most illustrious hotels. And we've got the inside scoop.

You don't have to be bookish to snag the perfect perch at The Library. **Bookmarks**, the aptly named rooftop lounge in **The Library Hotel** (Madison Ave. & E. 41st St.), gives cocktail geeks a great excuse to hang out at the library on a Friday night. The lounge is a brainchild of Mark Grossich, creator of The World Bar at the Trump World Tower, The Carnegie Club in CitySpire Centre, The Campbell Apartment in Grand Central Terminal, and Madison & Vine, American Bistro & International Wine Bar. **Bookmarks** is a design-forward, private outdoor space that offers spectacular views of its inspiration, the New York Public Library, and surrounding New York architecture from a 360-degree wrap-around terrace. **Bookmarks** features a beau-



With one-of-a-kind cocktails and panoramic views from a 360-degree wraparound terrace, **Bookmarks** at The Library Hotel is anything but quiet.

tiful enclosed greenhouse solarium with two full walls of windows and a curved glass roof with French doors leading out to an open terrace. A sunroof encloses the fully heated outside space during the winter months. The

indoor portion of the lounge is adorned with stylish furnishings and features a state-of-the-art entertainment system and working fireplace. **Bookmarks** serves a variety of unique cocktails

Continued on page 2

RETAIL RETREAT

From Marilyn Monroe in the historic lobby to Carrie Bradshaw confronting Mr. Big on *Sex in the City*, **The Plaza** (768 Fifth Ave., at Central Park South, 212-759-3000) has always been more than a hotel; it's one of the Big Apple's most prominent and iconic addresses where fantasy, luxury and, of course, good taste, meet and mingle. Recently, a new tradition began at The Plaza—a unique and carefully curated col-

lection of boutiques found nowhere else in the world—**The Shops at The Plaza**, located (mainly) on the Grand Concourse of Fifth Avenue and Central Park South. In the lobby, shoppers will find fine illustrated books by Assouline, while the ground floor houses designer Douglas Hannant's first freestanding location, the first MCM boutique in the U.S., the Plaza Boutique's one-of-a-kind gifts and Vertu's hand-

Continued on page 2

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ROOFTOP
LOUNGES
pp. 1-2

RETAIL
RETREAT
pp. 1-2

CONCIERGE
CORNER
p. 3

TASTE OF TIMES
SQUARE
p. 3

SPECIAL EVENTS
p. 4



The Pooldeck at The Empire is a private paradise in the sky—and a great way to stay cool.



Life is but a DREAM at AVA Lounge & AVA Garden. Set 15 floors above Broadway, AVA is the perfect perch to take in majestic sunsets over the Hudson River.

Continued from *Raise the Roof*, page 1

including “The Hemingway,” “The Jackie Collins” and “The Kipling.”

In the clouds high above the city, at Vikram Chatwal’s haute couture **DREAM** hotel (W. 55th St. btw Seventh Ave. & Broadway), housed in an 1895 Beaux-Arts building, you’ll find a lavish penthouse cantina, **AVA Lounge & AVA Garden**. Opening to immediate success in October 2002, this bi-level lounge and event space rests in an innovative setting 15 floors above Broadway, providing panoramic views of Times Square, Columbus Circle and soul-stirring sunsets over the Hudson River. This rooftop paradise was voted *New York Magazine*’s Best After Work Lounge in 2006. With a retro-modern décor, the feel of AVA lies somewhere between that of a grand hotel and the elegant home of a chic hostess. Part 1950s French Riviera, part Rome with inflections of South Beach, the ambience draws from a palette of swimming-pool blue, gold, black and white, setting the tone for contemporary elegance.

A bit farther uptown, an iconic red neon sign beams atop one of the “Grand Dames” in New York City hospitality, **The Empire Hotel** (W. 63 St. & Broadway), home of **The Empire Hotel Rooftop Bar & Lounge**. Consuming the entire 12th floor of the hotel, this 8,000-square-foot rooftop haven is the latest masterpiece from Jeffrey Chodorow, celebrated creator of famous and beautiful destination restaurants including China Grill, Kobe Club and Asia de Cuba. The Empire truly is one of the city’s hottest rooftop oases, offering magnificent views of Lincoln Center and the

Upper West Side. In the central Penthouse Lounge, window-lined walls set the mood—and change it every hour, while the vast East Terrace sports a private bar, seating and cabanas for private gatherings. The Rooftop Terrace’s claim to fame is a stunning convertible roof. Just one floor up, those lucky enough to stay at the hotel can opt for an outdoor wet bar, **The Pooldeck at The Empire**. Situated on the 13th floor, this sun-drenched, bi-level gem lets you swim in the sky far above hectic Broadway traffic while enjoying 180-degree city views. The classic poolside décor includes custom-designed sun beds, a plunge pool and private cabanas outfitted with day-beds, ceiling fans, LCD televisions, iPod docking stations, mini-refrigerators, telephones and wireless Internet access. Food and cocktail service are provided by The Empire Hotel Rooftop.

Skyscraping sanctuaries are not restricted to Midtown and Uptown. In the heart of Downtown’s SoHo district, one of the city’s finest boutique hotels, **60 Thompson** (near Broome St.), also houses one of its best-kept secrets in the sky. Atop this 100-room luxury-driven lifestyle hotel, the Manhattan skyline serves as a dramatic backdrop for **A60**, the chic members-only rooftop terrace and bar. Access is limited to guests of the hotel and card-carrying members of the A60 club, which also hosts many private parties. On a sweet summer night, the air of exclusivity palpably enhances the overall experience, as do the bar’s unparalleled views of Downtown New York, exotic cocktails and mouthwatering hors d’oeuvres.

Continued from *Retail Retreat*, page 1

made mobile phones. The Grand Concourse is home to the first Anna Hu boutique in the world, British shirt-maker Eton, Helen Yarmak’s couture designs (worn by the likes of Sandra Bullock and Whitney Houston) and Iradj Moini’s exquisite jewelry (pieces have appeared

at the Met and the Louvre). Take a break with Viennese pastries and chocolates at the legendary Demel Bakery. Celebrated landscape photographer Peter Lik has an annex here. The Plaza Beauty by Warren-Tricomi boasts an incredible beauty collection on the

Concourse and a salon on the second floor. Qiviuk’s muskoxen down keeps their apparel extra light and ultra-warm. Seize Sur Vingt specializes in bespoke modern clothes for men and women. You’ll also find jewelry and watch boutique Stefan Paul and Wade-Hampton’s distinc-

tive home accessories. Check out Caudalie Vinotherapie Spa’s “wine therapy” on the third floor. And, of course, who could forget the historic (and newly reopened) Oak Room, a New York landmark that was born in 1907 as a men-only bar? fairmont.com/theplaza

CONCIERGE CORNER

Q: What are some of your favorite summertime family activities in New York City?



FRANCISCO ANELIZ, CONCIERGE, THE WESTIN NEW YORK AT TIMES SQUARE

Catching a Yankees game with the family has become one of my favorite things to do in the summer. I recommend it to any family that wants to spend time together, especially for fathers and sons' bonding time. Father's Day and the new stadium are perfect excuses to get out to the ballpark. I'm also a huge theater fan so I would recommend seeing any of the many current family-friendly shows on Broadway such as *The Lion King* and *Billy Elliot* (whole family); *Shrek The Musical* (family, boys); *Wicked* and *The Little Mermaid* (family, female audiences). But one show that the family can't miss if it is in the city is *Cirque du Soleil's Kooza*, which offers the ultimate excitement for the whole family!



FERNANDA ANDERSEN, CONCIERGE, LE PARKER MERIDIEN

Central Park is my favorite summertime destination in New York City! Start the day watching one of the most whimsical features of the park: the Delacorte Music Clock. Animals glide by playing musical instruments every hour on the hour. Then, pay a quick visit to the Children's Zoo. For lunch, make a pit stop at The Loeb Boathouse; or, to have a truly New York experience, come prepared for a picnic at the Turtle Pond, where you'll have a great view of the Belvedere Castle. Then, choose from the many famous highlights such as Strawberry Fields and the Bow Bridge. Renting a bike or hiring a pedicab would help you cover more ground. If you want to be close to the water, rent a remote-controlled toy boat at the Conservatory Water or a rowboat by Loeb Boathouse. Catch one of the many exciting performances at Summer Stage, Lincoln Center outdoor shows and Shakespeare in the Park. For a more romantic experience, there's always a

carriage ride and a drink at Tavern on the Green or at the rooftop Sculpture Garden of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



THOMAS MECKL, CHEF CONCIERGE, THE HELMSLEY PARK LANE

Central Park, just across the street from my hotel, is a wonderful place for families. Seeing the seals at The Central Park Zoo is always a crowd pleaser for the young and old. Just north of the Children's Zoo, at about 67th Street, is Balto the Sled Dog. This statue commemorates the epic journey of the lead sled dog on the final leg of the trip to deliver vital medication to an Alaskan town in the dead of winter. Toward the center of the southern part of the park is the famous Central Park Carousel. Speaking of rides, be sure to visit the Victorian Gardens at the Wollman Rink, an old-fashioned amusement park sure to please the entire family. On the west side, just outside of the park, is another favorite for all ages, the American Museum of Natural History. Enter at 81st Street between Central Park West and Columbus Ave. (unless the children are very young) to catch the *Cosmic Collisions* show at the Rose Center for Earth and Space, a world-class dinosaur collection and the compelling climate change exhibit.



DAVID MORENO, CHEF CONCIERGE, GRAMERCY PARK HOTEL

Some of my favorite summertime activities are at Central Park, including the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theater, Children Zoo, Central Park Carousel and a scenic outdoor meal at the Loeb Boathouse. Beyond the park, check out the amazing wildlife at the Bronx Zoo, stop by the iconic Grand Central Terminal and don't forget Union Square. You can relax and explore the children's book collection at Books of Wonder and eat something scrumptious at Max Brenner. Take a stroll through the Village and have Argentine-style ice cream at Cones (on Bleecker Street). Walk the Brooklyn Bridge and finish at the Empire Fulton Ferry State Park, where you can relax. When you're good and ready, take the Water Taxi back to the city.

IN WITH THE NEW

DORIAN CATTANI is a new Concierge at The W Hoboken

KELLY FILIPPONE is a new Concierge at The W Hoboken

RONALD LI is a new Concierge at Washington Square Hotel

LAURETTE NSANZE is a new Concierge at Washington Square Hotel

LILIA PAGHIN is a new Concierge at The Colonial House Inn

SARAH RATTIGAN is a new Concierge at The Carlyle

REYNALDO RIJO is a new Concierge at Washington Square Hotel

JENNY ROBINSON is a new Concierge at The W Hoboken

MICHAEL SCHNEIDER is the new Director of Sales and Marketing at The Alex

EMILY SHEFTMAN is the new Executive Office Manager at The Benjamin Hotel

TIFFANY THOMAS is a new Concierge at Washington Square Hotel

HOTEL OPENING

The W Hoboken (New Jersey)

CROSSROADS SMORGASBORD

Don't miss the 16th annual **Taste of Times Square** (W. 46th St., btw Broadway & Ninth Ave.) food and entertainment festival, organized by the Times Square Alliance, taking place Jun. 8, at 5 p.m. This culinary feast features dozens of Times Square's most eminent and trendsetting restaurants,

including B.B. King Blues Club and Grill, Barbetta, Gallagher's Steak House, Havana Central, Le Rivage, Natsumi, Planet Hollywood, Ruth's Chris Steakhouse and Trattoria Dopo Teatro! Enjoy signature dishes and international flavors from the Crossroads of the World, everything from Spanish tapas

to Indian samosas to American ribs. One of the major events of the summer, the festival attracts thousands of hungry attendees every year. Live entertainment complements the culinary festivities. Entrance is free for all! Don't forget to stop by MVP/NY's booth to say hello. timessquarenyc.org



L to R: James Bernhardt, Concierge, The Peninsula New York; David Moreno, Chef Concierge, Gramercy Park Hotel; Joy Mischani, Concierge, The Westin New York at Times Square

GOOD, CLEAN FUN

On Apr. 20, MVP/NY treated its guests to a “spring cleaning” at the **Annual Spa Event**, hosted by **Great Jones Spa** (29 Great Jones St., at Lafayette St., 212-505-3185). Concierges received massages from **Destiny Beauty & Wellness Day Spa** and **Graceful Services Spa** while **Deva Spa** provided skin consultations and paraffin treatments. **Salon Ziba’s** friseurs showed off their hairstyling skills. Renowned dentist **Dr. Jan Linhart** was on hand with tips. **BICE Ristorante** (7 E. 54th St., btw Madison & Fifth aves., 212-688-1999) added a much-needed Northern Italian flavor. Flower arrangements were provided by **Starbright Floral Design** (150 W. 28th St., btw Sixth & Seventh aves., 1-800-520-8999). **Eastern Mountain Sports** provided day trip ideas. gjspa.com, bicenewyork.com, starflor.com



L to R: Domenic Alfonzetti, Concierge, InterContinental The Barclay New York; Melody Williamson, The Plaza; Jay Serio, The Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park; Christine Serio, Chef Concierge, Jumeirah Essex House; Sergio Nieto, InterContinental The Barclay New York

NAVAL GAZING

On May 4, MVP/NY produced a truly epic event hosted atop the USS *Intrepid*. The famous ship, a naval veteran of the Battle of Leyte Gulf during World War II as well as the Vietnam War, is now home to the **Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum** (Pier 86, 12th Ave. & W. 46th St., 877-957-SHIP; 212-245-0072), recently reopened after extensive renovations. **Heartland Brewery** supplied Concierges with award-winning drafts as they explored spectacular interactive exhibits and virtual, multisensory technology. Gifts bags included goodies from **Intrepid** and **NYC Ducks** while raffle winners took home some very cool prizes from **Gazillion Bubble Show**, **King David**, **Irena’s Vow**, **J&R Music** and **Computer World**, **Menopause the Musical**, **M&M’s World**, **New York Water Taxi**, **ROOMS a rock romance**, **The 39 Steps**, **The Marvelous Wonderettes** and **Top of the Rock**. intrepidmuseum.org, heartlandbrewery.com

Tell us!

We want your comments, suggestions and ideas for our next newsletter. We’d love to hear about job announcements (such as Concierge, Director of Sales and Marketing and General Manager changes), hotel restaurants and bars you’d like to see featured in the August issue of *At Your Service* or events going on at your hotel. To find out how you can be on our next Concierge Advisory Board, please e-mail Adeline Tafuri, adeline.tafuri@morris.com.

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