



CENTRAL PARK IS GREEN AGAIN, THE LOCALS ARE FRIENDLY AND THE BAGELS ARE FRESH.

It's Deli-ful!

Springtime in New York is a state of mind candy **Melanie Reffes**

Billy Joel, Bruce Springsteen and the Beastie Boys sing about it. Woody Allen makes movies about it, and Jackie O lived it, but to New Yorkers, it's just a town. A signature style on one end, down and dirty at the other, with myriad accents, New York is different things for different people while offering something for everyone.

And there's not a hipper haven for rejuvenation after Canada's winter bluster. Central Park is green again, the locals are friendly, the bagels (with a schmear) are fresh and the air is crisp.

There's nothing like a deli to get you in a New York state of mind. With an attitude

bigger than its triple-decker, mighty meaty sandwiches, the Stage Deli has been around since 1937 and is almost as famous for its celebrity clientele as it is for naming its heart-stopping sandwiches after famous people.

Deli fare is piled high with movie memories on the Lower East Side, particularly at Katz's, where Sally told Harry that life in the bedroom wasn't all bells and whistles. For an authentic New York photo op, ask the waiter to show you the table where Sally had her "orgasm."

Cross the Bowery to Chinatown, where nothing changes except the fish of the day. On two floors, the Golden Unicorn is a good bet for such Hong Kong-style dim sum as

New York stats

Number of international and domestic visitors in 2005: 41 million

Number of Canadian tourists in 2004: over 700,000

Number of hotel rooms: 70,723

Average hotel daily room rate: \$237 U.S.

Price of the presidential suite at the Mandarin Oriental: \$14,000 U.S. per night

Chance of successfully reserving the suite: one in four

Number of eating establishments: 24,600

Average cost of a meal, per person: \$37.61 U.S.

Cost of the prix fixe menu at Masa, the country's most expensive restaurant: \$350 U.S.

What you get: raw fish, dessert, and tea

NY Sun, NYC.gov, CNN, PKF Consulting, nycvisit.com, Real Estate Weekly, USA Today, Forbes

shrimp dumplings with shark fin and clams in black bean sauce that is paraded by on carts.

For a treasure trove of shopping for tchochkes like five-herb bath powder and Jie Yin toothpaste, the Pearl River Mart is an enchanting emporium. But the real fun is outside on Canal Street, where the vendors hawk everything from hats to watches. Don't pay more than \$12 for a Rolex wannabe even though the vendors will start the dance at twice that.

A few short blocks away is Little Italy, where the many outdoor patios are perfect for people-watching and the cafés brew the best lattes this side of Venice. Then eat your way through Mulberry Street on the Savory Sojourns food tour, which takes you into the belly of the neighbourhood to sample everything from zuppa to cannoli.

Take the A train all the way uptown to Harlem where the nightly Soul Food and Jazz Tour celebrates the high-stepping 1920s with stops at Sylvia's for those legendary ribs and grits, the Cotton Club, where Duke Ellington spent hours wowing the crowds, and the Apollo Theater where Ella Fitzgerald performed on "Amateur Night."

Musical history makes room for hotel history with a visit to the Kitano, which is the city's first and only Japanese-owned hotel and boasts New York's only Tatami



Courtesy Hotel Kitano

THE KITANO BAR LOUNGE EARNS TOP MARKS.

suite, with shoji screens, a tea ceremony room and a deep-soaking tub. Check out the "live" jazz in the bar lounge, which also gets top marks for a divinely inspired Zen Bellini cocktail (green tea liqueur, peach schnapps and champagne).

In the city that never sleeps, the Mansfield is a hotel with pedigree on the quieter side of Times Square. Built in 1904 for well-heeled bachelors and socialites, it's been outfitted for the 21st century with cellphone booths, a cappuccino bar in the club room, and sleigh beds and Frette robes in super-comfy rooms. Wile away another New York minute or two in the swank M Bar, where cocktails and caviar are served until midnight.



Courtesy The Mansfield

MANSFIELD HOTEL HAS HAD MAJOR FACELIFT.

Ten Great New York City Movies

The Apartment (1960)

Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961)

Do the Right Thing (1989)

The French Connection (1971)

Manhattan (1979)

Midnight Cowboy (1969)

On the Town (1949)

Taxi Driver (1976)

Tootsie (1982)

West Side Story (1961)

- New Yawk Speak: The Glossary
- Schmeat: the amount of cream cheese that fits on one side of a knife
- Tchochkes: souvenirs you don't need
- www.aircanada.ca
- www.stagedeli.com
- Katz's Deli: 205 East Houston Street
- Golden Unicorn: 18 East Broadway
- Pearl River Mart: 277 Canal Street
- www.savorysojourns.com
- www.harlemspirituals.com
- www.kitano.com
- www.mansfieldhotel.com

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