

Summer DRINKING

Rooftop bars

Get high—and stake out the perfect vantage point—with a little help from our list of boozy perches.

By **Celia Shatzman**
Photographs by
David Rosenzweig

Hotel on Rivington

Stand on the west side of this tri-level, hot-tub-crowned terrace for a panoramic view of Manhattan, or check out the river and its parade of regal bridges on the east side—The Lounge, which is open Thursday through Sunday, tops one of the tallest buildings in this squat 'hood, so either way you won't be disappointed. Just make sure to R.S.V.P. (fjwoods@hotelonrivington.com), and skip the daytime hours, when smog can obscure the scenery. 107 Rivington St between Essex and Ludlow Sts (212-475-2600, hotelonrivington.com/thor.html)

Heard at the table next to us...

"Those guys look like a night of fun. I bet they're from Jersey." (Hotel on Rivington)

"I don't want to drink tonight, but I needed a place to eat my takeout." (Boxcar Lounge)

Roofs without a view

These spots are worth a look anyway. **By Cristina Velocci**

Bookmarks Lounge

You'd think this sliver of a terrace atop the Library Hotel was an actual study space, with its hushed atmosphere and cozy nooks. Thankfully, the focus is on boozing, not books, so leave the Proust at home. **Redeeming feature:** Literary-themed cocktails, like the Tequila Mockingbird and the citrusy Jackie Collins (\$13.50 each), are as tasty as they are inspired. 299 Madison Ave at 41st St (212-983-4500)

The Eagle Bar

Notorious for its Thursday-night bash (when fetish garb is mandatory to enter), this two-story club has a wood-plank roof deck with multilevel bench seating. The higher the perch, the better for spotting the prey. **Redeeming feature:** Hunky, leather-clad cruisers offer a view that makes up for the not-so-scenic West Side Highway. 554 W 28th St between Tenth and Eleventh Aves (646-473-1866, eaglenyc.com)

Mé Bar

The secret's long been out about the low-key, no-frills patio at the top of La Quinta hotel. The view isn't expansive, but it's memorable: The bar sits directly under the hulking Empire State Building. **Redeeming feature:** For such a prime location, the drinks are surprisingly affordable: Mixed drinks are \$6-\$9, and beers average \$5. Plus, there's none of the hassle or snootery found on swankier midtown rooftops. La Quinta, 17 W 32nd St between Fifth and Sixth Aves, 14th floor (212-290-2460, mebar NYC.com)

Rocky Sullivan's

When this authentic Irish pub made the long haul out to Red Hook two years ago, it gained triple the space for hosting book readings and a trivia night, plus a sprawling wood-paneled roof deck. **Redeeming feature:** Thanks to its remote location, this breezy spot is one of the few rooftops in the city you won't need to elbow your way through. 34 Van Dyke St at Dwight St, Red Hook, Brooklyn (718-246-8050, rockysullivan.com)

Graziella's Italian Restaurant

Graziella's may primarily be a restaurant, but it's also a fine place just to sit and sip wine or beer on the one-story rooftop. **Redeeming feature:** The eatery is known for its thin-crust pizza (\$11-\$18), so you can have pie with your sky. 232 Vanderbilt Ave between DeKalb and Willoughby Aves, Fort Greene, Brooklyn (718-789-5663, graziellasmenu.com)



▲ Studio B

This attitude-free club hosts thrice-weekly BBQ parties featuring a rotating cast of notable DJs. Take a break from wolfing all-you-can-eat burgers and dogs (\$5) to get an eyeful off the end of the roof deck for an ugly-pretty vista of industrial Greenpoint and the glittering Manhattan cityscape beyond. NB: The space is open to the public Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings. 259 Banker St between Calyer St and Meserole Ave, Greenpoint, Brooklyn (718-389-1880, clubstudiob.com)



▲ 230 Fifth Rooftop Garden

Opt for a seat on a raised deck to peek above the foliage here. Stick to the north side for an unparalleled view of the Empire State Building (get there at sundown and you'll see the lights come on); hit the eastern edge for the MetLife Building and the western one for a glimpse of New Jersey. 230 Fifth Ave between 26th and 27th Sts (212-725-4300, 230-fifth.com)

▲ Ava Lounge at the Dream Hotel

The blood pressure's low at this Miami-like chill-out. Arrive between 5 and 7pm to get a table and wait for spectacular sunset views, then stay put until the Times Square lights come alive—allowing you to peer straight into the mouth of high-strung New York at the southwest end of the deck. 210 W 55th St at Broadway (212-247-2000, avaloungenyc.com)



▲ Ravel Hotel Rooftop

Just under the Queensboro Bridge, this roof's got the kind of wide-open space and postcard-perfect vision of our beloved skyline you'll find only outside of Manhattan. There really isn't a bad seat on the deck, but to do it up like a smart tourist, snag a table at the edge facing Manhattan at sunset. 8-08 Queens Plaza South at 43rd Ave, Long Island City, Queens (347-472-0362, ravelhotel.com)

PHOTOGRAPH: AVA LOUNGE - JOLIE RUBEN

"This must be a good restaurant 'cause they have, you know, this whole prix-fixe thing" (Stonehome Wine Bar)

"I'm so independent. You know?" (Tatiana Grill)

"This looks like a place where people take their parents." (230 Fifth)

"I really just wanted to drink in the bath." (South Fin Grill)