

GOTHAM

Rooftop Bar AZUL Opens; Union Square Café Announces New Address

By Bao Ong | July 28, 2015 | [Food & Drink](#)

How is AZUL calling out to classic Cuban cantinas, and where is Union Square Café moving? That and more in this week's dining news.



Head downtown to experience Cuba at Hotel Hugo's rooftop bar, AZUL.

Get a Taste of Cuba at Hotel Hugo's New Rooftop Bar AZUL

Cuba may be one of the hottest destinations these days, but you don't have to leave Manhattan to experience it. Hotel Hugo recently opened AZUL, a rooftop bar evoking your typical Cuban cantinas—think vintage posters, blue walls, and colorful chairs. Indulge in their food and drinks while taking in views of the city skyline. 525 Greenwich St., 212-608-4848

Union Square Café Promises Opening in 2016

Danny Meyer's beloved Union Square Café announced last week that it's moving a few blocks away to what is now City Crab. When it was confirmed that the restaurant would close in December 2015, fans of Union Square Café were worried about the new location (restaurants often don't re-open after ending a lease). The new outpost is slated to open its doors in spring 2016.

Bushwick-Based Okiway Offers a Modern Take on a Popular Japanese Dish

Okonomiyaki, the popular savory Japanese pancake, takes center stage at newcomer Okiway in Bushwick. Owner Vincent Minchelli adds modern touches on this traditional dish with versions ranging from pancakes filled with pulled pork barbecue to a vegan option with tofu, kale, and cabbage. Other dishes include takoyaki and grilled yakatori—all great dishes to wash down with sake or one of the Japanese craft beers. *1006 Flushing Ave., 718-417-1091*

Experimental Cocktail Club Launches Intimate Experimental Caribbean Club

Hidden behind a cloak room at the Experimental Cocktail Club in the Lower East Side is a 12-seat bar serving tiki-inspired drinks. The Experimental Caribbean Club, helmed by Hugo Simbille, is open through the end of August, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 7 p.m. to close. Expect concoctions like the Tikigroni and Amazonia rather than the typical cloyingly sweet drinks. *191 Chrystie St.*

Flex Mussels' Greenwich Village Spot Announces Brunch Menu

Flex Mussels' newly-launched brunch menu will feature your favorite a.m. dishes with a spin. While you can still enjoy mussels, the farm-to-table approach here also includes jalapeño-cheddar waffles and everything bagel donuts with scallion cream cheese filling. Pair items on chef Michael Sullivan's menu with drinks like the Caesar, rosé sangria, and other champagne cocktails. Brunch is served from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. *154 W. 13th St., 212-229-0222*

J.G. Melon Heads Downtown With West Village Outpost

Every chef in New York seemingly has their own version of a gourmet burger. But one of the city's most beloved burgers is served at J.G. Melon, where an iteration without all the fancy accoutrements tops the list. Fans can now enjoy the famous burger at the eatery's second location, where they can also tuck into sandwiches, salads, and desserts from Magnolia Bakery. *89 MacDougal St., 212-460-0900*

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