Summertime dining is better on a rooftop. It might be the NYC skyline, it might be the altitude, or it might be the seven glasses of frosé you consumed: Eating and drinking on a rooftop is like MSG for ambiance.

Sky-high and outdoors, on a rooftop, deck, or in a pool, cocktails are colder, fresh Maine lobster rolls are chunkier, and ice cream sundaes are sweeter. And with the sun’s amber hues lighting your face, and the warm breeze in your hair, you might even be a little better looking. Prepare to luxuriate at NYC’s greatest rooftop restaurants.

MR. PURPLE
LOWER EAST SIDE

Mr. Purple’s rooftop is about as chic as any spot visited by SVU’s Detective Olivia Benson after a co-ed meets her untimely end. A pool sits between plush deck chairs, and raised tables and low couches fill out the space. There’s an enclosed area for poor weather (sometimes you need a winter dose of rooftop, too), and the kitchen pumps out food all day. Start with brunch (you’ll want the buttermilk fried chicken sandwich and the Balthazar pastry basket) or stop by late