



GRUB STREET

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The Absolute Best Rooftop Bars in New York

By Vanita Salisbury



Lounge around at the William Vale's Turf Club. Photo: Nitzan Rubin

Labor Day may be right around the corner, but there's still time to get your alfresco eating and drinking in. If you're doing it at ground level, however, you've only seen a portion of what New York has to offer. We've scoured the influx of new up-high hangs and updated our list of the best — places that balance stunning scenery with top-notch drinks and reliable snacks; some that even serve full meals (!). Yes, these aeries can get crowded on nice nights, and some do maintain a bit of "scene" — but that's also sort of the point. Here, the absolute best rooftop bars in New York.

16. Roof at Park South

Park South Hotel, 125 E. 27th St., nr. Lexington Ave.; 212-204-5222

A visit to the ninth-floor Roof at Park South need not be a production, just a breezy breather to grab a well-made drink with the Chrysler Building in the background. Choose from various seating arrangements: lounging under a sunburst orange umbrella, perched at a communal high-top, or cozy around a fireplace, in an atmosphere that feels congenially social. On a recent visit a fellow imbiber was an elderly gentleman heading home after a checkup at the nearby NYU Langone who saw the line downstairs and was curious. With his beer and bacon-wrapped Kobe hot dogs, courtesy of the same team that runs the hotel restaurants O Ya and Covina, he fit right in with the after-work crowd sipping gentle Italian Greyhounds (grapefruit juice, Punt e Mes) from an extensive and trustworthy cocktail list, and the pre-gamers battling head freeze from sucking down insanely potent Zombies (limit of two per person). *Seasonal.*