

12 PLACES IN NEW YORK TO CELEBRATE NEW YEARS EVE LIKE A LOCAL



A MESSY NESSY MINI GUIDE

12 Places in New York To Celebrate New Years Eve Like A Local

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In many ways, 2019 was all about our road to rediscovering this great American metropolis. The ribbon cutting of *Don't Be a Tourist in New York* has opened up a whole new world of exploration, and become a trusty companion for our Paris guide. So when it comes to making plans for New Year's Eve in the Big Apple— *we got this!* Using our top secret compendium of NYC addresses, we picked out 12 ways we'd most like to spend this New Years Eve, and wrapped them in a beautiful mini e-book for you. From Anti-New Years low-key local bars, to romantic dinner dates; an indie pop dance party to secret Gatsby parties – feel free to re-use as an epic weekend guide to New York City. Advanced planning and reservations are heartily recommended on Dec 31!

1. Ringing in the Roaring Twenties



I. Party like it's 1920 at the New York Adventure Club, one of the world's most storied explorers clubs, as it transforms into a speakeasy for New Year's Eve. Come to the mansion dressed in your finest flapper attire, as 78rpm records will be spinning, and "a host of interactive antique decor and props courtesy of the Museum of Interesting Things, such as antique radios, Edison cylinders, stereoscopes (with prohibition-themed slides), and original prohibition prescriptions" will be on display for your enjoyment. Tickets are about \$30 a head, and include a glass of champagne.

More information [here](#).

II. Prohibition Productions is hosting **The Salon: New Years Eve Eve** for the city's dames 'n dapper gents at the [Player's Club](#), a glittering private club from the Gilded Age located in historic Gramercy Park. There'll be swing in the ballroom at jazz in the library; the "Bathtub Ginny's" chorus gals and a VIP room where you can sip cocktails from Mark Twain's actual table. Doors open at 7pm, and tickets range from \$39-\$135 a head.

All the information [here](#).

2. Romantic Dinner & Chill



©VinegarHillHouse

I. In the heart of a 400-yr-old cobblestone village by Brooklyn’s Navy Yard, bound together by a tight-knit community whose homes look like they’ve been teleported-in from old Europe, you’ll find **Vinegar Hill House**. Bring anyone from your mother to your lover to their restaurant for a New Years Eve and feast in relaxed, antique setting. The menu highlights will include cast iron chicken shallots and a red wattle country chop, with the first seating taking place from 6pm – 9:30pm.

All your information for reserving is [here](#).





II. In the mood to spend New Year's in a French bistro lost in time? Maison Premiere has the air of a 19th century courting hotspot– globe lights beckon from the lush garden hiding out back, while the dining room nods to French colonial decor. The old world ceiling fans hypnotically spin over a horseshoe-shaped bar where exquisite absinthe cocktails are served from a fountain topped with a miniature Napoleon. If that doesn't set the mood, the finest oysters in Brooklyn are on the menu for their New Years Eve menu. There's no cover charge and walk-ins are welcome at the bar all night, but try to make it for the 6pm or 9pm prix fixe menu seating to dine one a three-course meal of Poached Oysters, Lobster, and more.

All the information is [here](#).

III. Celebrate New Years down a fairy-lit rabbit hole at Freemans. Tucked away at the end of a graffiti-covered alley in Manhattan, the inviting French windows, twinkling string lights and green potted plants of **Freemans Restaurant** welcome you to a cozy little hideaway with an old-world ambiance, taxidermy on the walls and rustic American cuisine on the menu. Freemans throws its own party each year for NYE instead of serving a traditional dinner. It is open to the public, and you can buy tickets for entry. It's more of a cocktail party, with an open bar all night, passed hors d'oeuvres, food stations, DJs and dancing. Tickets are \$190 per person, plus tax. (*Freeman Alley, Lower East Side; +1 212-420-0012; open everyday for lunch & dinner, and brunch on Sundays*)

Reserve your table through the [Freemans website](#).

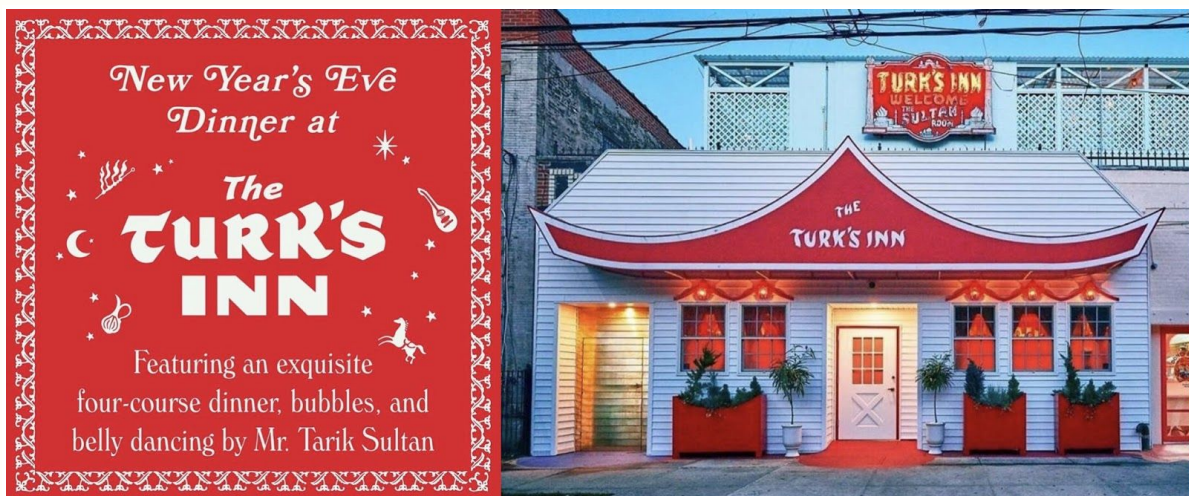
3. Long Live the Kitsch



It's hard to describe the feeling you get when you enter the Turk's Inn, but it's akin to a warm and fuzzy hug for your eyeballs. The original Turk's Inn was founded in 1934 by George "the Turk" Gogian, an Armenian man who was born in Istanbul and moved to the Midwest where he became a much-loved member of the community. Kataria and Erickson are from Minneapolis, and jumped at the chance to effectively save the forgotten century-old Turk's Inn when it went up at auction five years ago – and bring it to New York City (original neon sign and all). The result is a place that's not just a dinner spot, but a destination, much like the first Turk's Inn. A parade of framed faces crowd the walls of the supper club today in Bushwick, but one face stands out in particular: that of a cool, elegant woman known as "Marge," who was Gogian's daughter and the last proprietor of the supper club. Marge was a painfully chic woman, and working as a fashion designer in New York until the family business beckoned her home. The original supper club was built into Gogian's estate with different rooms, with each promising a different fantasy (i.e. the "Harem Room"), and in that respect, the Turk's Inn has gleefully followed suite, with narrative layered into every bit of upholstery.



The restaurant is the heartbeat of the operation, promising an enticing menu of moussaka, lamb meatballs, and more, but there's also a venue for live music. This NYE the Turk's Inn cordially invites you for an exquisite 11-dish-four-course dinner, bubbles and of course belly dancing with the world-famous Mr. Tarik Sultan!



Reserve [your table here](#).



II. The nearly 100-yr-old Gottscheer Hall is a local legend, founded by immigrants of the now non-existent “Gottschee” of the old Habsburg Empire. It’s still one of the pulse points of Ridgewood, Queens’ German community, and a universe unto itself, a place to feast on *Gluhwein* (hot wine) and schnitzel in the company of the dozens of “Miss Gottschee Pageant” portraits. Their New Years Eve party is sure to be a boisterous, song-filled evening – so bring your *lederhosen*.

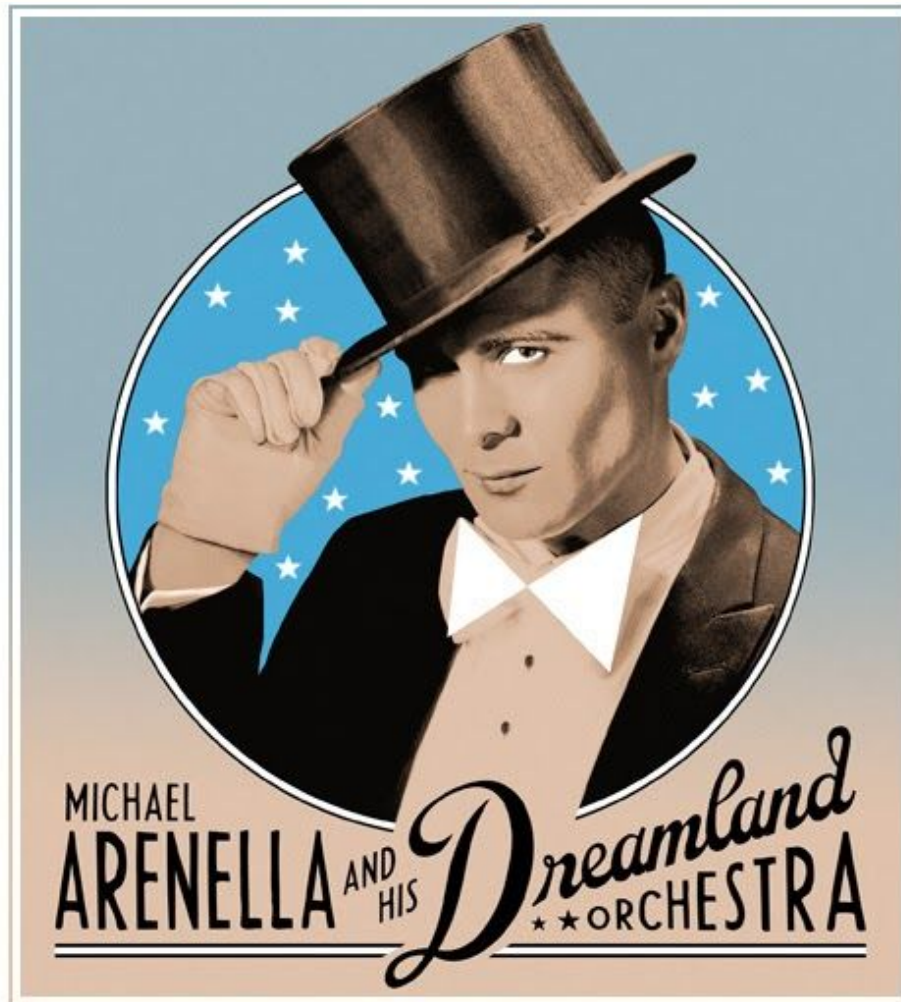
All your information [here](#).

4. Wes Anderson Style



I. At Chelsea's The Jane Hotel (New York City's answer to Wes Anderson's *Grand Budapest Hotel*) the lavish and bohemian ballroom is hosting a dance party to really dress to the nines for. There's a 4 hour open-bar from 9pm-1am and DJ until 4am. Dance floor tickets are \$60, high rollers can splash out on fireside tables and VIP access. Music is Top 40 Hits and Hip Hop classics. **All your information is [here](#).**

5. Live Swing Night



I. Michael Arenella is the man behind the summer's swinging [Jazz Age Lawn Parties](#), and a friend of Messy Nessy Chic, and once again, he'll be bringing jazz age music to one of Brooklyn's most exquisite cocktail bars, the Clover Club in Carroll Gardens. The Clover Club is in equal parts a cosy, neighbourhood bar, whilst retaining that swish, vintage cocktail bar elegance. If you like your New Year's Eve toast with a perfectly made mint julep in hand, accompanied by New York's premiere crooner, the Clover Club is the place to be.

All the information is [here](#).



II. Sip absinthe with a kindred romantic soul at St. Mazie Bar & Supper Club of Williamsburg, whose antique charm feels like it fell out of some nondescript, Latin-tinged European village. This year, the Baby Soda Jazz Band will deliver some sweet New Orleans jazz, 1930s swing, Southern Gospel, and more.

General admission for live music at the bar is \$25 per person at the door. Or you can opt for a 3 course prix fixe menu in front of the stage (\$90 a head) or in the cavernous secret cellar supper club (\$65).

All the information is [here](#).



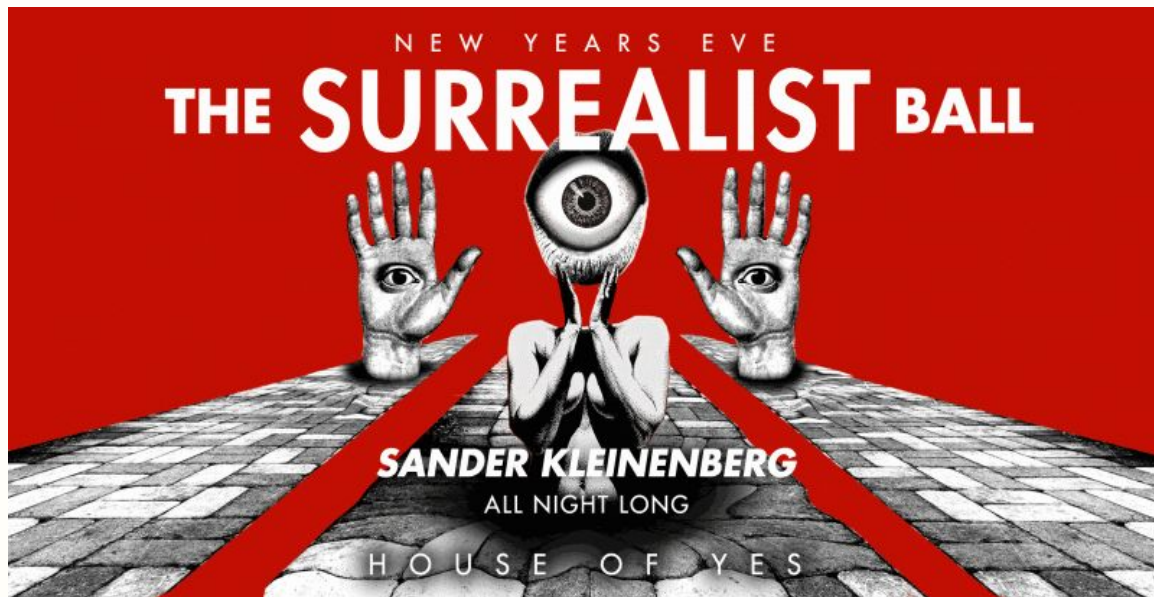
6. Na zdoróvye! (that's "cheers" in Russian)



There's a certain point on the boardwalk of Coney Island where you stop hearing English and start hearing Russian. That's when you know you've entered Little Russia of Brighton Beach. Looking out onto the ocean is **Tatiana**, the last great Russian supper club of NYC. It's got all the best things about Russia: good vodka, kitsch decor to the max and crazy Russians that know how to party. Watch out for Jacob, the owner that looks like a moody mob boss but turns out to be a teddy bear who loves dancing and showering you with vodka shots. We also learned that live Russian music is really, really fun to dance to. This New Year's Eve, Tatiana is hosting a banquet dinner extravaganza with a special show, live entertainment and an unlimited open bar. Full disclosure: we've been here on a normal Thursday night for the live singing dinners with locals— and had a blast. New Year's is likely to take things up a notch and it could be hilariously awful, but we're betting it will be completely memorable. On your way home, make a pit-stop to soak up the vodka at the 24 hour time machine that is the **Floridian Diner**, dripping in uber '80s chrome fittings, mirrors, and turquoise blue bar-stools. Grab a booth with a retro tech jukebox, pick your favourite track from the '80s and dance until sun up with pie and soda.

All the information is [here](#).

7. Secret & Surreal Balls



I. “Fancy fantasy. Psychedelic styles. Grandiose Illusions.” The touchstone themes for **this year’s House of Yes bash** would certainly get Salvador Dali’s stamp of approval. For House of Yes first-timers, there’s perhaps no better way to get introduced to the iconic Bushwick venue, whose trapeze-filled rave nights helped put the neighbourhood on the international party radar. Tickets range from \$40-\$100, and they’ve even made [this Pinterest board](#) to get you in the spirit! **More information here.**



II. The mysterious McKittrick Hotel is home to one of the city’s most magical evenings out: the highly immersive and engaging events of “Sleep No More,” which is at once part play, and part self guided exploration. This New Years, you’ll step inside their McKittrick World’s Fair event, which promises to be a “glittering display of transcendent live performances, ethereal scenic installations, special surprise guests, costumed revelry, and more” with “an opulent dance party complete with open bar will abound all night long from 10:15PM to 4AM.” More information [here](#).

8. “Anti-New Years” Low-Key Locals (A list of Neighbourhood Bars we checked in with)

Because some years you deserve to hole up with a pint, a few pals, and a friendly “f*ck it” attitude to ring in a fresh year. Avoid the madness at one of our tried and true neighborhood bars, from the divey to the antique; the hipster to the humble...



© [Scott Beale](#)

- I. **Burp Castle** is a peculiar little monastery-themed watering hole in the East Village with a whisper-only policy, and some seriously delicious Belgian Trappist beer. This New Year's they're open as usual but probably not so strict about the whispering (on any other night, expect a hush and friendly wink from the bartender when the conversation volume gets too high). Ham and gourmet cheese plates will be out until 2am. (41 E 7th St, East Village, NY, 10003; Mon-Fri 5pm-12am, Sat & Sun 4pm-2am; call for more information: +1 212-982-4576)

- II. **Pocket Bar** is the friendliest little bar in Hell's Kitchen, and don't be surprised if you end up belting out Tina Turner hits and other feel-good classics alongside strangers-turned-drinking buddies at this cozy neighbourhood joint. Drinks like the "Sharnado Sangria" come served with little rubber shark bath toys and a bag of popcorn, and they have wine on tap. A little birdie told us they're having a secret NYE "lock-in" party and to get an invite to the tiny shindig, send an email to pocketbarnyc@gmail.com saying, "I've heard you're having a secret party on New Year's". Visit their [website](#) for more info. (455 W 48th St, Hell's Kitchen, NY 10019; +1 646-682-9062; Sun-Wed 4pm-12am, Fri-Sat 4pm-1am; Instagram: @pocketbarnyc)
- III. Greenpoint's **The Black Rabbit** is a 19th century saloon with a series of cozy wooden booths opposite the bar, each with their own swinging doors. It's going to be a casual neighbourhood vibe here on New Year's Eve beside the fireplace. There's no cover charge, no fuss to get in and there's champagne toast on the house at midnight. Call to reserve a table for 6 or more persons, otherwise, no planning required. Visit their [website](#) for more information. (91 Greenpoint Avenue, Brooklyn, NY; +1 718-349-1595; Mon-Thurs 4pm-2am, Fri 4pm-4am, Sat 2pm-4am, Sun 2pm-2am, trivia nights are Tuesday at 8pm)
- IV. The last of the longshoreman's bars on Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn, **Montero Bar** is covered with weathered nautical memorabilia, proving that although the days of the longshore fishers have gone, at least one old watering hole remains friendly and local. When the docks were still working, Montero's would open early in the morning for those coming off the night shift and is still run by the children of the original owner. Find it under the flickering light of one of New York's most beautiful old neon signs, and get there by 9pm as it'll get packed with locals. Bring only yourself, 'cause Montero's is bringing the food and champagne. (73 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, 12201; +1 646-729-4129; Mon-Tue 3pm-3am, Wed-Thurs 12pm-3am, Fri-Sun 12pm-4am). For something a little quieter, look for the equally alluring neon of the **Long Island Bar**, a 1950s time capsule across the road which will be doing business as usual on NYE serving a perfect Old Fashioned until a little after one.

9. Game Night



© RoyalPalms

Victorian splendor is reborn with a dash of tropical kitsch at **Royal Palms Shuffleboard**. Strictly 21-and-over, their Flamingo Formal New Years Eve Dance Party will include the tropical drinks, food trucks and the sounds of DJs Chris Annibel and OP but “no cover, and no door stress”. The charming attendants wear old-timey coveralls, pink flamingos pop up out of nowhere, and the sunken, aquamarine shuffleboards make you feel like you’re poolside on some 1880s cruise ship. Then there’s the game itself, which is so simple yet so addictive.

All the info you need is [here](#).

10. Celebrating with the Kids Before Bedtime



© NYBG

Spending New Years with the tiny humans that can't yet drink themselves into oblivion?! Why not celebrate with a "Noon Year's Eve Party" at **New York Botanical Garden's Holiday Train Show**. Adults and kids alike will be dazzled by the miniature models and trains, which are all inside a sprawling 19th century greenhouse. What's more, those trains whiz around a mini-New York City jungle, stopping at hundreds of city landmarks crafted out of bark, leaves, pine cones and other natural materials. It's open until 7pm. **All your information is [here](#).**

If that doesn't wear them out, head down to Brooklyn's beautiful and historic **Prospect Park** to catch the fireworks at 10.30pm. Info [here](#).

11. Midnight Run for a Healthy Start



© MapMyFitness

Ditch the sparklers and glasses of champagne, with this burgeoning New York tradition; a four mile run in Central Park! Organized by the New York Road Runners, the run begins on the stroke of midnight; ‘glittery running attire’ is encouraged. What better way to begin your well-meaning New Year resolutions than with a brisk four mile run through Central Park’s Inner Loop, and what better way to see the fireworks! **Advanced registration is required.**

For a healthy mind before the race, head to the **Concert for Peace** held at one of the most awe inspiring cathedrals in North America, Saint John the Divine, in Manhattan’s Morningside Heights. On New Year’s Eve in 1984, Leonard Bernstein founded an annual concert for peace to be held by candlelight in one of New York’s most magnificent settings. It starts at 7pm.

All your information is [here](#).

12. A 19th Century New Year



I. Lovers of old New York, head straight to the timeless Merchant’s House Museum, the only place in the city where you can snoop around a 19th-century family home that is perfectly preserved both inside and out. "Paying social calls on friends and family on New Year’s Day was one of Old New York’s most cherished customs," explains their staff, "[so] join us for good cheer for the New Year and learn how New Yorkers like the Tredwells celebrated the day in the 1850s." There will be guided tours of the house "throughout the afternoon, walking tours of the NoHo neighborhood, and hot cider and cookies in the cozy 19th century kitchen." Guests will also be received "in the elegant parlor decorated with swags of evergreens, brilliant holly berries, white mistletoe, and red-leafed poinsettias – and a table-top tree festooned with ribbons and candles."

More information [here](#).

II. Pre-Civil War Brooklyn is wonderfully captured at Henry Public in historic Cobble Hill. It might be a relatively new addition, but this feels like stepping back in time, to a friendly saloon where the young Walt Whitman himself could have unwound after a hard day at the printing press. The special a la carte feast includes oysters, as well as braised lamb, lobster pie and dry aged ribeye steak.

All the information is [here](#).



III. The hot spot for Revolutionary festivities was hands down the 300-and-something-year-old Fraunces Tavern, where the walls are made of history. This is where the governor of New York celebrated the departure of the British, and where George Washington's farewell to the troops dinner was held in 1783. Their NYE five course meal will include scallops, gnocchi, duck, and more.

All the information is [here](#).

In Bed by Midnight ?



I. One of the best traditions for the New Year is to head down to historic Coney Island in Brooklyn for the Coney Island Polar Bear New Year's Day Plunge, where together with thousands of other foolhardy but brave swimmers, you'll take a dip in the freezing Atlantic Ocean. Organized by the Coney Island Polar Bear Club, the oldest winter bathing society in America, the club dates back to 1903. The intrepid plungers meet on the Boardwalk Walk, many in wild bathing suits and costumes. The plunge into the icy ocean is supposed to bring good health and luck in the coming year, and is quickly followed up with a warming visit to Ruby's venerable dive bar on the Boardwalk, which has been open since the 1920s. **All your information is [here](#).**

II. The Queens County Farm Museum is the only remaining working historic farm in New York City. This year, it will be having a **food drive to support Queens College Food Pantry** to "feed tummies and to feed minds." Kick off the New Year right by coming down to donate at their charming grounds from 10am-5pm on December 31st. **More information [here](#).**

From all the team at Messy Nessy Chic, Happy Holidays!



PS. don't forget our book [Don't be a Tourist in New York](#).

A vault of local secrets, insider advice and little-known urban anecdotes, finally unlocked and in print.

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