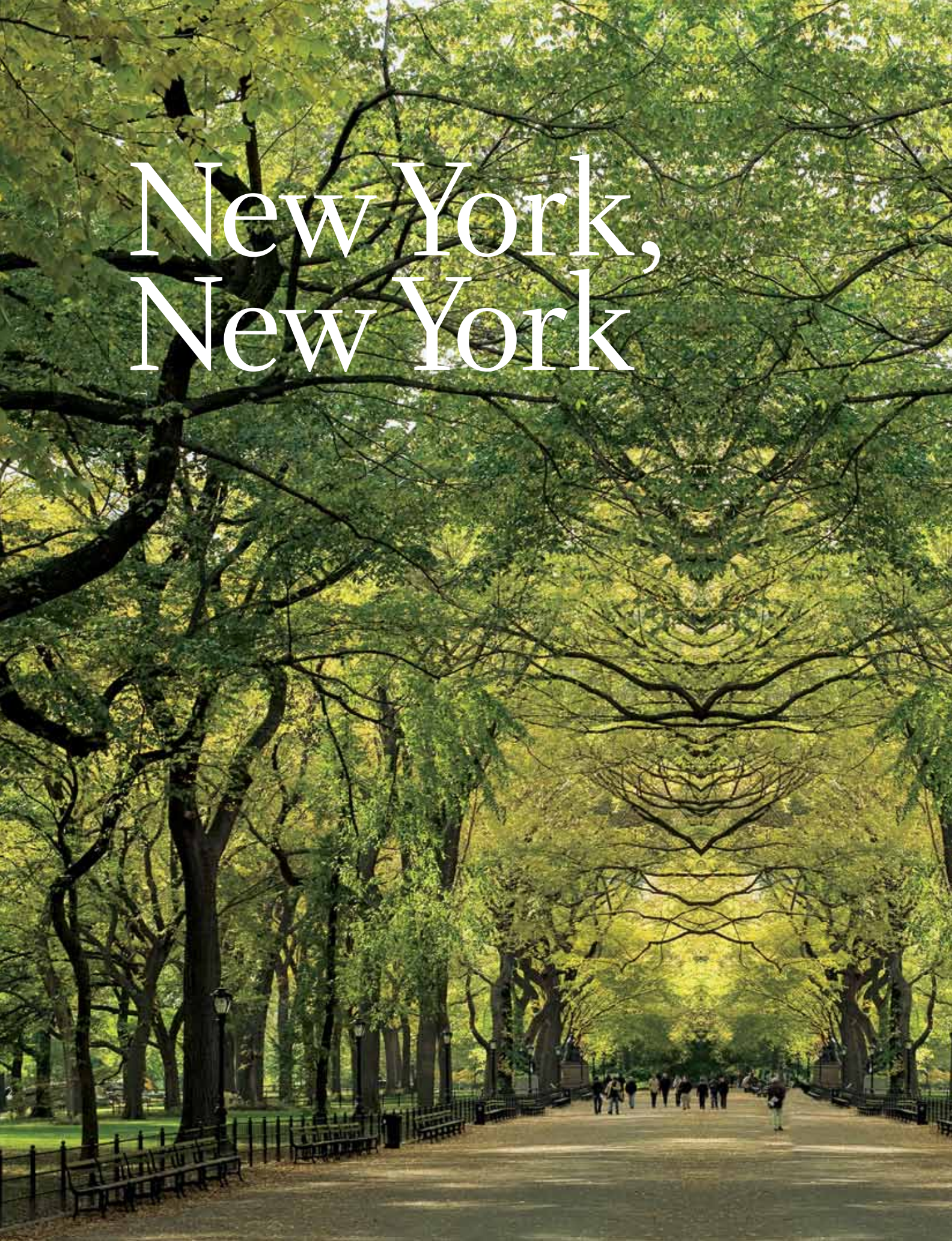
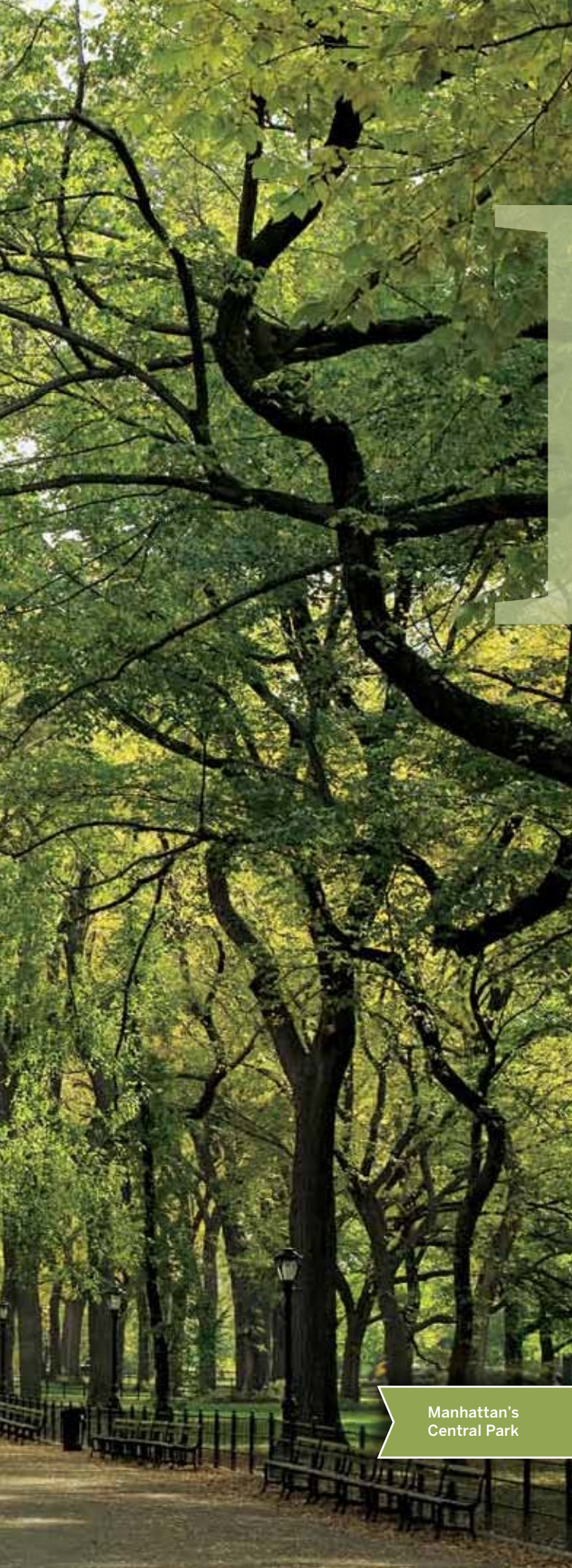


New York, New York





Manhattan's
Central Park

IT'S BEEN CALLED THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS, the Urban Jungle, and—by its more than 8 million current residents—home. No matter the moniker, New York City has been one of the world's most influential metropolises for more than 200 years. From the top of the Empire State Building to the deepest underground subway tunnels, this ever-evolving wonderland is an unmatched cultural center, with new places waiting to be discovered around every corner. We asked the experts for their thoughts about the Big Apple.

What distinguishes New York from other major world cities?

MR. HARPER: “While other great cities—Chicago, London, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Shanghai—have their impressive skyscrapers, I can think of no other place that has such an almost overwhelming density of them. Navigating the streets of Midtown has been likened to journeying through a series of canyons. It oddly reminds me more of hiking through the great redwood forests of America’s West Coast.”

HARPER ALLIANCE PARTNERS: “The diversity of all walks of life is what I feel distinguishes NYC from other major world cities, as well as having basically everything you need at your fingertips,” says Matt Moore, front office manager at **The Greenwich Hotel**. Adds Maureen Stella, director of sales and marketing at **The Carlyle**, “New York City, more than any other city in the world, has a significant impact on global commerce, finance, media, culture, art, fashion and entertainment, and it is home to the United Nations.”

What do you love most about New York City?

MR. HARPER: “The boundless sense of life, purpose, energy and possibility.”

HARPER ALLIANCE PARTNERS: “I truly think the people here are what I love most,” says Halleluyah Walcott, evening duty manager at **The Greenwich Hotel**. “The melting pot aspect makes it a wonderful

place to experience and learn from a multitude of people and cultures.”

Philip Truelove, general manager at The Greenwich Hotel, agrees. “The diversity of NYC is the one overall aspect that I appreciate and love the most about the city. The people, the food, the entertainment, the shopping—and all of this 24 hours a day.”

What activities and attractions should all visitors make sure to see or do at least once?

MR. HARPER: “I’m going to direct you to roads well traveled, but: the top of the **Empire State Building**; the **Statue of Liberty**; a **cruise around Manhattan**, starting while it’s still light, ending when you can see the island all aglow; **The Metropolitan Museum of Art**; **Central Park**; a **Broadway show**; a **performance at Carnegie Hall**; a sandwich at a New York deli (try the **Carnegie Deli in Midtown**); dim sum in Chinatown (try the **Golden Unicorn**); a visit to **Rockefeller Center**, preferably at Christmas; a drink at the **‘21’ Club** and **The Oak Bar at The Plaza Hotel**; window shopping on **West 57th Street**, **Fifth Avenue**, **Madison Avenue**, **Bleecker Street**, **SoHo**; eating a sidewalk hot dog; asking a New Yorker for directions.”

HARPER ALLIANCE PARTNERS: Stella recommends The Carlyle’s own **Café Carlyle**, the “White House” of cabaret entertainment. “You can get up close and personal with performing stars such as Woody Allen, [who appears here] every Monday night, Elaine Stritch, Judy Collins, Steve Tyrell. You can recapture a moment in time and engage in the lost language of elegance and sophistication.”

Describe a perfect day in NYC. Does it change with the seasons?

MR. HARPER: “A good breakfast, perhaps a pretzel croissant and a cup of incomparably thick hot chocolate at **City Bakery**, a visit to the farmers’ market at **Union Square**, and a leisurely window-shopping stroll followed by lunch. Then a movie or a museum visit, back to the hotel to change, and then a smart cocktail followed by dinner.”

HARPER ALLIANCE PARTNERS: “A run in **Central Park**, breakfast or lunch at a local casual restaurant, some shopping, spending time with family and friends, and discovering another New York surprise around the corner,” says Michael Schneider, director of sales and marketing at **Hôtel Plaza Athénée**. “The city does change with the seasons, but each is an adventure.”

From street vendors to 12-course tasting menus, New York City spans the culinary spectrum. What are your favorite dining options?

MR. HARPER: “There is no question that New York is one of the culinary capitals of the world. The variety is stunning, from the simple to the sophisticated. Here are some of my favorites: I have liked **Gramercy Tavern** since its opening, when star Tom Colicchio was the chef. I also greatly admire Daniel Boulud, whose **Daniel** is an elegant showcase for his superb French food. Also, I never miss a chance to dine at **La Grenouille**, which has excellent classic French food and a setting that is the prettiest in New York. For Italian, I love Mario Batali’s **Babbo**, with the proviso that you book upstairs and

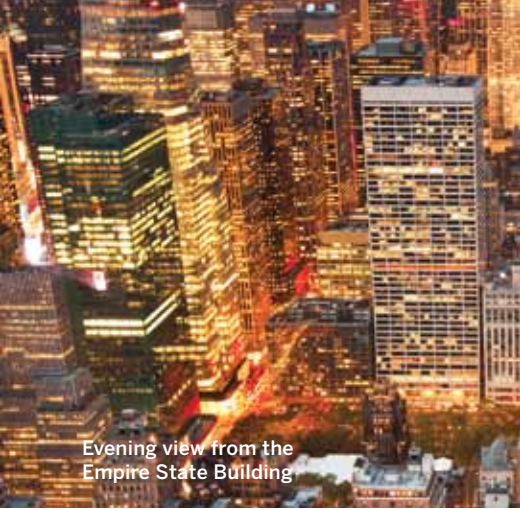
avoid the clamor of the downstairs bar. I have also thoroughly enjoyed the Roman trattoria fare and lively atmosphere at Danny Meyer’s **Maialino**. For an elegant Chinese meal, I opt for **Chin Chin** or Michael Tong’s **Shun Lee**. I will kick the hornet’s nest once again and state that, for its atmosphere and its food, **Keens** is my steakhouse of choice in the city. Two other conversation starters in NYC: best pizza and best burger. **John’s** gets my vote for best pizza; it’s flavorful and thin-crust. And **The Crosby Bar** at the **Crosby Street Hotel** has what I find to be the best hamburger in New York.”

HARPER ALLIANCE PARTNERS: If Mr. Harper’s array of recommendations doesn’t satiate your palate, Stella suggests the iconic **Boathouse** in Central Park. “It is the perfect place to dine for lunch or a romantic dinner. It has a magical atmosphere.”

What is your favorite green space in New York?

MR. HARPER: “**Central Park** is one of the great testaments to visionary planning. Can you imagine creating something like this today? My favorite part of the park is the walk around the pond at the southeast corner. And my favorite city oasis is the stunning little vest-pocket **Paley Park**, once site of the legendary Stork Club and now a lovely escape with seating, a waterfall and a small refreshment stand.”

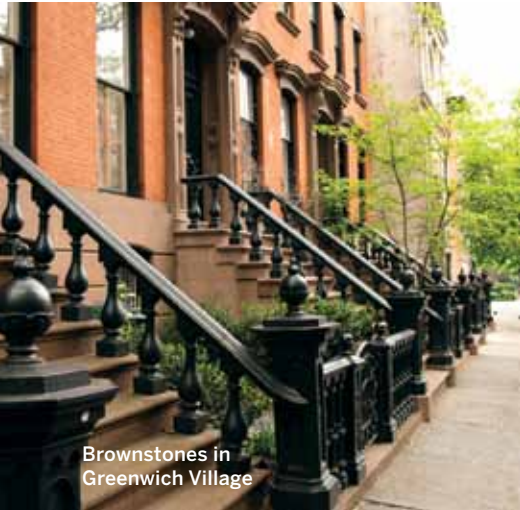
HARPER ALLIANCE PARTNERS: “**The High Line**; the mix between old and new works beautifully together,” explains Lanier Yeates, sales and marketing coordinator at The Greenwich Hotel. “The use of an old, above-ground subway track to build a park above the hustle and



Evening view from the Empire State Building



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Brownstones in Greenwich Village

AREA ALLIANCE PARTNERS

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Hotels

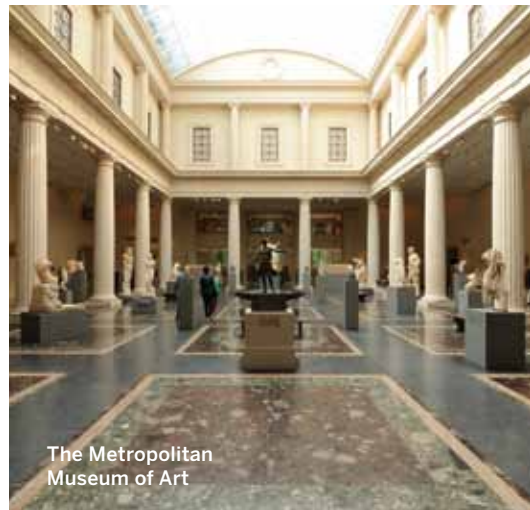
- Carlyle, The, A Rosewood Hotel; New York
- Greenwich, The; New York
- Hôtel Plaza Athénée New York; New York
- Lowell, The; New York
- Mark, The; New York
- Peninsula New York; New York
- Plaza Hotel, The; New York
- St. Regis New York; New York



The Statue of Liberty from the Staten Island Ferry



Ice skating at Rockefeller Center



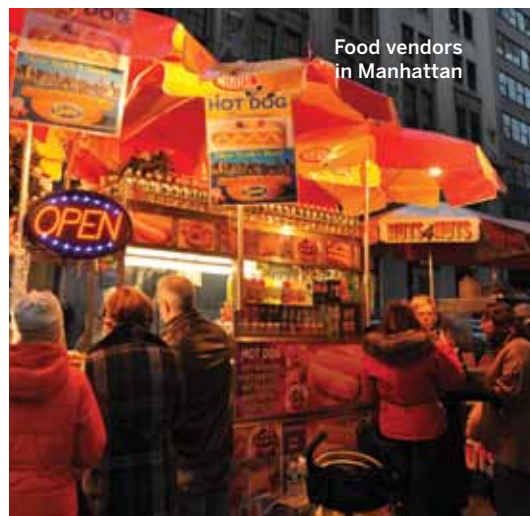
The Metropolitan Museum of Art



Times Square



Central Park statuary



Food vendors in Manhattan



NEW YORK, NY

The Mark

SITTING ON THE CORNER OF

77th and Madison since 1927, The Mark has long been a beacon of high city style and unparalleled comfort. One block from Central Park and within a short walking distance of the Metropolitan Museum, The Whitney and The Guggenheim, the location is one of the finest in Manhattan. Thanks to a \$150 million makeover from famed French designer Jacques Grange, and the addition of a world-class restaurant from Chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten, The Mark has been given new life and a fresh identity for the 21st century. *Recommended since 2010.* ✨

**The Mark Turns Two****SPECIAL OFFER** The Mark is

celebrating its second anniversary by offering 22 percent off room rate when booking two nights or more. **ALSO INCLUDES** A welcome amenity **DATES** Offer is valid on two-night minimum stays through Sept. 5, 2011, based on availability. Offer is not combinable with other offers and, due to the value of this offer, does not include standard Harper Alliance benefits.

**Member Benefits:**

The Mark Andrew Harper members receive: the best available non-restricted rates; an upgrade, when available upon check-in; daily continental breakfast; early check-in/late checkout, when available; and a \$100 USD food and beverage credit per room, per stay.

bustle of the Meatpacking District is a brilliant concept. Overgrown, regional flowers and plenty of seating overlooking the Hudson make [the High Line] a lovely way to spend a summer day."

Each neighborhood in New York City is so distinct. What is your favorite area and why?

MR. HARPER: "While there is almost no place in New York that I don't like, I would have to say that my favorite place remains **Greenwich Village**. With its off-the-grid streets, charming townhouses, distinctive shops and lovely little restaurants, it never fails to

crèche, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the many concerts throughout the city."

HARPER ALLIANCE PARTNERS:

"Spring is my favorite time of year. Everything is in bloom and the city feels more alive than ever after the cold winter months," offers Moore. "Walking and exploring the city on a beautiful spring day is priceless."

How has NYC changed over the years?

MR. HARPER: "I remember all too well the city of the '70s and '80s, when crime was rampant and the city's infrastructure seemed on the verge of collapse—most notably

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—ANDREW HARPER

intrigue me. I find it one of the most appealing urban neighborhoods in the world."

HARPER ALLIANCE PARTNERS: Agrees Schneider, "Greenwich Village is still charming and can sometimes bring you back to another time."

What is your favorite time of year in New York City? What is your favorite seasonal event or happening?

MR. HARPER: "Without question, New York at **Christmas**. No other city does it as well, from the tree at **Rockefeller Center**, to the shop windows along **Fifth and Madison avenues** and along **West 57th and Bleecker streets**, to the **Neapolitan**

the graffiti-ridden subway — and many neighborhoods were places to avoid at all costs. No more. Now, the subways are better than ever, and neighborhoods that were once forbidden zones are now hotbeds of restaurants, hotels, galleries and shops, most notably the **East Village** and the **Meatpacking District**."

HARPER ALLIANCE PARTNERS:

"Everything and almost nothing, it constantly reinvents itself," says Stella.

What aspects of New York City never change?

MR. HARPER: "The excitement and the sense that you are at the center of the universe." ✨