



CHELSEA



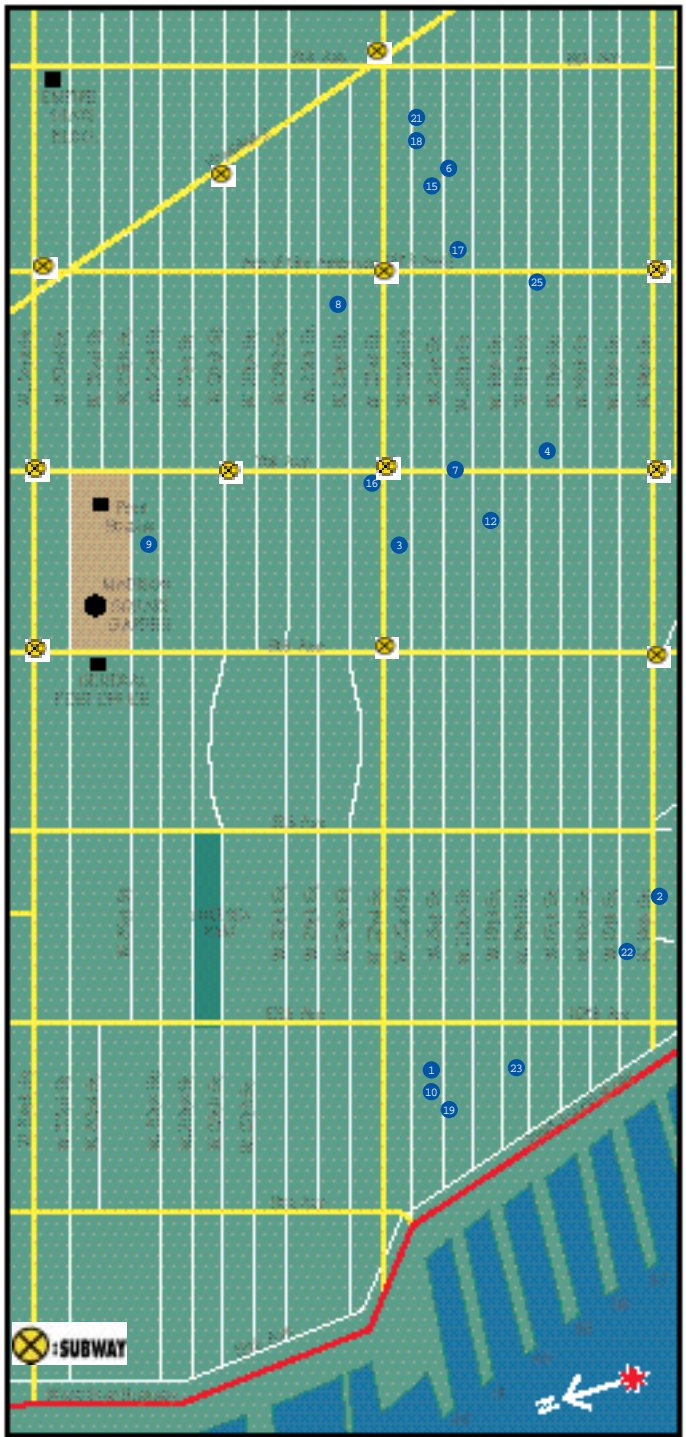
The dark and dicey backdrop of the Meat Packing District ideally lends itself to clandestined AtNight-crawling...

The rebirth of suddenly sexy Chelsea should serve social planners as a case study in the rehabilitation of a lifeless, scarred section of the urban landscape. Just north of the West Village, this former commercial shipping district is bounded by the Hudson River and 5th Avenue, extending uptown from 14th Street to 34th Street.

The enormous warehouses near the piers still blot the horizon, yet many have since been redeemed as affordable residences and art spaces. Nondescript rows of stained factories and garages now neighbor trendy boutiques and popular sidewalk eateries. Meanwhile, a growing number of galleries are springing up, enhancing the neighborhood's artistic rep.

Chelsea replaced the West Village as the gay hub of NYC in the 90s, evident in the buzz emitting from the shops, bars and restaurants that line 8th Avenue. The dark and dicey texture of Chelsea's Meat Packing District ideally lends itself to clandestined AtNight-crawling as more and more vacant warehouses are being renovated to accommodate dance halls, galleries, raves and sex clubs.

Chelsea locals, who once looked outside the neighborhood for entertainment, now enjoy a colorful homegrown scene - and not just on weekends. Numerous Chelsea bars and eateries are constantly improving on decor and ambiance to attract neighborhood regulars. The result - a prospering nightlife scene, fed by a growing local population, offering numerous unique AtNight entertainment opportunities.



- 1 Aria
- 2 Baktun
- 3 Barracuda
- 4 Cafeteria
- 5 Centro-Fly
- 6 Cheetah
- 7 Ciel Rouge
- 8 Downtime
- 9 Dusk
- 10 El Flamingo
- 11 Filter 14
- 12 G Lounge
- 13 Half King
- 14 Hush
- 15 Justin s
- 16 La Maison De Sade
- 17 Limelight
- 18 Lola
- 19 Lot 61
- 20 Lotus
- 21 Oh m
- 22 Passerby
- 23 Roxy
- 24 Serena
- 25 Tonic, The
- 26 Tunnel, The
- 27 Twilo

Type of Establishment Bar/Restaurant
 Hours Th-M 10pm-4am
 Drink Prices Expensive
 Food N/A
 Nearest Subway C,E to 8th Avenue
 Credit Cards All Major

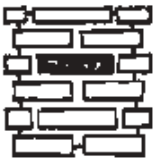
Aria
 539 West 21st Street
 Between 10th & 11th Avenues
 212.229.1618

Following Lot 61 to the western nether reaches of 21st Street, Aria holds its own in the "I'm more Eurotrash than you are" contest that clubs such as Float, Ohm and Au Bar have been raging for years. Decorated in a vaguely Goth style that features lots of candelabras, and attracting a casual yuppie crowd, this dance club nonetheless still plays some excellent, if cheesy, sweat-a-lot techno music. For those who need them, there are velvet ropes, VIP rooms and models (or at least people who prep like they're models), but the main action is still on the dance floor.

Type of Establishment Bar/Lounge
 Hours Th-Sa 10pm-4am T-W 9pm-3am
 Drink Prices Moderate
 Food N/A
 Nearest Subway A,C,E to 14th Street
 Credit Cards AmEx, MC, V
 www.baktun.com

Baktun
 418 West 14th Street
 Between 9th Avenue & Washington
 212.206.1590

Located in the dodgy Meat Packing District down 14th Street, Baktun is much more than just a swanky Chelsea lounge. Most nights the computer-generated collaboration between the audio and video engineers is a techno-courtship between sight and sound, broadcasted live over the Internet. The main lounge is the focus of this audio/visual assault, with reduced speakers in the rear lounge space more conducive for conversation. The downside here is, at presstime, they've yet to receive a well deserved cabaret license applied for in '99. Thanks Rudy. Still, you'll be hard pressed to find a better jam than this around here.



Barracuda
 275 West 22nd Street Btwn. 7th & 8th
 212.645.8613

Sink into this dark, loud eye-catching gay lounge lost on a residential Chelsea side-street and be ready for anything and everything past midnight. Backpacked boys of all ages in polyester shirts order beers from the bar with the aquarium, adjust their 'pack-ages', cruise around neon-lit tables and hit the pinball machine before gliding past the suggestively red pool table to the back lounge. Note: The nightly drag shows here have developed quite a local following.

Type of Establishment Restaurant/Bar
 Hours Daily 4pm-4am
 Drink Prices Moderate
 Food American
 Nearest

Cafeteria
 119 7th Avenue @ 17th Street
 212.414.1717

We don't remember cafeteria food ever looking or tasting this good. This old-school diner with a pre-millennium glistening white make-over and moderately priced menu is chic Americana. Chelsea boys and run-aways from the downtown party circuit mix it up in the basement area, affectionately dubbed the 'Love Lounge' by staffers. If you forget your lunch money, don't worry. They take plastic, but you're better off calling ahead to reserve a table for you and your steady.

Centro-Fly
 45 West 21st Street
 Between 5th & 6th Avenues
 212.627.7770

Centro-Fly will make even the casual night-crawler feel like they're down. We like that the bouncers seem genuinely sorry to see clubbers exit come closing time. The main dance floor features a raised VIP lounge, dubbed the "Champagne Room," and decorated like Judy Jetson's bedroom. The Tapiooca Room serves dinner, late night supper and breakfast (in that order) Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Venerated DJ talent including Ric Morillo, Junior Sanchez and Cassius are just some of the talent that has graced the decks as of late, so you know they come correct. The retro bubble-shaped portholes allow the riff-raff to gaze in at will.

Cheetah
 12 West 21st Street Between 5th & 6th
 212.206.7770

You'll be glad you stuck it out on line outside this two-tiered Chelsea dance hall. Leopard-skin booths overlook the crowded dancefloor where beautiful young bodies twist and turn to the mechanized beats emanating from the ample sound system. Meanwhile, the downstairs lounge plays slinky R&B beneath a swirling mirrorball most nights. Heads Up: Celebrities are often spotted (pardon the pun) here in the elevated booths or downstairs chillin' in the lounge.



Type of Establishment Bar/Restaurant
 Hours Daily 24hrs
 Drink Prices Moderate
 Food American
 Nearest Subway 1,2,3,9 to 14th Street
 Credit Cards AmEx, Disc, MC, V

Type of Establishment Club
 Hours Th-Sa, M 10pm-6am
 Drink Prices Expensive
 Food N/A
 Nearest Subway N,R,F to 23rd Street
 Credit Cards AmEx, DC, MC, V

Type of Establishment Club
 Hours Daily 10pm-4am Closed Wed.
 Drink Prices Expensive
 Food N/A
 Nearest Subway N,R to 23rd Street
 Credit Cards Cash Only

Type of Establishment
Lounge

Hours
F-Sa 7pm-4am
Su-Th 7pm-2am

Drink Prices
Moderate

Food
N/A

Nearest Subway
1,9 to 23rd Street

Credit Cards
Cash Only

Ciel Rouge

176 7th Avenue
Between 20th & 21st Streets
212.929.5542

Ciel Rouge is nightlife as seen through rose-colored shades. In fact, 'toutes les rouges' would seem a more appropriate name for this cozy, unpretentious lounge where everything from the tableclothes to the walls are, well, red. An eclectic, unpretentious crowd of insiders and passers-by enjoy real, long and smoky conversations. Live music is offered during the week, including an accordion player on Wednesdays (accentuating the Eastern European feel) and the drink menu is one of the best in the neighborhood. In addition to mint juleps and Pisco Sours, the caipirinha (a Brazilian sugarcane rum) is a must try. And, if you're lucky, they'll open the cozy garden the night you drop by.

Downtime

251 West 30th Street
Between 7th & 8th Avenues
212.695.2747

This live music venue hosts an ever-eclectic rotating line-up of everything from rock to reggae, hip-hop to gospel. Great site lines ensure everyone a great view of the performers, even if you're wedged in at the bar. The mezzanine has been converted into a lounge and the upstairs features a game room and a dance floor filled with an eardrum-assaulting sound system. And, as it inhabits the New York City Recording and Rehearsal Arts Building, it's not uncommon for A-list talent to drop by for a set after a day in the studio.

Dusk

147 West 24th Street
212.924.4490

Move along B&T traffic. Nothing for you to see here, except a slick Chelsea lounge that would rather keep its local vibe intact. A bit off the beaten path, Dusk caters to a mixed, though mostly gay crowd including young professionals and music industry types. The decor is a deep blue splashed Miami art deco approach infused with an entire wall of cut glass. The layout is long and sleek, with rows of fish tanks backing the bar. DJs most nights spin the right tracks to complete that essential laid-back lounge atmosphere. Check out the red-light bathrooms with one-way glass looking out into the bar area.

Type of Establishment
Bar/Live Music

Hours
F-Sa 5pm-4am
T-Th 5pm-1am

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
N/A

Nearest Subway
1,9,2,3 to Penn Station

Credit Cards
AmEx, MC, V

Type of Establishment
Lounge

Hours
Th-Sa 6pm-4am
Tu-W 6pm-2am Closed Sunday

Drink Prices
Moderate

Food
N/A

El Flamingo

547 West 21st Street
Between 10th & 11th Avenues
212.243.2121

This popular Chelsea dancehall is best known as the stable of the popular *Donkey Show*, an interactive 70s spin on Bill Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. If this two-floored, old-school club looks like it could've been the setting for a movie, that's because it was. The club, featured prominently in *Celebrity* and *Dance With Me*, still remains one of the most popular spots in a neighborhood already overflowing with nightclubs. Visitors are advised to dress sharply, lest they look less fabulous than the stars that have graced the red-carpeted floor.

Filter 14 (formerly Mother)

432 West 14th Street @ Washington
212.366.5680

Here's one. Invite your least favorite hipster to Filter 14 and ask for his take on the unusual decor. He'll likely discuss the deconstructionist aspects, the way the walls are left half-painted, new lighting fixtures hang down in contrast to the boarded-up doors, and the impression of a space being crafted at the same time it's falling down. Once he finishes, let him know that the un-done state of this excellent watering hole is not the product of some grand artistic vision, but rather the result of legal wrangling with the landlord, preventing them from doing any more renovations. Then make him buy you a drink.

g Lounge

223 West 19th Street
Between 7th & 8th Avenues
212.929.1085

A hundred pairs of eyes belonging to savagely tanned, gym-chiseled, protein-shake physiques scrutinize every hard body that enters this coolly designed after-work Chelsea favorite. Some of the brightest, wealthiest and most attractive professionals in the downtown gay community lounge here over a rainbow-colored assortment of mixed drinks. Mingle as you check out the scene around the bustling circular bar, relax in the lounge area with a frozen Cosmo, or sip an espresso in the back. Tolerable disco decibels, dim lights and a solid happy hour make this a popular meeting spot before hitting the club scene.

Type of Establishment
Club

Hours
Th-F 6pm-4am
Sa 10pm-5am
Su 6pm-2am

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
N/A

Nearest Subway
C,E to 23rd Street

Credit Cards
MC, V

Type of Establishment
Club

Hours
Th-Sa 10pm-4am M-W
9pm-4am

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
N/A

Nearest Subway
A,C,E to 14th Street

Credit Cards
MC, V

Type of Establishment
Bar

Hours
Daily 4pm-4am

Drink Prices
Moderate

Food
N/A

Nearest Subway
1,9 to 18th Street

Credit Cards
Cash Only

Type of Establishment
Bar
Hours
Daily 9am-4am
Drink Prices
Moderate
Food
Irish
Nearest Subway
C,E to 23rd Street
Credit Cards
AmEx, DC, MC, V

Half King
505 West 23rd Street
Between 10th & 11th Avenues
212.462.4300

Located way out west of Chelsea, *Perfect Storm* author/hottie Sebastian Junger's cozy confine offers a casual local scene. Named for an Native American Indian chief, there is a rustic atmosphere here, though not much different than you'll find in countless other bars in this area. But, the staff is attentive and the prices are reasonable. This is a place to go if you're in the neighborhood and don't want to travel anymore. It would be just as comfortable with peanut shells all over the floor. Note: Literary readings are on the agenda.

Type of Establishment
Club
Hours
Tu-Sa 5pm-4am
Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
American
Nearest Subway
N,R,F to 23rd Street
Credit Cards
AmEx, MC, V

Hush
17 West 19th Street
Between 5th & 6th Avenues
212.989.HUSH

Stylish YMCA after-school program meets Mediterranean disco. Hush's crowd is a mixed bag of onlookers, after-workers and hard-core party types. The obligatory velvet rope is seldom used in the early evening, but is frequently pulled across the door during the many private parties that seem to be going on. This self-professed full service dinner club, which turns into a late night disco, is arranged for seeing and being seen, with large banquettes overlooking the bar and dining crowd. But you won't quite feel like you're in with the A-list here. Two for one drinks during happy hour liven things up considerably.

Justin's
31 West 21st Street Between 5th & 6th
212.352.0599

Sample some great Caribbean and Southern culinary mixes at Justin's, the Chelsea eatery spun off by music mogul Sean "Puff Daddy" Combs. Named for the rap impresario's first born, the bistro still hosts some of the city's finest bes and wannabes. Puffy's people, recording artists, athletes, models and movie stars can often be found in the high-backed booths feasting on smothered chicken, collard greens and macaroni. If you're not in the mood for dinner, hang out up front at the bar. It can be a bit of a meat market, but a relatively harmless one. Reservations are recommended, so drop a dime.

Type of Establishment
Bar/Restaurant
Hours
Daily 5:30pm-2am
Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
Southern
Nearest Subway
1,9,F to 23rd Street

La Maison de Sade
206 West 23rd Street
Between 7th & 8th Avenues
212.727.8642

Care for a flogging with those fries? Or, perhaps a side order of spanking with your entre? The painfully pleasurable S&M-themed La Maison de Sade serves up French cuisine, but who can concentrate on food when a vampish dominatrix in knee-high boots, fishnet stockings and a leather teddy screams, "harder, harder, hurt me baby..." Relax, the vibe is more high camp than anything sinister, but you will find some hardcore devotees in the crowd. The staff puts on two shows nightly (8pm and 10pm).

Limelight
47 West 20th Street @ 6th Avenue
212.807.7780

After a brief hiatus from ultimate hipness, this former church turned pagan's paradise is once again becoming a place to scene and be scened, illustrated by numerous mezzanines and elevated V.I.P spaces in which to perch and observe dancers below. Nightcrawlers in the know come here to groove to the likes of Japanese techno fave Aenishii, Sweden's Adam Beyer, resident Jeff Mills, and several others. Their creations fill the sanctuary, complete with disco lights bouncing off arched stained glass windows. A lounge with plaid walls has been known to house an S&M show and another bar featuring the designs of H.R. Giger's Aliens decor rounds out the heathen-esque decadence.

Lola
30 West 22nd Street
Between 5th & 6th Avenues
212.675.6700

Once known for delicious Southern cuisine, Lola's menu has since branched out to offer more of an eclectic mix of many American influences. Take your time, soak up the juicy energy dripping off the dining room, and tap your feet to the infectious beats cranking from the R&B funk band in the front room performing Wednesday through Saturday. The rousing Sunday brunch, complete with powerful Gospel singers, is a local favorite. The psychic reading palms and tarot cards can predict your future as soon as you walked in. "You will fall madly in love with Lola and her famous 100-spice Caribbean fried chicken."

Type of Establishment
Bar/Restaurant
Hours
Daily 4pm-4am
Drink Prices
Moderate
Food
French
Nearest Subway
C,E,1,9 to 23rd Street
Credit Cards
All Major
Th-Sa \$5 Cover

Type of Establishment
Club
Hours
F-Sa 10pm-6am Su 9:30pm-4am W-Th 10pm-5am
Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
N/A
Nearest Subway
B,F to 23rd Street
Credit Cards
AmEx, MC, V

Type of Establishment
Bar/Restaurant
Hours
Th-Su 6pm-12am M-W 6pm-11pm
Drink Prices
Moderate
Food
Eclectic American
Nearest

Type of Establishment
Bar/Lounge

Hours
M-Th 6pm-2am
F-Sa 6pm-3am

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
International

Nearest Subway
C,E to 23rd Street

Credit Cards
All Major

Type of Establishment
Club/Restaurant

Hours
M-Sa 6pm-4am

Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
French/Asian/American

Nearest Subway
A,C,E to 14th Street
L to 8th Avenue

Credit Cards
AmEx, DC, MC, V

Type of Establishment
Club

Hours
Th-Sa 8pm-4am

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
Creole

Lot 61

550 West 21st Street @ 11th Avenue
212.243.6555

Decked out in everything Vogue said was worth buying this season, old uptown money and downtown nouveau riche mingle over smoked salmon wraps and tuna summer rolls at Lot 61. This *Page Six* favorite encapsulates everything a culturally starved Midwesterner dreams Manhattan to be. Reflecting Chelsea's burgeoning art scene, celebrities and media types sip \$12 martinis and flaunt their social status in a beautiful warehouse space designed and decorated by a leading team of artists, including Damien Hirst. Remotely located, Lot 61 is more a destination than a pit-stop, but you can keep pace with the glitterati 'til dawn.

Lotus

409 West 14th Street Between 9th & 10th
212.243.4420

When Lotus opened last year, the word on the street was that it would be an IT venue without the typical velvet-rope trappings. Yeeaaaah right. This uber-trendy club located



in the heart of the Meatpacking District is as exclusive as exclusive gets. With three fabulous floors, surprisingly strong Asian-inflected food, and a minimal decor straight out of the Philippe Starck school of

design, Lotus is already attracting the likes of Mick Jagger, Gisele, not to mention the entire staff of Conde Nast. In other words, don't even think about showing up in a pair of lame Dockers.

Ohm

16 West 22nd Street Between 5th & 6th
212.229.2000

Droning house and techno music resounds in the sleek, unadorned galaxy divided by oversized curtains. Attracting a mixture of black clad glitterati, party circuit veterans and visiting celebs, this two-floored, velvet-drenched dance hall exemplifies the vanguard of Manhattan scene and style. Mingle at the front bar and the elevated lounge area, dine in endlessly long, fabric-upholstered couches at the gallery restaurant or step out on the expansive dance floor in front of a coolly lit, glass-tiled heaven's gate. Throw on your best black ensemble, give a final look in the mirror and smile pretty for the doorman.

Passerby

436 West 15th Street Between 9th & 10th
212.206.7321

Look sharp, or you may just pass Passerby by. Serving as an impromptu clubhouse for the booming West Chelsea gallery scene, this small space was designed by co-owner and Brity Ex-pat gallerist Gavin Brown (the bar is attached to his eponymous gallery). Though it may be hard to find, Passerby has grown in popularity, regularly drawing a mix of art and fashion industry types. Complete with a blinking Saturday Night Fever-style dance floor, Passerby fosters a sense of community, drawing a crowd loyal to the little hideaway.

Roxy

515 West 18th Street Between 10th & 11th
212.645.5156

Roxy is one of the few large-scale dance halls left standing from the decadent 80s. The name alone conjures up visions of a pre-fame Madonna and several hundred Reagan-era club-goers dressed just like her, dancing the night away under a frantic strobes and twirling mirrorballs in a drug-fueled frenzy. A Studio 54 for the everyman, if you will. These days the Roxy has fallen slightly behind the pack in the hip quotient, but with the city's largest dancefloor and a loyal following. Saturday nights the space is turned into one of the largest gay venues in the city.

Serena

222 West 23rd Street Between 7th & 8th
212.255.4646

Tucked away in the basement of the Chelsea Hotel, Serena is like your parent's rec room - if your parents are wealthy and funky. Named for Brit owner Serena Bass, the lounge is run by her affable son, Sam Shaffer (note the black and white photo of mother and son at the entrance). Full of whimsical touches - textured red wallpaper, fresh palm fronds, comfortable low seating, Balinese-inspired copper lamps, stained glass on bathroom doors- you'll want to stay all night. The wait staff is as gorgeous as the youngish and wealthy looking crowd. You can feast on cheese and crackers, vegetable empanadas, Indonesian satay and carrot cake and wash it all down with a Passionate Screw, a passion fruit flavored margarita.



Type of Establishment
Bar

Hours
Daily 6pm-2am

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
N/A

Nearest Subway
A,C,E to 14th Street

Credit Cards
MC, V

Type of Establishment
Club

Hours
F-Sa 11pm-7am

Drink Prices
Moderate

Food
N/A

Nearest Subway
A,C,E to 14th Street

Credit Cards
Cash Only
\$20 Cover

Type of Establishment
Hotel Bar

Hours
Daily 6pm-4am

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
Appetizers

Nearest Subway
1,9,F to 23rd Street

Credit Cards
AmEx, MC, V

Type of
Establishment
Bar/Restaurant

Hours
Daily 12pm-
11:30pm

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
Nouveau
American

Nearest
Subway
1,9 to
18th Street

Credit Cards
AmEx, Diners,
MC, V

Type of
Establishment
Club

Hours
M-F 10pm-
6am Sa-
Su 10pm-
6am

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
N/A

Nearest
Subway
1,9 to 28th
Street
C,E to
23rd Street

Credit Cards
Cash Only

Type of
Establishment
Club

Hours
W 11pm-4am
F-Sa 11pm-
10am

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
N/A

Nearest
Subway
1,9 to 28th
Street
C,E to
23rd Street

Credit Cards
Cash Only

The Tonic

108 West 18th Street
Between 6th & 7th Avenues
212.929.9755

Opened only two years in its current incarnation, this address has been a staple of the Chelsea scene for over 100 years. With a casual bar with classic pub appeal and two full dining areas, The Tonic works well for either after work drinking or relaxed rendezvousing. The wine list boasts over 400 flavors of grape juice, but just as popular is the New American menu, which may give your wallet a slight concussion, with dishes like the popular Five Spice Muscovy.

The Tunnel

220 12th Avenue @ 27th Street
212.695.4682

One-stop club hopping, The Tunnel has a little something for everyone. House, trance, techno, R&B and suped up occasional 80s pop tracks are just some of the sounds you'll find in this massive, multi-room 18-and-over destination. Gargantuan disco balls hover over the main dance floor, complete with cages and podiums. Nooks and crannies house couches for hard-core lounging. Somewhat muddled theme bars range from a blue-tiled bathroom to an underwater drinking hole. Big names like Funk Master Flex and Johnny Vicious bring in young DJ groupies, and Sunday nights are said to attract an affluent crowd.

Twilo

530 West 27th Street
Between 10th & 11th Streets
212.268.1600

This West Chelsea rave mecca is home to one of the hottest scenes on the NYC club circuit. In the space for the legendary Sound Factory, Twilo hosts Friday and Saturday parties with some of the best DJ's in the city, including Sasha and John Digweed on the last Friday of the month and Junior-verse with Junior Vasquez every Saturday, starting around 4 am (disco naps anyone?). A mixed crowd crushes to the beat of house, disco and techno in this cavernous



dance hall boasting one of the best sound systems in clubland. Drinks are typical NYC club prices, but if you're here to drink or converse, you've missed the point entirely. Warning: Cover can run to \$35.