

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

Best Rooftop Bars in NYC



Scott G Morris - SGM Photography

For summer fun in the city, order your drinks alfresco at one of New York's coolest rooftop bars.

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By Nathan Storey

On a sultry summer evening, grown-ups in suits are attacking pink popsicles with the vigor of sugar-obsessed kids. That's what a rooftop bar can do to you—specifically, Loopy Doopy at New York's Conrad Hotel, where strawberry-lemongrass Popsicles are infused with vodka and dunked in a goblet of Prosecco.

In New York, high-rises, honking traffic, and jammed subways make fresh air a luxury and rooftops a sanctuary. The best of these sun-drenched, sky-high bars provide a welcome reprieve, mixing a lively atmosphere with well-crafted drinks and expansive views of what *Seinfeld's* Kramer dubbed the Nexus of the Universe.

And there's an NYC rooftop for every taste: classic or new? Elegant or edgy? Manhattan or Brooklyn? Downtown's cool-kid Jane Hotel attracted buzz in summer 2014 by opening its rooftop overlooking the Hudson River to the public for the first time. **SoHo's new Bar Hugo promises to be the Fashion Week party du jour come September, thanks to chic décor and restaurateur Sean Largotta's A-list pedigree (his restaurant Lion is a celebrity magnet).**

But you won't find a higher vantage point than Bar 54, atop the Hyatt Times Square, officially the tallest cocktail lounge in town—for now. Yes, that's the gleaming spire of One World Trade Center down there.

Dreamy Manhattan cityscapes and a more laid-back vibe lure locals to the outer boroughs. Why not join them in Brooklyn, where the Wythe Hotel remains as popular as ever for its farm-to-table dishes and Technicolor sunsets. In up-and-coming Greenpoint, Northern Territory has added some Down Under flair to the neighborhood with Australian beers and freshly baked meat pies. Across the canal in Queens, under-the-radar Penthouse 808 at the Ravel Hotel has a spectacular vista of the East River and a lineup of potent tropical drinks.

But really it comes down to an ironclad universal truth: drinking above ground is just more fun.



Hotel Hugo

Bar Hugo

Sean Largotta, the restaurant mogul behind West Village celeb hangout The Lion, aims to bring the same A-list buzz to **SoHo's newest rooftop lounge** at Hotel Hugo, launching in September 2014. The bi-level, Marcello Pozzi designed space is done in a caramel palette, with clusters of hand-blown glass orbs drifting over a concrete S-shaped bar, and leather banquettes on a wooden deck overlooking the Hudson River. While the décor exudes elegance, the drinks are more playful—opt for a Mai Tai or Brazilian Hurricane from the tropical-themed menu