

THE MARK

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THE MARK





New York

EMPIRE STATE STATUS UPDATE

These sights will make you feel brand new, writes Chris Dwyer, exploring new NY highlights and exemplary resurrections from Uptown to Brooklyn.

Despite some significant Americans doing their utmost to deter visitors from heading Stateside, parts of the land of the free more than merit their place in the pantheon of immeasurably great destinations.

Yes, that means you, NYC. The city so good it spawned a thousand clichés loves nothing more than to reinvent itself and surprise visitors, ensuring that there's always something new to get your teeth into, physically or figuratively.

A recent sortie reminded just why we love it so much – and served up a raft of ultra-stylish new reasons to keep us coming back for more.

Café Carmellini

New York restaurants come and go with alarming speed but a recent opening

sure to last is Café Carmellini at another stylish retreat, The Fifth Avenue Hotel. The signature spot from Chef Andrew Carmellini, a James Beard Award winner, is seriously sexy thanks to high ceilings, abundant greenery and interiors channelling the Gilded Age, aptly reflecting the former mansion's storied history. After an impeccable crudo of bluefin tuna and a beguiling salad of endive and fava beans, the epic Chicken Gran Sasso – serving two hopefully hungry diners – is a masterpiece. First, breast meat is decked in sweet peppers and broccoli-esque rapini, then the legs and thighs arrive with knockout roasties, guanciale, balsamic onions and a gravy possibly poured straight from heaven. Stick around for cheeky digestifs in their Portrait Bar next door. cafecarmellini.com

01 Café Carmellini is steeped in glamour © William Abronowicz





Black dandyism at The Met

New York serves up a lot that divides people, but you'll be hard pushed to find any sentient being who doesn't think The Met has untouchable, godlike status. As if to underscore its standing, *Superfine: Tailoring Black Style*, running until the end of October, presents a dazzling, encyclopaedic immersion into black dandyism. Featuring paintings, photos, decorative arts and clothing, it chronicles how style became critical to the formation of black identity in the US and Europe. From the 18th century enslaved Julius Soubise, who later became a 'gentleman' and lived with The Duchess of Queensbury, through to the unique sartorial expressions of Ethiopian independence and Black Power, this is an unmissable exposition of genre-defining styles. metmuseum.org/exhibitions

The Mark's pop-up clam bar

No New York hotel exudes style in quite the same way as The Mark, not least when it becomes the unofficial heart and HQ of NY Fashion Week, populated by every couture and design A-Lister. Never one to rest on their proverbials, the latest launch from the elegant legend with 153 rooms and suites sees a tie-up between their culinary maestro Jean-Georges Vongerichten and Caviar Kaspia in the Hamptons-esque surrounds of a clam bar pop-up – but still on the Upper East Side. Streetside red-and-white awnings shade you as you feast on lobster rolls, exemplary tuna tartare and Kaspia tacos with salmon, tuna, halibut, aioli – and quenelles of caviar, natch. Heat-quenching libations include Montauk summer ale and a frankly genius ginger margarita. themarkhotel.com/restaurant-bars ♦

04 *Black Style* at The Met
© Anna-Maria Kellen
05 The Mark in Manhattan

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