

# betches

## The Betches' Bachelorette Guide To Manhattan

BY: KELLI ACCIARDO / SEPTEMBER 13, 2019



*Planning sucks, and bachelorette parties are a ton of work. So we're taking all the guesswork out of planning a bachelorette party by breaking down top bachelorette destinations. Our guides will tell you where to stay, eat, party, how to get around, and give you a sample itinerary that you can follow. You're welcome.*

“Concrete jungle where (bachelorette) dreams are made of...”

Manhattan is an obvious choice for a weekend of debauchery and making ~~poor decisions~~ life-long memories with your best friends. Not only is it one of the easiest cities to get to—and get around in—but it has everything, and we mean everyyyyyything going for it. World-class shopping (or questionable thrifted finds), 5-star hotels and spas (plus a gazillion Airbnbs that may or may not be legal), more restaurants, bars, and clubs than you could ever stumble into, and a boss bitch attitude that suits a bride-to-be and her crew planning on taking over the town.

Regardless of your personality, or goals for the trip, there's a neighborhood that can satisfy the greatest of expectations—and get you drunk at the same time. Go all Blair Waldorf and Serena van der Woodsen on the Upper East Side, embrace your inner hipster in the East Village and Alphabet City, and act like you're better than everyone else in the Meatpacking District. Or go everywhere and do it all, quasi inebriated. That's the beauty of the Big Apple! Here's how to bach it up once you're there.

## How To Get There

The great news about choosing Manhattan as your bach HQ is that it's easy as hell to get to. If you live in New England or the Tri-State area (NY, NJ, CT) you can drive, train, or bus into the city (not that we suggest the latter, though...it is your bachelorette, after all). And if you live anywhere else in the country, or world, you can fly directly into one of three airports: JFK, LaGuardia, or Newark. There are about a million flights that go in and out of NYC every day, at all hours, and on all airlines, so booking your travel will be the easiest part of your trip. That means more time for researching bars, obvi. It's also pretty cheap to get to Manhattan and flight deals can be found on sites like Orbitz, Kayak, and Expedia, starting at \$50-60 one way, depending where you're flying from. If you book far enough in advance, you're only looking at a couple hundred dollars for a roundtrip ticket. That's less than what you'll spend on hotels, food, and drinks, and think of everything you can spend that extra cash on like [strippers!](#) quality bonding experiences with your mains.

## How To Get Around

We're pretty sure this city was plotted out with tipsy girls in mind, it's that easy to navigate. If you have a Type A personality in the group, have her schedule your nights, because arranging dinner, drinks, and after-party spots in the same neighborhood means you can just walk (or try balancing three sheets to the wind in heels) from one venue to the next, without having to go too far. When you need to get back to basecamp, because someone's on the verge of passing out, Ubers, Lyfts, and cabs are your best friend. They're everywhere you need them to be, reasonably cheap, and some even come with saintly drivers who honor wasted song requests mumbled from the back seat.

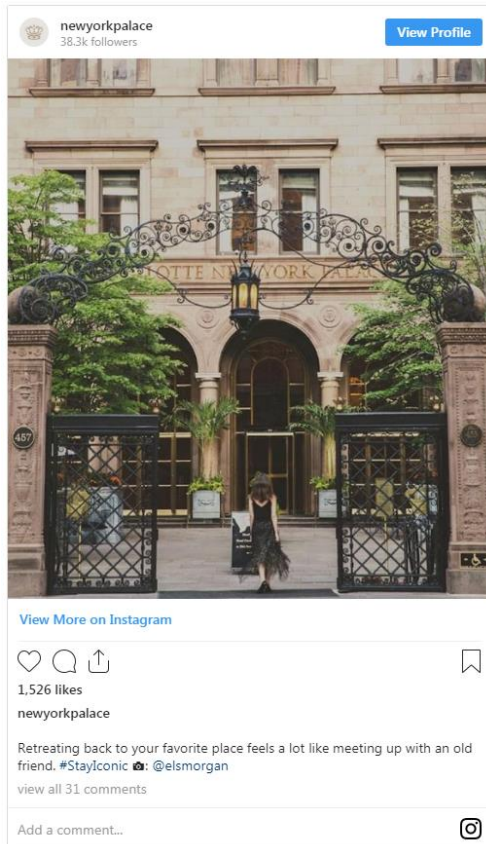
## Where To Stay

**Pro Tip:** Use [HotelTonight](#) to book. The top-rated hotel app offers steep discounts on rooms up to 100 days out, as well as suite upgrades and HT Perks (their rewards program).

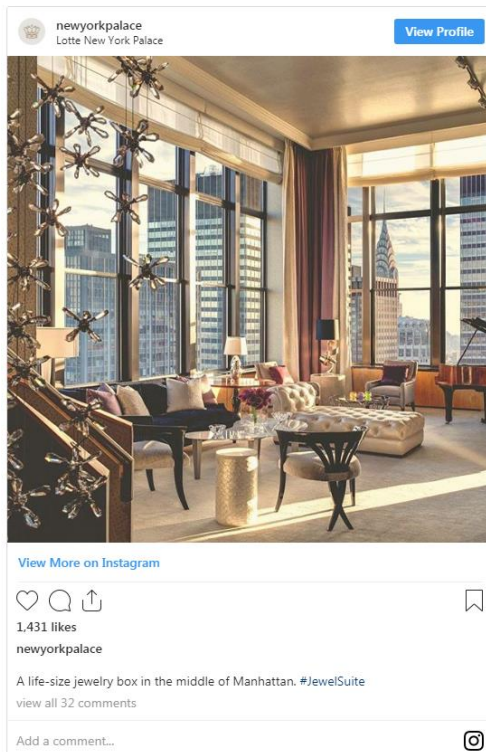
**The James New York, SoHo:** This boutique hotel landmark is on the corner of Thompson and Grand and pretty much slays when it comes to checking off every hotel box in Manhattan. The best staff ever? Check. Posh rooms and corner suites for pregaming, glamming, and sleeping in style? Check. A rooftop oasis with a pool and bar? Check. ([Jimmy at the James](#) is the jam, as is [Gitano Jungle Room](#) downstairs) and it's in SoHo. You don't do NYC without doing SoHo.



**Lotte New York Palace:** If you've never watched *Gossip Girl*, we don't know you, but if you have, you'll immediately recognize this one as the courtyard where Blair, Serena, and co. used to REIGN. The Palace is the city's largest luxury hotel (with a whopping 909 rooms and suites) and perfect for bachelorette groups traveling to New York City. They offer room blocks and extended stay rates, but you'll want to book in The Towers as they're recently renovated and more royally appropriate for this kind of event. They even have a *Gossip Girl* Getaway package available and for that, we're eternally grateful.



BTW, engagement ring designer extraordinaire Martin Katz designed The Jewel Suite, and there's a Champagne Suite with an expansive rooftop terrace and custom waterfall spa, so you're probs going to want to book one of those...just sayin'.





**INNSIDE New York NoMad:** If you want to be closer to downtown, but can't swing (or deal with) hotels in the Meatpacking district, set up bachelorette HQ in Chelsea. INNSIDE by Melià New York NoMad is ideally positioned (on West 27th Street) and features all the things girls gone wild love: reasonable rates starting at \$150 a night, selfie-friendly backdrops, and places to rest, work out, and play. The spacious (for New York) accommodations and cozy beds are key for when you're ready to catch zzzzs, but in-room essentials like Nespresso machines, plush robes, and rain showers will really save your life after a night of not sleeping, when Pedialyte and eye patches just won't cut it. When you do finally emerge from your quarters to see the light of day, go straight to INNSIDE's new signature restaurant, The Wilson. The new neighborhood mainstay is known for seafood dishes, al fresco dining, and top-notch cocktails, plus a menu just for dogs, in case your pooch is part of your wedding party.

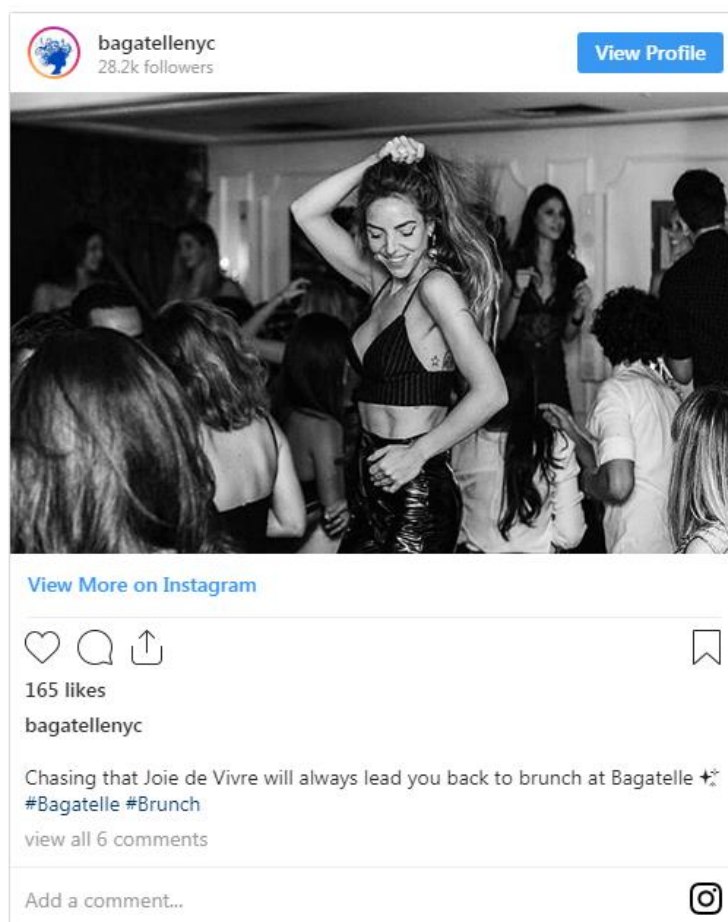
**Le Méridien New York:** What used to be the Viceroy New York has recently been rebranded as Le Méridien New York, and after a cute little refresh it's better than ever, with a penthouse suite that's begging for a group of girls to move in for the weekend. What you can expect upon arrival: a baller presidential bathroom (plus two smaller ones for guests who don't deserve to invade the queen's throne), living room, dining room, kitchen, multiple bars, and two bedrooms. We would argue another reason to stay is because it's luxe, yet more affordable than some of its downtown counterparts. It's also within walking distance of Central Park, the Theater District, and Columbus Circle, and it has a roof for Insta opps galore.



# Where To Eat

NYC is equal parts brunch culture and then dinner-into-nightlife culture. Listen, we take our “restaurant capital of the world” moniker seriously, okurrrrr? Basically, you’re going to be wasted all day, since day drinking turns into night drinking and then after-hours drinking. The good news is, we’re going to hook ya up with plenty of spots to carbo-load so you don’t faint midway through the marathon.

**Bagatelle:** Smack dab in the heart of the Meatpacking District, Bagatelle is a “New York Institution,” and a given for bachelorette shenanigans. Open for brunch and dinner, it deserves a place on your itinerary. After devouring platters of avocado tartine and poached eggs, or truffled gnocchi and smoked salmon pizzas, there are magnums of champagne and rosé to drink, along with Rich and Famous cocktails, and overflowing bowls of booze that come with 20 straws. Then the party really gets started once the sparklers come out and everyone tries to dance on said tables without falling off. Issa French-Mediterranean-live-your-best-life kinda vibe, and we’re here for it.



**Añejo:** For boozy brunch on a budget, look no further than Añejo in Hell’s Kitchen or Tribeca. There’s no better place to go bottomless! In terms of drinks and food, we mean—it’s too early for the other stuff. Seriously though, they have the deal of the century with two hours of unlimited Mexican-inspired libations and small

plates for \$47 a person. Cure your pounding hangover with scrambled egg tacos and chorizo hash or carne asada con huevos with grilled skirt steak and yuca tots, then [blackout](#) cheers to the bride with six different kinds of margaritas and Bloody Marias, which sub vodka for tequila. Salud!



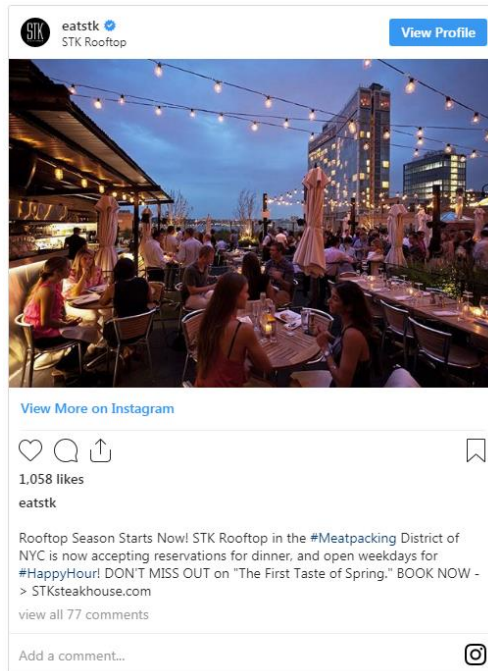
**Baccarat Hotel:** If you don't wake up in time for brunch, go for fancy AF Afternoon Tea in the Grand Salon at Baccarat. There are tiered masterpieces of crustless sandwiches, tiny cheesy gougères, to-die-for mini quiches, and enough petit fours and scones with clotted cream to make Marie Antoinette roll over in her grave with envy. Arguably the best part of this *extra* affair will be sipping champagne from cut-crystal tumblers that cost more than your life. That, and 'gramming it up with the girls in the mirrored jewel box setting. Just try not to break anything.

P.S. The Baccarat's cushy suites (complete with lacquered red mini bars and Hermès throws) also make a viable candidate for alternate lodging, if you and your crew are next-level bougie.



**STK:** This steakhouse-meets-hot-spot lounge is where it's at for sexy GNO dinners. Friday and Saturday get lit (thanks to DJ-spun tunes) and with two locations in Midtown and Downtown (Downtown has a rooftop BTW), you can party wherever's convenient. Crazy good martinis, surf and turf, and all the apps in between are par for the ordering course (get the lobster mac, tuna tartare tacos, and truffle fries, duh) and if any members of your squad are single, even better. STK is always crawling with hotties you can sweet talk into buying you more drinks, since your tab is bound to be on the pricey side. Whatever, YOLO.

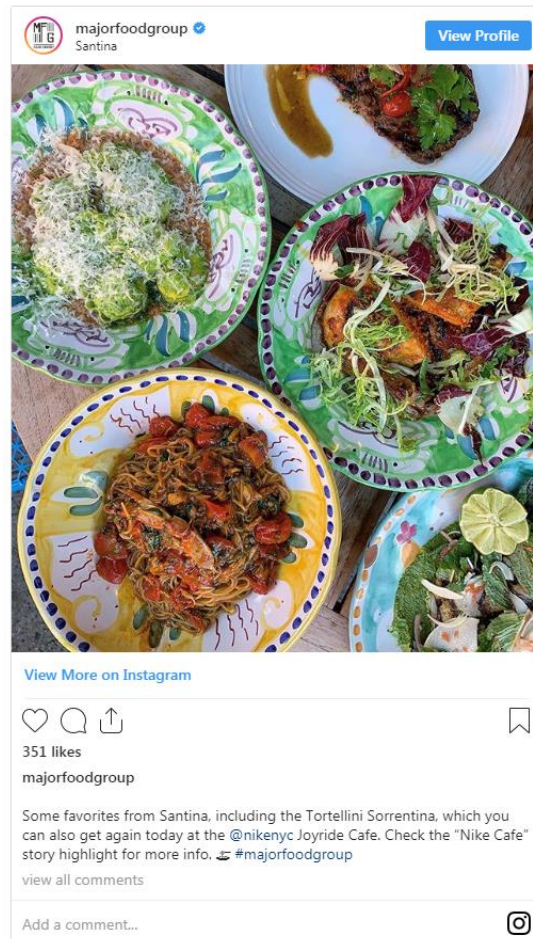




**Catch Roof:** Celebs, influencers, and social climbers love Catch, and so do we. It's sushi goals in an upscale venue that's always packed and high up on NYC bachelorette guides. As an OG Meatpacking haunt, it's a must. You're also likely to bump into famous people here (the Kardashian-Jenners, Chrissy Teigen and John Legend, and the Biebs have all been), but don't be *that* girl who gets kicked out by security trying to take pics with them, alright?? Nosh on over-the-top rolls al fresco, then after the party it's the after-party when the restaurant transitions into a lounge with bottle service after 10pm.



**Santina:** Nestled under The High Line, Santina is helmed by the Major Food Group dream team (of Carbone, Dirty French, Sadelle's, and The Lobster Club fame) and it's coastal, casual, and chic. AKA necessary for lunch. You'll feel like you're in Positano sipping spritzers, even if there are sirens blaring while you do so. It's also one of the few entirely gluten-free Italian restaurants in the city. Must-try specialties include: squash carpaccio, capellini blue crab, and caprese grilled cheese.



## Where To Party

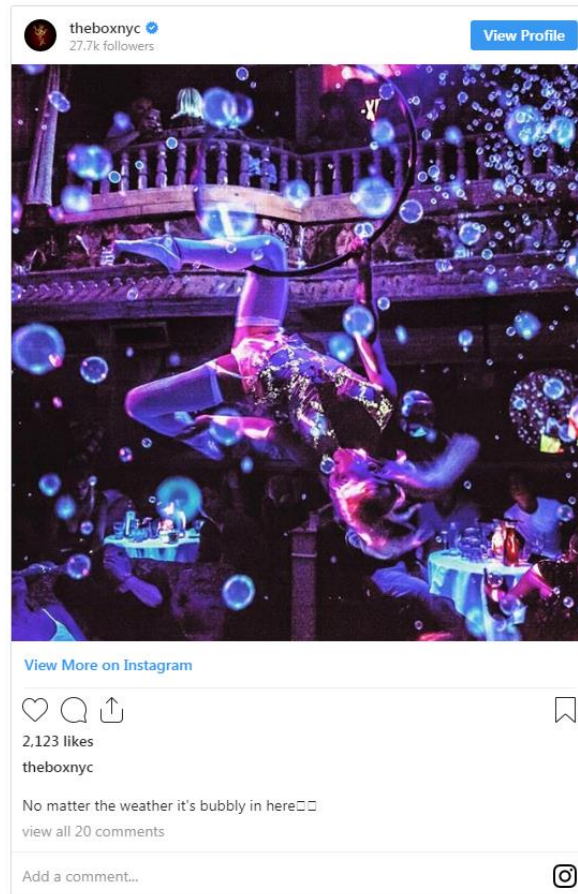
There's definitely no shortage of places to get f\*cked up in the city, but it's very easy to go down a Google rabbit hole trying to decide which velvet rope blocked door to hit first. So we thought we'd make it easy on you with this vetted list. Oldies but goodies like TAO Downtown, Avenue, Marquee, Up&Down, and 1 Oak are always name dropped, but they often come with long-ass lines, crazy covers, and annoying door guys and can be impossible to get into—unless you've got a hookup. Then again, a group of girls on a bachelorette party is basically a free hookup card and promoters are usually creeping around outside ready and willing to get you in.

In any case, here are our tried-and-true faves:

**PHD:** With two outposts in the city—PHD Penthouse at Dream Downtown and PHD Terrace at Dream Midtown—you have double the opportunities to live up your last single days. Both venues have a few things in common: prime outdoor space and killer skyline views, big name DJs, and party people dancing and drinking until the lights come on, so you can't really go wrong at either. If you want to be Downtown, PHD Lounge is also in the same building as Bodega Negra, Dream Beach, and Electric Room, which is a trendy basement bar in the hotel that goes from dusk to dawn, to dusk again. Our kind of place.

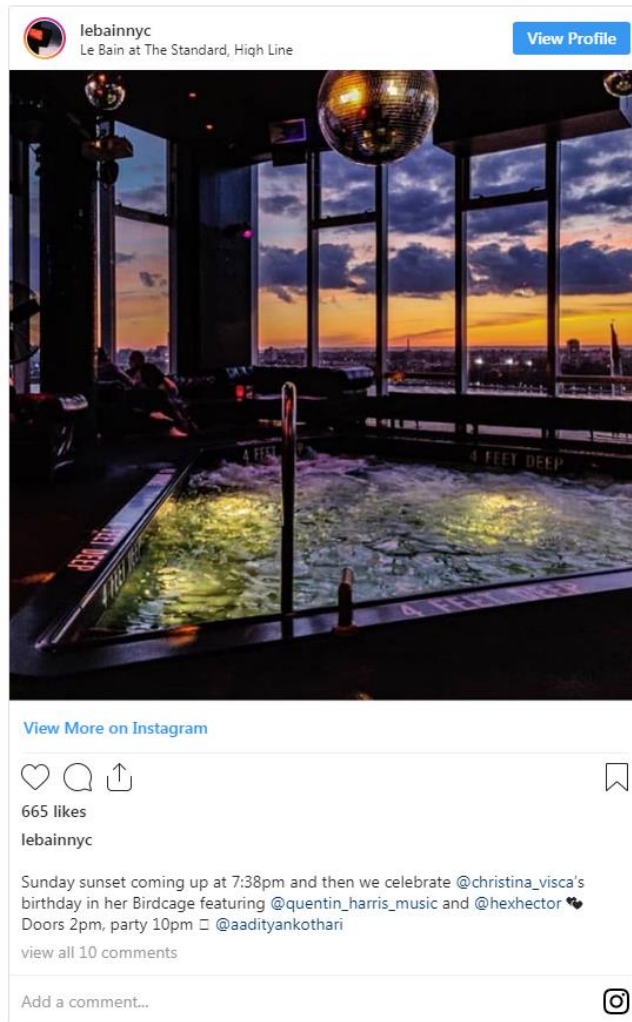


**The Box:** Things get weird at The Box. Weird as in, I once saw a guy do some pretty questionable stuff to a slice of pizza on stage, but that's precisely the reason to go. It's also fun AF when you're with a big group and feeling rowdyyyy, as you do on a bachelorette. It's all about the theatrics here, so most people go late for the kinky burlesque show portion of the evening, although they do have a full bar and dining menu so you could technically make this a one-stop-shop for the night. Just do yourself a solid and book a table in advance. You don't want to deal with any door hassles because you're queens and shouldn't have to, k?



**Le Bain:** Cat Marnell famously once wrote: “I couldn’t spend another summer meeting deadlines behind a computer at night when I could be on the rooftop of Le Bain looking for shooting stars and smoking angel dust with my friends,” and when you step inside, you get it. The penthouse discothèque and rooftop bar (with a pool in the middle of the dance floor #NBD) is where epic times are had—that you probably won’t remember the next day. It’s also important to note Le Bain is in The Standard hotel in Meatpacking, so you could hit The Standard Beirgarten—an NYC staple for steins, pretzels (which you need to soak up the alcohol), Ping-Pong, and hottie banker boys.





**The Fleur Room:** Moxy Chelsea has everything you could ever want or need in one hotel (restaurants, bars, bunkbed-style rooms if you want a true sleepover moment with your baes), but the #1 reason to visit is for The Fleur Room. This new(ish) lounge is 35 stories up and swankkkky. Think: dimly lit, major chandeliers, 360° vantages of Manhattan (thanks to all-glass walls) and floral touches everywhere. They are in the Flower District, after all, and love a theme.



**Magic Hour Rooftop & Lounge:** As you may or may not be aware, the Moxy Hotel Group is all over NYC. They have numerous locations and cool bars at each. Over at their Time Square location, there's a year-round carnival going on upstairs on the 18th floor. As the largest indoor/outdoor rooftop in Manhattan, it's sorta like a garden party playground on steroids. There's Foreplay for mini golf amongst a bunch of fake animals in naughty poses, state fair-style snacks (such as disco waffle fries with nacho cheese), and wild cocktails dreamt up by magician bartenders most likely after a bender. They're made for sharing—and getting the bride tanked. Order the Disco Ball for All.



## Friday, Day 1

**Pro Tip:** Download the [GetYourGuide](#) app so you can easily book last-minute activities i.e. bar crawls, group-discounted meals, and touristy bachelorette sh\*t on the fly. *Sex and the City* Tour, anyone?

1. First stop: your hotel to drop your stuff, check in, and aggressively hint it's a special occasion at the front desk to score free glasses of bubbly.
2. Saturday and Sunday are your biggest day drinking times, so take Friday as an opp to do ANYTHING else. Go vintage shopping in the Lower East Side, mingle with the city's label whores on 5th Ave and Madison, hit up the new Hudson Yards, get your culture on at MoMA, walk The High Line, and once noon strikes, pause for lunch and maybe a shot or three.
3. Grab lunch at Santana.
4. Insert a meaningful and important culture moment here—like partaking in NYC's [Drunk History Tour](#), where you visit New York City's underground and hidden bars while learning about the city's Prohibition era.
5. Chug as much water as you can and, I cannot stress this enough, NAP.
6. If you're still a bit intoxicated when you wake up and can't work a blowdryer probably—or shouldn't be trusted with liquid liner—there's NYC's answer to the get-ready dilemma: [Glamsquad](#). They'll come to

your hotel room, do your hair, makeup, nails, etc. and have you moving faster (and looking way better) than if you attempted this feat on your own.

7. Head to Dirty French, Carbone, or STK for dinner.
8. If on the LES, do The Box, if in Meatpacking, end your night at PHD, Le Bain, Electric Room, and Brass Monkey for last call.

## Saturday, Day 2

**Pro Tip:** Book an detox treatment with [The Hangover Club](#), who will send angel registered nurses to your hotel room to IV you back to a state of normal, just in time for boozy brunch.

1. Get up and raid the mini bar—for water and electrolyte-packed bevs.
2. Make your way to rager brunch at Bagatelle.
3. Head back to the hotel to nap. You'll never power through otherwise.
4. Get up, try to rally, and blast single lady anthems with the bride, then break out the concealer and other makeup must-haves...you need extra coverage.
5. Do dinner at Catch and then stay for the after-party or try one of the Moxy spots, Fleur Room, or Magic Hour.
6. Try not to lose your room keys or your dignity on your way home.

## Saturday, Day 2

**Pro Tip:** Book an detox treatment with [The Hangover Club](#), who will send angel registered nurses to your hotel room to IV you back to a state of normal, just in time for boozy brunch.

1. Get up and raid the mini bar—for water and electrolyte-packed bevs.
2. Make your way to rager brunch at Bagatelle.
3. Head back to the hotel to nap. You'll never power through otherwise.
4. Get up, try to rally, and blast single lady anthems with the bride, then break out the concealer and other makeup must-haves...you need extra coverage.
5. Do dinner at Catch and then stay for the after-party or try one of the Moxy spots, Fleur Room, or Magic Hour.
6. Try not to lose your room keys or your dignity on your way home.