

# AFAR

TRAVEL INSPIRATION > WHERE TO TRAVEL NEXT

By Devorah Lev-Tov • May 19, 2023

## Midtown Manhattan Is Having a Moment— Here's What to See and Do There

*Discover playful hotel rooms, excellent tacos, and an interactive history of Broadway.*



Bar Harta's menu draws on the best of French, Italian, and Spanish cuisine. Photo by Liz Clayman/Courtesy of Bar Harta

### New bars and restaurants

Sometimes Midtown can feel a little lacking in the bar and restaurant department: Times Square is filled with chains, and power lunch spots can be too pricey. But there are several new eateries begging to be discovered. Perhaps most dazzling is the development around Rockefeller Center, which has attracted chefs like Ignacio Mattos (who opened Italian all-day restaurant [Lodi](#)), Greg Baxtrom (his [Five Acres](#) is his first venture outside of Brooklyn), and Michelin-starred Junghyun “JP” and Ellia Park (their fine-dining Korean tasting menu restaurant there is [NARO](#)). A second location of downtown favorite [Smith + Mills](#) will open later this year, along with The Tippy Baker, a new bakery-by-day, wine-bar-by-night concept from [Cafe d'Avignon](#).

Beyond Rock Center, recent new openings across Midtown Manhattan include Alex Stupak's first non-Empellon restaurant, [Mischa](#). It's focused on his version of New American food; expect dishes like fried chicken with adobo seasoning and sofrito gravy and hot dogs on house-made potato rolls with dry-aged brisket chili on the side. [The Press Club Grill](#), meanwhile, is the new signature restaurant inside the historic Martinique hotel and an ode to the city's *Mad Men* era.

For something more intimate, book one of the eight seats at Filipino-Japanese tasting-menu destination **Trust Bae** with Chef Frances Tariga (*Top Chef, Chopped*) at the helm. Sample Singaporean street snacks at the new **Urban Hawker** food hall, which has backing from Singaporean street food legend KF Seetoh and the late Anthony Bourdain. Finally, **Three Hot Pot BBQ** offers an interactive dining experience with a combination of hot pot and barbecue that you cook yourself—and the design is space themed.

If you need a drink, check out craft cocktail destination **Albert's Bar** near Grand Central and **Bar Bastion**, a new art deco cocktail bar upstairs from its sister concept, fine dining restaurant Le Jardinier, which opened last fall. Or for some al fresco wine and tapas, head to **Bar Harta** near [Bryant Park](#).

Midtown has also gained new locations of some old favorites, like a second outpost of the popular Upper West Side French-American bistro and cocktail bar **The Consulate**. And, there are two imports from other cities: The California Mexican restaurant **SOL Mexican Cucina** is bringing its Baja/SoCal cuisine to the city, and the Vegas original **Pink Taco** opened a bi-level, 10,519-square-foot Times Square location.

Opening in summer 2023 are upscale Korean restaurant **Nöksu** from veterans Bobby Kwak and Joseph Ko; 10-seat omakase destination Hoseki, which will be tucked away on the jewelry floor of Saks Fifth Avenue; and Punjab-cuisine focused Gulaabo from the team behind **Baar Baar** in the East Village.