

# WORD OF MOUTH

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## Falling for New York

Reasons to return to the Big Apple this  
autumn (not that you needed any)





**Clockwise:**  
Hamilton on  
Broadway;  
Summit One  
Vanderbilt;  
Le Pavillon.  
**Opposite:**  
Little Island

Insomnia is really the only plausible explanation: New York lives up to its reputation as the city that never sleeps by welcoming a cavalcade of buzzy new venues, even amid the country's setbacks. This summer saw the unveiling of the **Moynihan Train Hall** ([moynihantrainhall.nyc](http://moynihantrainhall.nyc)) at Penn Station, giving weary travellers an airy new place to disembark from their trains. Soon after, the city's beloved public parks gained an esplanade in the form of **Little Island** ([littleisland.org](http://littleisland.org)), a Thomas Heatherwick-designed pier hovering above the Hudson River that hosts a busy calendar of festivals and performances. Speaking of performances: after 18 months of darkness, **Broadway's** lights came back on this fall: *Diana* and *Six* are among the most anticipated debuts, while returning favourites include *Hamilton*, *Wicked* and *The Lion King*. The city is also in the throes of a hotel boom – **Casa Cipriani** ([cipriani.com](http://cipriani.com)), **Pendry Manhattan West** ([pendry.com](http://pendry.com)) and the Central Park-facing **Park Lane New York** ([parklanenewyork.com](http://parklanenewyork.com)) began welcoming guests this autumn – along with a much-needed restaurant renaissance. High-profile openings include Daniel Boulud's **Le Pavillon** ([lepavillionnyc.com](http://lepavillionnyc.com)); **Saga** ([saga-nyc.com](http://saga-nyc.com)), an ambitious effort crowning the 66th floor of an Art Deco building by the Michelin-starred team of Crown Shy; **B'Artusi** ([bartusinc.com](http://bartusinc.com)), a spinoff of longtime celeb haunt L'Artusi; and a lively trifecta – **Rowdy Rooster** ([rowdyrooster.com](http://rowdyrooster.com)), **Kebabwala** ([kebabwala.nyc](http://kebabwala.nyc)) and **Masalawala** ([masalawala.com](http://masalawala.com)) – from the team responsible for some of New York's hippest Indian restaurants, Dhamaka and Adda.

On 21 October, a new entrant to a crowded field of sky-high observation decks joins the fray. A 43-second elevator ride from street level in Midtown deposits visitors to **Summit One Vanderbilt** ([summitov.com](http://summitov.com)) on the 91st floor, where their journey into the four-story, 6,000-square-metre expanse begins. There's more than just a view to marvel at here



(though it is admittedly jaw-dropping: the Empire State Building seems close enough to touch, and why yes, that's the Chrysler Building just below). Summit One Vanderbilt's focal point is "Air," an immersive art experience by Kenzo Digital: "Air is a love letter to a city that's always inspired me," he said. "It connects you to the city, to nature, to a different way of looking at yourself." Other heart-stopping highlights include Levitation, a pair of transparent skyboxes that pop out from the side of the façade, and Ascent, a glass-walled elevator that takes you a further 15 stories up in the air. Afterwards, toast the city at *Après*, a bar and lounge by NYC restaurant royalty Danny Meyer's Union Square Events. In a city without a bad angle, there's always room for fresh ways to take in the luminescent skyline.

– SARAH KHAN 