



# NYC Lifestyle

May 10, 2024

## Hidden Flavors

New York City's vibrant restaurant scene is world-renowned and full of hidden gems. This week's NYC Lifestyle is your guide to the city's most masterfully concealed restaurants and cocktail lounges.

### Himitsu | Flushing

This restaurant-within-a-restaurant is hidden behind a swinging bookshelf door at the [Siam Thai Eatery](#) in Flushing. [Himitsu](#) presents a contemporary 13-course omakase-style sushi menu in a relaxed environment inspired by Japanese listening bars. [Reserve your space.](#)

### Sakagura | Midtown

Through the lobby and down the service stairway of an unassuming office building in Midtown, you'll find the celebrated restaurant and sake bar [Sakagura](#). Opened in 1996, this haven for Japanese cuisine aficionados offers over 200 varieties of sake and a color-coded menu to help diners select a drink that pairs well with their meal.

### Burger Joint | Midtown

[Burger Joint](#) may be concealed behind a red velvet curtain in the lobby of the Thompson Central Park Hotel, but they pride themselves on their no-frills, family-friendly menu of juicy burgers, hand-cut fries, and decadent milkshakes. Burger Joint is cash only, so be sure to visit an ATM beforehand.

### HŪSO | Upper East Side

Sequestered behind [Marky's Caviar](#), a boutique retailer of gourmet foods on the Upper East Side, [HŪSO](#) is an upscale dining room offering seafood and meat dishes, including fresh caviar from their aquafarm. [Reserve your spot](#) for their a la carte lunch or try their eight-course dinner tasting menu in an intimate 12-seat setting.



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### Karasu | Fort Greene

[Walter's](#) in Fort Greene is known for its American brunch menu, but an unmarked black door in the back will lead you to the more atmospheric [Karasu](#). Described as a seasonal Japanese izakaya, all of the items on the menu are meant for sharing, so stop by with the whole crew.

### The Campbell | Midtown

Even regular visitors to Grand Central Station may not know about [The Campbell](#), a bar and cocktail lounge found on the building's balcony level. Once the private office of a railroad executive in the Jazz Age, the space features grand, Florentine-inspired architecture and hosts live jazz every Friday and Saturday at 9pm, and every Sunday at 6pm. Business attire is encouraged.

### Freemans and Unlisted | Lower East Side

The colorful Freeman Alley on Rivington Street leads to two hidden gems: [Freemans](#), a lively American restaurant with colonial-era decorations, and [Unlisted](#), a rooftop cocktail lounge with outdoor seating and views of the Manhattan skyline.

### The Cactus Shop | Williamsburg

At night, [this plant store](#) in Williamsburg transforms into a Mexican cantina specializing in tequila and mezcal-based cocktails served in hand-blown glasses. Executive Chef Eduardo Dominguez designed their menu to feature authentic small plates like chicken mole enchiladas and spicy birria tacos with house-made tortillas. [Reservations are recommended.](#)