

# TimeOut

NEW YORK

Spin me  
right round



Land on the get-the-hell-out-of-town activity  
of your summer dreams

A rooftop patio scene with people sitting at tables, a brick wall, and city buildings in the background. The scene is set on a rooftop patio with a brick wall and two hanging globe lights. A woman in a black tank top and jeans is sitting on a stool, holding a drink. A man in a white shirt is sitting at a table, talking to her. Another woman in a white lace top is sitting at a table in the background, looking at her phone. The background shows city buildings, including a prominent one with a clock tower.

Such

gro

heights

## From relaxing gardens to rocking clubs and hopping tiki bars, these brand-new rooftops are tops. By *Will Gleason*

Text

### THE HOT NEW BAR

#### **BROKEN SHAKER**

At this remarkable fun house atop the Freehand Hotel in Gramercy Park, the vibe is less “exclusive private island” and more “family-friendly Polynesian vacation.” On any given night, you’re likely to encounter reggae and funk music wafting through the 18th-floor bar as crowds gather in the huge, outdoor wraparound space to take in panoramic views of midtown. Perhaps what best captures the venue’s playful spirit is the creative cocktail list. For example, the Poppyseed Bagel Fizz (\$16) is made by soaking Black Seed bagels in water, sugar and yeast overnight, then combining that concoction with gin, aquavit, powdered cream cheese and bitter lemon soda. Let’s be honest: Any New Yorker would prefer a bagel over a cheeseburger in their personal paradise. Sorry, Jimmy Buffett.

→ Gramercy Park ([freehandhotels.com/new-york/broken-shaker](http://freehandhotels.com/new-york/broken-shaker))

### THE TIME-TRAVELING LOUNGE

#### **OPHELIA**

The most exciting new rooftop bar isn’t really new at all. In fact, the Art Deco stunner, located on the 26th floor of the historic Beekman Tower, originally opened in 1928 and served as a space for recently graduated sorority sisters to receive gentleman callers and bask under the sunlight pouring through the solarium. (Nice work if you can get it.) In 1940, the space was rebranded as the restaurant Top of the Tower, which closed in 2013. But the venue has been resurrected once again, this time as the elegant Ophelia, a drinkery that tastefully pairs contemporary design with retro touches: Behind the striking, 24-foot-long bar lined bright-red-velvet stools, three striking windows boast their original ’20s iron casings. Surrounded by postcards from the original Beekman Tower and matchboxes from the ’50s, you can order from a menu that has items like a lobster roll with Thai dipping sauce. In both obvious and subtle ways, the bar manages to combine the best of the city’s many eras.

→ Midtown ([ophelliany.com](http://ophelliany.com))

