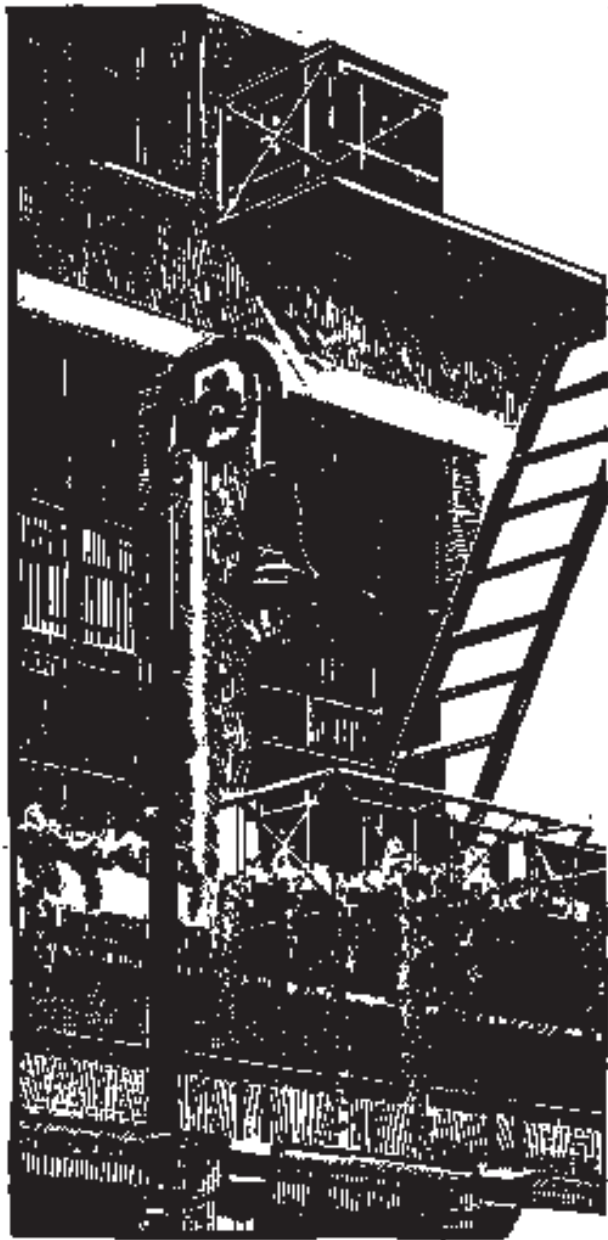




SoHo

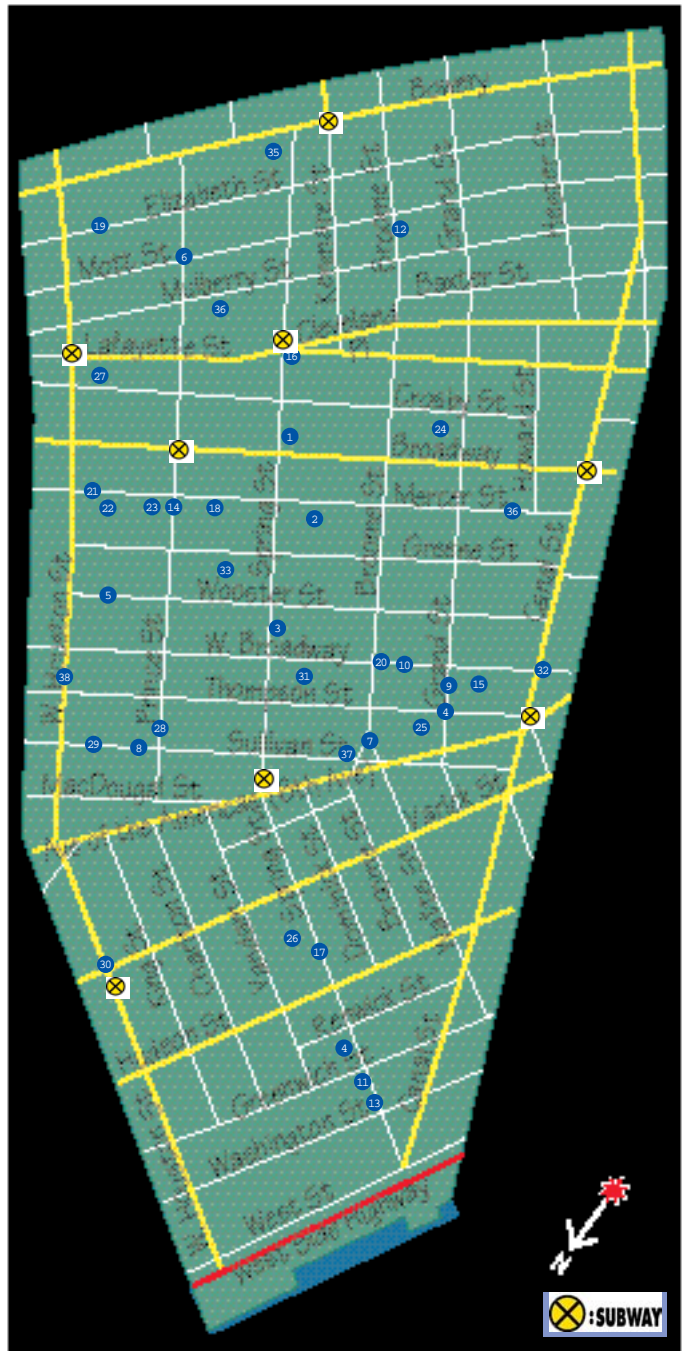


Formerly an industrial district, this area has outgrown its early radical persona, aspiring to new heights, both culturally and economically with each passing year.

South of HOUSTON lies this glossy community of small art galleries, sidewalk trendy cafes, and boutiques, bounded by Houston Street, Canal Street, Crosby Street and the West Side Highway. Here, the same lofts prized for their prime location are no longer inexpensive. The escalating cost of living is now forcing up-and-coming artists to flee to Neo-Bohemian enclaves like Williamsburg in Brooklyn, eroding SoHo's cutting-edge reputation. The area's established chic character, however, is firmly embedded and on display nightly.

Bordering SoHo and the LES, Little Italy remains the heart of New York's Old World Italian culture — a character slowly being whittled away by time. This is where it all started. The turn-of-the-century flood of Italian immigrants into the area's cramped tenements were the launching pad from which they have achieved great heights.

For the most part, though, their aura has moved onward and upward, leaving behind faint whispers of what had been. Still, stroll along the area's storied streets and sample from the specialty shops, restaurants and delightful outdoor cafes carrying on the tradition along Mulberry and Mott Streets. Sooner or later, though, you're bound to tire of window shopping for that perfect nightlife experience, and there's really no better place to take the plunge than here.



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Type of Establishment
Bar/Restaurant
Hours
F-Sa 12pm-3am
Su 11:30am-2am M-Th 12pm-2am
Drink Prices Expensive
Food French
Nearest Subway 6 to Spring Street
Credit Cards All Major

Balthazar
80 Spring Street
Between Crosby & Broadway
212.965.1414

Even though we know this place has seen many a Manolo, and though we know that everyone from Rupert Murdoch to Anna Win-tour has dined in this French-styled restaurant, and while you'll probably have to promise to name your first born Balthazar to get a reservation, we still don't understand why this place has been the definition of downtown hip for the past two years. It's not particularly original in design (one need only look at other Keith McAlley creations Lucky Stripe, Pravda to see that), but it's got attitude and sometimes that's enough.

Bar 89
89 Mercer Street
Between Broome & Spring
212.274.0989

Throw away your cutlery and discover just how good finger-food can be at this neo-neighborhood diner. Behemoth burgers, nachos smothered in cheese, and buckin buffalo wings that'll leave you licking your fingers from the knuckle to the nail are just a few of the affordable, belt-busting goodies you'll find at Bar 89. The drinks are as large as the portions and fortunately for you the bathrooms are quite a tourist attraction (just ask the overwhelming number of Asians that frequent the bar). Simple, sleek and sumptuous, it's no wonder this place needs a doorman on the weekend.

Boom
152 Spring Street
Between West Broadway & Wooster
212.431.3663

When Boom opened seven years ago, it led the SoHo vanguard of places to see-and-be-seen. The lines have died down, but the restaurant still pulls a chic loyal crowd — mainly because Boom makes good on what other establishments can't. The oil paintings, skylight sculpture, and burnt umber walls create a vibe that's cozy and romantic, and the international fare only adds to the worldly ambiance. Throw in live music four nights a week and you have a date destination guaranteed to make either (or both) of you swoon.

Type of Establishment
Bar/Restaurant
Hours
Daily 12pm-2am
Drink Prices Moderate
Food Eclectic American
Nearest Subway N,R to Prince Street
Credit Cards AmEx, V, MC

Type of Establishment
Bar/Restaurant
Hours
M-Sa 12pm-4am
Drink Prices Expensive
Food International Fare
Nearest

Cafe Noir
32 Grand Street @ Thompson
212.431.7910

Some place in Morocco there is a Cafe Noir, but if you don't have the time or resources to go all the way to Africa may we suggest a more suitable option in SoHo. The French Moroccan menu is filled with an array of seafood dishes, colors, and textures. Hand-woven tapestries made of yarn lie on stucco walls. Lanterns covered in faux gems illuminate corners of the room. Gigantic potted palm trees double as incense holders and archway upon archway takes you to an exotic place where knights wrapped in white cloths look stately to the horizon on two-humped camels.

Casa La Femme
150 Wooster Street
Between Prince & West Houston
212.505.0005

Comfort is key at Casa La Femme, an authentic Egyptian spot with beauty rivaling that of Cleopatra. Plush pillows made for the mightiest of pharaohs envelope you on the grass-covered floor. Adding to the opium den-like feel of the room, brass shisha pipes (bongs with culture) stand tall on center room tables inviting all to take tokes of apple-cinnamon flavored tobacco. Private tents draped in sheer black curtains are the perfect place to canoodle and nibble on Lahma Bil Fata (roasted lamb). But, nothing gets the crowd going more than the house belly dancer.



Chibi's Sake Bar
238 Mott Street @ Prince
212.274.0025

Chibi, the canine namesake of this charming sake bar, proudly towers in a gold-framed photograph above the lovingly arranged glass shelves holding the trinkets necessary for authentic sake drinking. Mellow, young and old, hip downtowners enjoy, among others, seven-year-old Koshiyu-Yoshiorino sake in minuscule, hand-painted French glasses, and Japanese appetizers at the curved, marble corner bar. Romantic couples disappear behind the blue-velvet curtain to smooch at one of the little tables in the darker, unadorned but cozy side of the room.

Type of Establishment
Bar/Restaurant
Hours
Daily 11pm-4am
Drink Prices Moderate
Food French Moroccan
Nearest Subway A,C,E,1,9 to Canal Street
Credit Cards AmEx

Type of Establishment
Bar/Restaurant
Hours
W-Sa 5pm-4am Su-T 5pm-12am
Drink Prices Expensive
Food Egyptian
Nearest Subway N,R to Prince Street
Credit Cards AmEx, V, MC

Type of Establishment
Lounge
Hours
F-Sa 6pm-2am Su 6pm-12am T-Th 6pm-1am
Drink Prices Expensive
Food Appetizers
Nearest

Type of
Establishment
Bar/Lounge

Hours
Th-Sa 5pm-
4am Su-W
5pm-2am

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
Eclectic

Nearest
Subway
A,C,E to
Spring Street

Credit Cards
AmEx, V, MC,
Diners

Type of
Establishment
Club

Bar/Restaurant

Hours
F-Sa 12pm-
3am
Su-Th 12pm-
1am

Drink Prices
Moderate

Food
New American

Nearest
Subway
C,E to
Spring Street

Credit Cards
All Major

Type of
Establishment
Sake Bar

Hours
Daily 6pm-
4am

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
Appetizers

Nearest
Subway
C,E to
Spring Street

Credit Cards
All Major

Circa Tabac

32 Watts Street
Between 6th Avenue & West Broadway
212.941.1781

While the government continues to crack down on tobacco companies and anti-smoking campaigns are the growing cause derigeur, it's become increasingly harder to light up without feeling like a walking lung cancer ad. Fear not our little nicotine addicted friends. Circa Tabac is a smoker's paradise. Offering over 150 types of cigarettes from around the world and an extremely affordable menu, this 20s style lounge tucked away on Watts street, exhorts you to rip off your patches and spit out that wad of gum. And don't worry about second-hand smoke, that's what the giant air-purifiers are for.

Cub Room

131 Sullivan Street @ Prince Street
212.677.4100

A staple of the SoHo bar and restaurant scene, the regulars at Cub Room call it a SoHo icon. A yuppie, somewhat older crowd tends to dominate the scene. The wine list is exceptional, and they serve a delicious watermelon martini. Weekdays, everyone comes suited and booted, lending the place a definite after-work vibe. But weekends are more relaxed, although it does feel like an 'Upper East Side comes downtown' place. We prefer the early evening scene, when you can actually get a place to sit and people watch.

Denial

46 Grand Street
Between West Broadway & Thompson
212.925.9449

It seems amazing that a native New Yorker could so effectively pull off a sake bar. The secret lies in the fact that this small SoHo lounge does not attempt to be anything its not. Like sake, the establishment is simple in concept and has an integrity to its stainless steel, velvet couched structure; like its SoHo patrons, the sake is refined, yet comes in subtle variations. The wine and the evening gain patrons and mystique as the evening progresses, and before closing it seems that those who have not visited, are only those who are in denial.

Diva

341 West Broadway
Between Grand & Broome
212.941.9024

Walk down West Broadway and you can't miss Diva. Its doors, a bright fire-engine red, capture the eye and definitely draw attention away from the other more understated places that surround this Italian restaurant. But come to think of it, isn't a diva always supposed to be the center of attention? Its loud exterior is beguiling; however, the candle-lit room is rather sedate. Patrons are too busy enjoying the Ravioli d'Aragosta and indulging in a taste of La Dolce Vita.

Don Hill's

511 Greenwich Street @ Spring
212.334.1390

Members of the moral majority may not want to enter Don Hill's on a Friday night. Scantly clad go-go boys giving up the goods to a crowd of rock n' roll loving gay men could send some running to confession in the morning. But the Squeeze Box party, arguably the best one at DH, is always packed. Drag queens, X-rated videos, and lots of loud hard-core rock clearly pull in a crowd. Thursdays are all about the early 80s, Pat Benatar and Bananorama blasting all night long.

Double Happiness

173 Mott Street
Between Broome & Grand
212.941.1282

Watch Your Step — they only lead to so much happiness — as you step downstairs into Chinatown's dark, smoky and almost enigmatic catacombs. Cheerful groups of young locals, casual or in suits, and out-of-towners are indeed happily downing green-tea martinis on rickety little tables littered with cigarette ashes from previous customers—all done to loud 70s psychedelic funk. Don't get sidetracked on your search for the bathroom as you stagger around the bizarre white-kitchen-tiles and uncouth-stone corner bar, past intricate alcoves, divided by partitions made of abacuses, that hide hot and heavy couples.

Type of
Establishment
Bar/Restaurant

Hours
Daily 11am-
3am

Drink Prices
Moderate

Food
Italian

Nearest
Subway
C,E to
Spring Street

Credit Cards
All Major

Type of
Establishment
Club

Hours
Daily 10pm-
4am

Drink Prices
Moderate

Food
N/A

Nearest
Subway
N,R to
Prince Street

Credit Cards
Cash Only

Type of
Establishment
Bar

Hours
F-Sa 6pm-4am
Su-Th 6pm-
3am

Drink Prices
Expensive

Food
Asian
Appetizers

Nearest
Subway
6 to
Spring Street

Credit Cards
AmEx, V, MC

Type of Establishment
Bar/Restaurant
Hours
Daily 12pm-4am
Drink Prices
Cheap
Food
Bar Menu
Nearest
Subway
C,E to
Spring Street
Credit Cards
AmEx, V, MC

Ear Inn
326 Spring Street
Between Greenwich & Washington
212.226.9060

What's that, we can't ear you? Okay, that was corny, but we couldn't resist. Established in 1817 by a reputed black man named James Brown (go figure), this designated landmark was a favorite amongst horny sailors looking for liquor and good lovin' from the working women upstairs. Judging from the beat up bar stools and weathered walls, surrealist painter Salvador Dali and John Lennon are among the many who have imbibed a brew or two in the watering hole once called a "dump with dignity" by *The New York Times*. Look, the drinks are cheap and the ripped jeans and t-shirt crowd doesn't mind the decor at all.

Type of Establishment
Bar
Hours
Daily 10pm-2am
Drink Prices
Cheap
Food
Bar Menu
Nearest
Subway
N,R to Prince Street
Credit Cards
AmEx, V, MC

Fanelli's Cafe
94 Prince Street @ Mercer
212.226.9412

Some places need no introduction and when you're the second oldest bar in New York you're definitely not in need of a PR guru. Serving food and drink since 1847, this no-frills Prince Street watering hole has none of the nouveau riche attitude that defines a lot of downtown spots. Flip-flops-and-clean-t-shirt-casual, Fanelli's is always packed with neighborhood friends, skinflints who'd rather get drunk for cheap and then stumble across the street to the higher priced Mercer Kitchen, or fans of Bobby the bartender, a walking encyclopedia who speaks on everything from Nigerian dictators to bison burgers.

Grand Bar (SoHo Grand)
310 West Broadway
Between Grand & Canal
212.965.3000

Here's a perfect example of what big money can do to a little space. Large mirrors and long curtains accentuate the high ceiling, creating a classic ambiance with a subtle millennial spin on the hotel bar concept. Also very digable is the way the bar spills out into the lounge/lobby — same drinks, different vibe. Ten bones for a stock cosmo is a bit absurd (even if it tastes good as hell), but in a city of endless diversions, here's a bar that lives up to its name. The expected clientele-actors, A- and B-list models, and young urbanites-most certainly agree.

Type of Establishment
Bar/Lounge
Hours
Daily 12pm-2am
Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
Appetizers
Nearest

Jet 19
19 Cleveland Place @ Spring
212.343.8907

In keeping with the current trend towards all things ethnic, Jet 19, a split level lounge on obscure Cleveland Place, is decorated in elaborate tapestries, hand carved masks, and other pieces from Bali. Spend the night sipping Jet Bombs in the downstairs lounge or retreat to the upstairs alcove complete with giant day beds dressed in velvet and plush pillows. Quite comfortable and perfect for group conversation or group...well, management won't allow that, but the beds are popular with this young professional crowd. "Oh my God this feels soooo good," purrs one pretty patron to group of her friends. Enough said.

Jet Lounge
286 Spring Street
Between Varick & Hudson
212.929.4780

Not to be confused with its two-year-old little sister on the eastside, Jet Lounge is the older sibling on the west. Once the preeminent place to be, today this lounge is now a shell of its former self. No more celebs, just suits on cell phones with their Kate Spade handbags. Shards of mirrored glass molded into gray-white walls give the space an Antarctica cool vibe. We're over the look, however, and believe a Jenny Jones makeover would do the trick. Nice place to chill for a few hours, but not where one heats up the evening.

Kavehaz
123 Mercer Street
Between Prince & Spring
212.343.0612

Apparently the addition of an eight dollar minimum on weekends has raised the average age of the customers, and similarly weeded out those with little appreciation for the finer accoutrements of life. Where else in SoHo can you hear live jazz in a clean candle-lit cafe, while still being able to converse candidly with your companions? Where else in New York can you order a flight (combination samplings) of fine wines, beers, scotches, or the stunning "Johnny Walker Quartet"? From their milkshakes to malt scotches and music, this cafe is a fine blend of European refinement, sans pretense or attitude.

Type of Establishment
Lounge
Hours
T-Sa 9pm-4am
Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
Japanese
Nearest
Subway
6 to
Spring Street
Credit Cards
All Major

Type of Establishment
Lounge
Hours
T-Sa 10pm-4am
Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
N/A
Nearest
Subway
1,9 to Houston Street
Credit Cards
AmEx, V, MC

Type of Establishment
Bar/Restaurant
Hours
Su-Th 12pm-1am
Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
Pasta/Salads
Nearest
Subway C,E to
Spring Street

Type of Establishment
Bar/Restaurant
Hours
Sa-Su 11:30am-4am
M-F 5pm-3am
Drink Prices Moderate
Food Italian/American
Nearest Subway 6 to Spring Street
Credit Cards AmEx, V, MC

M&R

264 Elizabeth Street
Between Prince & West Houston
212.226.0559

This neighborhood gem, on suddenly sexy Elizabeth Street, is just too cozy. We love the intimate feel, casual atmosphere, great scotch selection and the good music in this bar/restaurant. A DJ spins Thursdays through Saturdays. With about 50 varieties per liquor category, ranging from scotch, rum, whiskey, gin, cordials, wine, champagne and brandy, you can easily lose track. A back garden and a back room that doubles as the restaurant offer some seating, but the best place to sit is in the front, right by the bar. They also make excellent margaritas and Campartinis — a Campari martini.

Magnum (357)

357 West Broadway
Between Grand & Broome
212.965.1491

Last year it was Magnum, this year it's 357. The only difference, the door policy is a lot stricter, but all rejects are invited to move on over to Shine. For those of you lucky enough to make it past the audition you'll be cast in a nighttime role of SoHo socialite, downtown Bohemian, up-and-coming something, or established something trying to act regular. Extras are played by beautiful people; persons of average appearance need not apply. Kevin, the director, is a cutie with a cult following. And lest we forget about the DJ, well, he's just too fine for words.

Match

160 Mercer Street
Between Prince & West Houston
212.343.0020

There's not much to say about the deco — warehouse chic — or service — rather bleak, so let's just talk about the one thing Match manages to get right, their sushi. Outside/Inside rolls, Chirashi platters, Shashimi Combos, and more are made up front by an Asian man with the manual dexterity of a Rubik's cube champion. From 5-7 p.m. the raw stuff is half off (now that's what we call an extra value meal). But if sushi's not your cup of sake, this American restaurant with a 'pacific rim influence' (whatever that means) has a \$19.99 Price Fixe menu commemorating its five-year anniversary.

Merc Bar

151 Mercer Street
Between Prince & West Houston
212.966.2727

Indian reservation meets cobblestone covered SoHo in this laid back lounge dressed up as a log cabin. The early 90s Moomba still has traces of its old glory days even though neighboring Mercer Kitchen sucks up most of the celebrities. The giant canoe hanging over the bar, wooden fixtures, and oil paintings of Navahos may bring out the nature lover in you. But before you do something impetuous like skipping town for the Adirondacks, remember that you've never been camping, your wardrobes all black-no flannel, and the number of DJs spinning funk, soul, and R&B up there is probably zilch.

Mercer Kitchen

99 Prince Street @ Mercer
212.966.6060

Last year's buzz isn't exactly this year's dud, but the Mercer Kitchen has enjoyed its five minutes of fame and now exists as an upscale hotel bar in a post-Leo SoHo wasteland. That's not saying it's devoid of everything you'd expect from the address—both the management and the clientele are proud of the trendy drinks and the sophisticated atmosphere they're served in. It's just that there are so many other places you can enjoy \$9 cocktails without dealing with the suspicious eyes of FBI Academy rejects posing as hotel security.

n

33 Crosby Street
Between Grand & Broome
212.219.8856

This dark and sexy Spanish wine and tapas bar, is only inches wide, but endlessly long and barely lit by candles. Squeeze yourself between the exposed-brick wall and the two slim bars in a row, and try to catch a stool to order a glass of Rioja and some tapas (a smart Spanish form of hors d'oeuvres) to keep your alcohol level under control. It gets packed with a rather homogenous Gap and Banana Republic crowd that engages in animated conversations, stays for hours, and seems to love coming back. Cash only.

Type of Establishment
Lounge
Hours
Daily 9m-4am
Drink Prices Moderate
Food N/A
Nearest Subway C,E to Spring Street
Credit Cards All Major

Type of Establishment
Bar/Restaurant
Hours
T-Sa 11:30am-4am
Su-M 11:30am-2am
Drink Prices Expensive
Food Eclectic International
Nearest

Type of Establishment
Bar
Hours
Th-Sa 5pm-3:30am
M-W 5pm-2am
Drink Prices Moderate
Food N/A
Nearest Subway N,R to Prince Street
Credit Cards All Major

Type of Establishment
Bar/Restaurant
Hours
F-Sa 5:30pm-2am
Su-Th 5:30pm-1am
Drink Prices Moderate
Food Appetizers
Nearest Subway N,R to Prince Street
Credit Cards AmEx, V, MC, Diners

Type of Establishment
Bar/Restaurant
Hours
F-Sa 5pm-4am
M-Th 5pm-2am
Drink Prices Moderate
Food Tapas
Nearest Subway 6 to Spring Street
Credit Cards Cash Only

Type of Establishment
Lounge/Club
Hours
W-Su 10pm-4am
Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
N/A
Nearest Subway
C,E to Spring Street
Credit Cards
All Major

NV
289 Spring Street
Between Hudson & Varick
212.929.NVNV

Walk through the dimly lit corridors and enter a trendy downtown lounge with touches of an old world salon. The glam gods and goddesses who profile on the vintage chic couches have their fair share of attitude, but once the vogueing ends, which is usually around 1 a.m., this crowd heads upstairs and gets down to business: Danc-



ing. After a few good hours of dirty dancing, head back downstairs and get to know your inevitably attractive partner a little better in one of the sexy curtain-flanked enclaves.

Naked Lunch
17 Thompson Street @ Grand
212.343.0828

The bar gets its name from a novel by beatnik-era writer William Burroughs. The story is about a struggling writer who works as an exterminator to pay the bills. When times get too tough for the writer and his wife, they snort roach powder as their sole means of sustenance. Read the book to find out the rest, but now you know why the bar's signature is a masterfully designed cockroach. Bug haters, relax; this Moroccan-inspired place, is only infested with great drinks, Wall Streeters, and SoHo Bohemians.

Type of Establishment
Bar
Hours
Daily 6pm-4am
Drink Prices
Moderate
Food
N/A
Nearest Subway
A,C,E to Canal Street
Credit Cards
All Major

Pravda
281 Lafayette Street
Between Prince & Houston
212.226.4944

It's not Red Square and you won't find very many Muscovites relaxing in the weathered leather recliners, but the honorary Ruskies that regularly step down into Pravda do like their vodka and lots of it. The bartenders have a heavy hand and drinks like Limenade, The Russian Mary and The Viagra (Stoli Orange, Blue Curacao, and something special) are sure



to get a rise out of anyone. Downstairs is one giant communal space washed in a warm copper glow, and there's always the more intimate second level. And, you just might find a drink strong enough to wipe that spot off of

Gorbachev's head.

Type of Establishment
Restaurant/Lounge
Hours
F-Sa 5pm-4am
Su 6pm-1:30am
M-Th 5pm-3am
Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
Russian
Nearest

Raoul's
180 Prince Street
Between Thompson & Sullivan
212.966.3518

On most nights the line to get into this place spills out onto Prince Street. Though it's been around for 23 years, this French bistro is still as popular as it was when it first opened. The front room's familial aura — walls comfortably cluttered with old oil paintings, Victorian era mirrors, and black and white photos — is warm and welcoming. Gentlemen, the ultra-romantic garden dining room is the perfect place to pop the question.

The Room
144 Sullivan Street
Between Prince & West Houston
212.477.2102

Though the bartender believes this fact is trite, The Room is actually two dark narrow rooms, bar on the right, lounge on the left. The industrial concrete and steel setting is quite austere, but neighbors find the place surprisingly comfortable and love the bar. "We don't even consider ourselves customers," said Jane, a Room regular who lives next door, "we're family." You'll find camaraderie, but no cosmopolitans. There's no room for liquor, only wine and beer.

S.O.B.'s (Sounds of Brazil)
204 Varick Street @ West Houston
212.243.4940

The intimate and colorful tropical Club Med setting in cool New York envelopes a multi-culti crowd of curious Americans, dressed-up Africans, adventurous Europeans, homesick Caribbeans and Brazilians. Get acquainted over a caipirinha (trademark Brazilian drink) that inspires vigorous and tight dancing to live Brazilian, Caribbean or African music on the well-observed dance floor. After an exhausting lesson on how to shake bundas (behinds) by a snakeskin-clad Brazilian singer, the exhausted crowd relaxes with tropical food at the tables, or back to where it all started — at the elevated bar with a caipirinha.

Type of Establishment
Bar/Restaurant
Hours
Daily 5pm-2am
Drink Prices
Moderate
Food
French Bistro
Nearest Subway
C,E to Spring Street
Credit Cards
All Major

Type of Establishment
Bar/Lounge
Hours
Daily 5pm-4am
Drink Prices
Moderate
Food
N/A
Nearest Subway
C,E to Spring Street
Credit Cards
Cash Only

Type of Establishment
Bar/Live Music
Hours
Daily 6:30pm-3:30am
Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
Tropical
Nearest Subway
1,9 to Houston Street
Credit Cards
All Major

Type of Establishment
Bar/Cafe
Hours
F-Su 9am-3am
M-Th 9am-12am
Drink Prices
Moderate
Food
Light American
Nearest Subway
C,E to Spring Street
Credit Cards
V,MC

Scharmann's
386 West Broadway
Between Broome & Spring
212.219.2561

Tired of all those cramped, hustling and bustling SoHo bars, and want to relax with a cup of coffee and a piece of cake, without renouncing people watching to over-decibed club music? This beige, ballroom-sized Kaffeehaus with exposed fixtures, SoHo artwork, plants and crystal chandeliers is the right place. The hip, beautiful crowd checks each other out across the antique and pseudo-antique furniture, of which each piece is truly unique, including writing desks, lamps and couches. Or, you can lounge around the terrace and watch West Broadway before jumping back into its stream.

Shine
285 West Broadway @ Canal
212.941.0900

You'll be happy to know that the 6'6" bunny in four-inch platforms is still here hopping around and doing that cute little thing with his tail. The crowd here is still as frocklicking and fun loving as ever and the velvet-flanked stage still has some of the craziest acts in town. Wednesday nights are all about home cooking, a downtown hipster party brimming with models, rap moguls, and fashion mavens. Marc Ronson, DJ to the stars, is on the wheels spinning up R&B, hip-hop and old school classics. And there's Italian food too. Molto bene.

Spy Bar
101 Greene Street
Between Spring & Prince
212.343.9000

What happened to the strict door policy, the velvet rope that doubles as an electric force-field, and the guards with tough-guy attitudes, because we spy nothing, but Eurotrash and a couple of tired tranvestites in stilletoes that are way too small. Okay, okay, we're being a tad bit catty, but judging from the number of less-than-fabulous partygoers being let in these once impenetrable doors it looks like the former clubhouse for the famous has seen its last celeb. But, then again, maybe we just came on an off night...yeah, yeah, an off night.

Type of Establishment
Bar/Lounge
Hours
M-Sa 9:30pm-4am
Drink Prices
Moderate
Food
N/A
Nearest Subway
A,C,E to Canal Street
Credit Cards
All Major

Type of Establishment
Bar
Hours
Daily 9pm-4am
Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
Appetizers
Nearest Subway
N,R to Prince Street
Credit Cards
All Major

Sway
305 Spring Street
Between Greenwich & Hudson
212.620.5220

Be swayed by this hidden retro/Moroccan cave/lounge that neither needs nor wants advertisement. NY-er celebs like Tom Cruise, Sandra Bernhard and Cameron Diaz throw their parties here. Enjoy Sunday Soul nights with Nick Marc, as the huge Moroccan stained-glass lamp throws ornate shadows on the bowed orange ceiling. Actors, music industry types or just regular mortals with pony-tails and black leather jackets gather around the intricate mosaic tables in the warm, back-room salon as they listen to Electronica, Middle Eastern tunes or Brit Rock.

Sweet & Vicious
5 Spring Street
Between Bowery & Elizabeth
212.334.7915

Though this bar is located on the fringes of both SoHo and the LES, in attitude Sweet & Vicious belongs much more to the latter. There's no tall, spindly DJ dutifully mixing in the corner, nor do up-and-coming bands play here. Rather a loose group of neighborhood folks and friends of the staff come to drink cheaply in the wood and brick interior, or outside in the garden when the weather permits. It's the kind of place where you can whittle away hot, summer afternoons or let the illuminated ceilings warm your spirit in the winter.

Velvet Restaurant & Lounge
223 Mulberry Street
Between Spring & Prince
212.965.0439

Mile high ceilings and deep red walls give Velvet R&L a warm industrial feel. A garage in its past life, two years ago this American continental restaurant was reincarnated into a hangout for the young and artsy. Chef Miro Miran, a ranked table tennis champion, serves up chicken as well he does a ping-pong ball. Escape the scene downstairs and head up for dinner in a living room-like setting complete with quilted couches and full bar. No night's ever the same at Velvet. Well, actually Monday and Tuesday nights are dead as a door nail, but traffic picks up later in the week.

Type of Establishment
Bar/Lounge
Hours
Daily 10pm-4am
Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
N/A
Nearest Subway
A,C,E to Spring Street
Credit Cards
AmEx, V,MC, Diners

Type of Establishment
Bar
Hours
Daily 4pm-4am
Drink Prices
Inexpensive
Food
N/A
Nearest Subway
6 to Spring Street
Credit Cards
Cash Only

www.sweetandvicious.com

Type of Establishment
Restaurant/Lounge
Hours
M-Sa 5:30pm-4am
Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
Continental
Nearest

Type of
Establishment
Bar/Restaurant
Hours
Daily 8pm-
4am
Drink Prices
Expensive
Food
New American
Nearest
Subway A,C,E
to
Canal Street
Credit Cards
AmEx, V, MC

Veruka

525 Broome Street
Between 6th Avenue & Thompson
212.625.1717

Wait a minute, there's got to be something wrong here. We just walked up to the door and the doe-eyed brunette let us in? No first degree rope burn? No intimidating brute speaking Brooklynese? No whodoyouknow whoselistareyouonwheredoyouwork interrogation? No drama with a capital 'D'? "We still maintain our appearances," says the manager as two damsels in silk slip dresses and stilettos strut on by, "but we're not as tough as we were last year." And there's really no need to be. Veruka has already established itself as one of the premiere places in town and contrary to last year's prediction the popularity hasn't waned.

Type of
Establishment
Bar/Live Music
Hours
Daily 6pm-
4am
Drink Prices
Moderate
Food
N/A
Nearest
Subway
A,C,E,B,D,F,Q
to West 4th
Street
Credit Cards
AmEx, V, MC
\$5 Cover

Zinc Bar

90 West Houston Street
Between LaGuardia & Thompson
212.477.8337

There's no need for Surround Sound speakers in this live music venue housed under Zamir's furs. The Latin and African bands regularly perched in the corner cranny of the room are two snaps and a hands clap away from the jazz loving audience. "The room is filled with good listeners," says manager Alex, "so the musicians know not to screw around." They better not when a five dollar cover charge and one drink minimum are required. The steps down into Zinc can be a bit of a doozie, but we promise once you've navigated the narrow blocks you'll be pleased that you came.