



# HITTING NEW

## The 11 top hotels making their Gotham debuts

By ANDREW SESSA

**N**EW York's new-hotel rollout just won't let up. Last year saw the addition of some 5,000 rooms to the city's inventory, bringing the end-of-2015 total to 107,000 rooms throughout the five boroughs. And as of now, there are another 124 stays expected to open over the next four years, with 72 properties in Manhattan alone, plus more than 20 each in Brooklyn and Queens.

The next six months or so prove particularly exciting, with more than enough spots opening — and of all varieties — to suit every sort of stylish staycationer.

### FOR DESIGN CONNOISSEURS

**The Beekman**, a Thompson Hotel (from \$619; [thebeekman.com](http://thebeekman.com)), will bring a much-needed dose of aesthetic acumen to the Financial District when it makes its June debut in one of Manhattan's first skyscrapers: the 1881 landmark Queen Anne-style Temple Court building. Reimagined by London-based designer Martin Brudnicki, the 287-room Beekman

blends past and present — most notably in its two turret suites, whose private terraces overlook the reborn World Trade Center.

Opening this fall, meanwhile, SBE hospitality and entertainment group's much-delayed **SLS Park Avenue** (rates not yet available; [slishotels.com](http://slishotels.com)) comes to us from the fantastical imagination of French designer Philippe Starck. At this satellite of the party-ready brand — whose



**HEAD OF THE GLASS:** The William Vale hotel cometh.

other outposts are in L.A., Vegas and South Beach — Starck has created all 190 rooms plus a sexy basement bar and rooftop lounge.

### FOR AESTHETES

Contemporary art collector and real estate mogul Aby Rosen opened the art-filled **n Howard** (from \$400; [lhoward.com](http://lhoward.com)) on April 1. Sitting at the lower Soho address from which it takes its name, the Scandinavian-cool 221-room

hotel will show off works by mid-century mobile-maker Alexander Calder, as well as a mural painted by local kids who worked under the mentorship of none other than Jeff Koons — a personal friend of Rosen's.

Following a bit later in April is **HGU** (from \$209; [hgunyc.com](http://hgunyc.com)), whose 90 rooms occupy the Beaux-Arts-style Hotel Grand Union, a Flatiron icon first built in 1905. Despite those century-old origins, the focus here is on contemporary art, thanks to a partnership with nearby Gallery 151.

### FOR THE HIPSTER

Following the breakout success of the Wythe Hotel, the **Williamsburg Hotel** (from \$250; [thewilliamsburghotel.com](http://thewilliamsburghotel.com)) will debut in late spring, sporting 150 rooms and suites done up in on-trend oak, brass and leather. Along with a rooftop pool, look for a subterranean vault-ceilinged lounge, and a sky-high boîte designed to look like one of NYC's iconic wooden water towers.

Nearby, the contemporary architecture of the June-opening **William Vale** (from \$385; [thewilliamvale.com](http://thewilliamvale.com)) is demanding attention. Its glass tower rises 21 stories on concrete trusses from a glass-walled single-story base, itself topped by a green-roof



**GOOD EAVE-NING:** The grand exterior of the new HGU.

public park and 60-foot pool — the longest rooftop swim at a city hotel.

Back in Manhattan, the **Hotel Indigo Lower East Side** (from \$270; [hotelindigo.lowereastside.com](http://hotelindigo.lowereastside.com)) opened late last year on Ludlow Street, just across from haute

hotel The Ludlow. The new-build tower houses 293 rooms with prime downtown views and ample hipster amenities: a groovy artisanal coffee lounge, heated outdoor swimming pool and access to the LES' nightlife hotspots.

## NYP Travel

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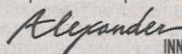
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# BEYOND ROOM SERVICE

## NYC's new restaurant must-tries

**O**UTSIDE of the litany of star chefs and restaurateurs setting up shop in new properties — Tom Colicchio and Keith McNally at The Beekman, José Andrés at the SLS, Daniel Rose at Il Howard, Andrew Carmelini at the William Vale and Wolfgang Puck at the Four Seasons — a quartet of beloved older hotels have recently opened, or will soon open, restaurants you'll want to try right away.

**La Chine** ([lacheninyc.com](http://lacheninyc.com)), at Midtown's Waldorf-Astoria, brings to

seen by the Hong Kong-born toque Jerome Leung.

Mario Batali and Joe Bastianich's latest project, and their first new New York restaurant in a decade, **La Sirena** ([lasirena-nyc.com](http://lasirena-nyc.com)) landed in and around the courtyard of West Chelsea's Maritime Hotel last month, with a menu of dishes from up and down the Italian boot as well as the duo's top-shelf cocktail program.

New Delhi's raved-about **Indian Accent** ([indianaccent.com](http://indianaccent.com)), whose stand-out contemporary subcontinent



# HEIGHTS



Steele courtesy of The Williamsburg Hotel; Above: Bronson Johnson

brand's original property, in Chelsea, this wallet-friendly spot takes design inspiration from the '80s music and club scenes; think cassette-player boomboxes and Rubik's Cubes in every room, as well as the classic Atari and board games available for rent. Targeted to what it's calling "urban explorers," the



**KETTLE TO THE METAL:** Tea off at Riff.

following of young, cash-conscious guests, too.

**FOR THE MODERN CLASSICIST**

That sultan of soigné interiors, Jeffrey Beers, has taken on design duties at Marriott's just-opened 348-room **Renaissance Midtown** (from \$309; [marriott.com](http://marriott.com)). Beers mixes high and low, placing polished marble, say, beside exposed cement. The hotel also combines traditional Marriott hospitality with a dose of the 21st-century, not least of all in interactive digital installations.



**WHET THE BED:** Get cozy at the Williamsburg Hotel.

Next up for the traditionally minded is the **Four Seasons New York Downtown** (from \$549; [fourseasons.com](http://fourseasons.com)), opening adjacent to the World Trade Center this summer. Champion of classical American architecture Robert A.M. Stern designed the hotel's 82-story tower, with Yabu Pushelberg designing its 185 large-windowed rooms.

**FOR THE MILLENNIAL**

Exposed brick walls and rough concrete floors, convenient in-room kitchenettes and a rec room-style live-work-play hospitality suite give the new **Riff Downtown** (from \$99; [riffdowntown.com](http://riffdowntown.com)) an edge. Like the

96-room **Bernic** (from \$199; [thebernic.com](http://thebernic.com)) will be keeping plugged-in millennials in mind when it opens June 1. Look for in-room Apple TVs and iPads that act as concierges — along with a nightly complimentary wine hour slated to attract a loyal

launched its first satellite at the Parker Meriden a few weeks back.

And Charles Masson, late of his family's legendary French gastronomie mecca La Grenouille and fresh off his opening of chef Shea Gallante's Chevalier at the Baccarat Hotel, will debut his as-yet-unnamed next project late this summer. It's part of the refresh of the Upper East Side's **Lowell Hotel** ([lowellhotel.com](http://lowellhotel.com)) by Obama White House designer Michael S. Smith.

Three more recently opened stays with new eateries of note, meanwhile, are: 1 Central Park, where chef Jonathan Waxman has reimagined his legendary 1980s California-cuisine joint **Jams** ([jamsrestaurant.nyc](http://jamsrestaurant.nyc)); Hotel Indigo on the Lower East Side, where Gerber Group launched its rooftop, poolside lounge-like restaurant and bar **Mr. Purple** ([\[purplenyc.com\]\(http://purplenyc.com\)\); and Inside, where Scott Conant has opened the pasta-focused \*\*Impero Caffè\*\* \(\[insideneewyork.com\]\(http://insideneewyork.com\)\), his first restaurant since leaving Scarpetta. —A.S.](http://mr</a></p>
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Stefano Giovannini

**TAKES A LICKING:** Don't resist her coy smile — that's La Chine's stellar beef tongue.

**HOTEL FACE-OFF**  
**LOWER MANHATTAN**

<p><b>EXECUTIVE</b></p> <p><b>CONRAD NEW YORK</b></p> <p><b>FULL FRONTAL:</b> Mod glass and steel facades set the tone for both the Conrad and Ritz-Carlton hotels near the bustling Financial District.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Courtesy Conrad New York (2)</p>	<p><b>LUXURY</b></p> <p><b>RITZ-CARLTON BATTERY PARK</b></p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">The Ritz-Carlton (2)</p>
<p><b>THE LURE</b></p>	<p>Full-service, modern-design, new-build tower directly across the street from One World Trade Center and seconds from Brookfield Place's new upmarket offerings.</p>	<p>Unabashed luxury at the foot of Manhattan in a glass-and-steel tower with panoramic city views. A spa and fitness center make the Ritz both exec- and family-friendly.</p>
<p><b>THE LAYOUT</b></p>	<p>A soaring atrium and prime artwork by the likes of Sol Lewitt, Julian Schnabel and Ellsworth Kelly give the hotel a seriously contemporary vibe that extends to its 463 rooms.</p>	<p>Built in 2002, New York's only waterfront hotel features 298 rooms and suites with an Art Deco aesthetic. Plus: jaw-dropping view of Ellis Island and Lady Liberty.</p>
<p><b>BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER?</b></p>	<p>Maybe drinks? As its kooky name suggests, the Loopy Doopy Rooftop Bar is a lot of fun. Along with prime harbor views, the bar serves adults-only prosecco-based cocktails accented by fruity</p>	<p>Dinner at 2 West, a steakhouse-styled crowd-pleaser overseen by newish executive chef Philip Medora. Attentive service paired with a locally inspired menu — Long Island duck, organic Hudson Valley chicken — have made it a neighborhood favorite.</p>
<p><b>DON'T MISS</b></p>	<p>While the pan-Italian classics like fritto misto at the Atrio Wine Bar &amp; Restaurant are winners, the surrounding area has become a culinary hub.</p>	<p>Although "Club Levels" can feel like a rip-off, the hotel is worth the roughly \$100 splurge. The dining and business amenities are appreciated in an area short on services.</p>
<p><b>THE LETDOWN</b></p>	<p>With its modest-sized rooms and simple decor, the Conrad lacks the Ritz-Carlton's all-out luxe factor.</p>	<p>Surrounded mostly by Battery Park, the area is extremely quiet — possibly too quiet for some guests. There's not much nightlife within walking distance.</p>
<p><b>THE LOWDOWN</b></p>	<p>Attentive service and prime location make the Conrad a stylish stay in Manhattan's latest tech-meets-media-meets-finance HQ.</p>	<p>Lower Manhattan's service and luxury leader — at least for now! Equally suitable for tony tourists and posh locals looking for an indulgent weekend staycation.</p>
<p><b>DETAILS</b></p>	<p>From \$269; <a href="http://conradnewyork.com">conradnewyork.com</a>.</p>	<p>From \$375; <a href="http://ritzcarlton.com">ritzcarlton.com</a>. —David Kaufman</p>
<p><b>SUITE LIFE:</b> Both the Conrad (right) and Ritz-Carlton (far right) feature contemporary rooms with harbor views.</p>		