

Where to Drink by a Fireplace, and More Reader Questions

Looking for a pit stop to refuel during a holiday shopping trip with visiting family? We can help.



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You're reading the **Where to Eat: New York City** newsletter. Pete Wells's restaurant recommendations, from new places to beloved classics. [Get it sent to your inbox.](#)

Hi, it's me, Becky, filling in for Pete this week! Winter in New York is the season to embrace unabashed corniness. If you're visiting for the holidays, you really should do the most obvious things: the Rockettes, [the Rockefeller Center tree](#), the Dyker Heights Christmas lights and stopping to watch ice skating at every opportunity. As you work through that list, you're going to have to take a break and eat — those pit stops shouldn't be a break from the festivities, but a continuation.

A few weeks back, Pete put out a call for New York City holiday dining questions. He tackled a few [last week](#), and today I've got a few more. As for your Qs, below are my recommendations for eating in the merriest, brightest way possible.

Cozy up with a drink

What are the coziest, off-the-beaten-path bars to hang and have a few beverages by a nice, authentic fireplace? — Brendan

This is a favorite category of mine — bars that make you feel like you're in a Hallmark Movie — and the lobby bar at [the Bowery Hotel](#) in NoHo defines the genre. It's all dark wood and velvet furniture, with perfect, classic cocktails, a scene that makes you want to meet a local ironsmith who understands the real meaning of Christmas. And salty bar nuts with every drink! Alternatively, [Art Bar](#) in the West Village is a more bohemian version of the same scene. The lounge room, straight back past the bar and behind a curtain, has low light and even lower couches. And in Brooklyn, there's a midcentury fireplace in the back room of Bedford Stuyvesant's favorite date spot (where you can get a great slice of cake), [Dynaco](#).