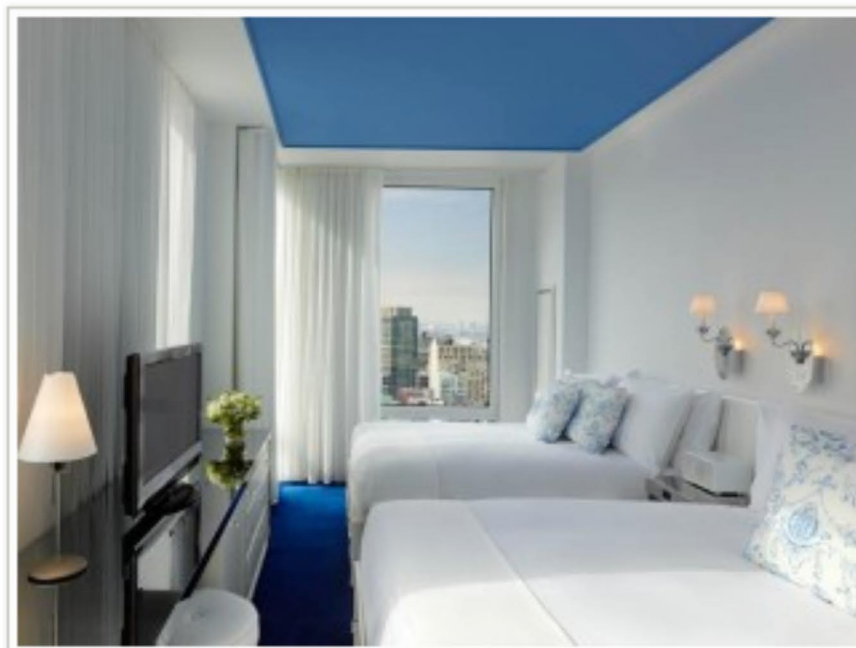


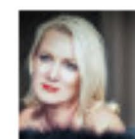
Never has a nickname for a city been more accurate. As I'm woken by jetlag at 4am, I peer out of the window of my room on the 23rd floor of SoHo's Mondrian hotel and realise 'the city that never sleeps' is just as noisy, bright and heaving with traffic as it was 12 hours ago. I have a feeling that this trip is going to be more get up and go than wind down and chill...

SoHo, a neighbourhood of about 26 blocks in lower Manhattan, has a colourful history; from comfortable home to the middle classes in the late 19th Century, to industrial wasteland in the 1950s, it wasn't until the 1960s that it became fashionable again. Artists drawn by cheap rent and the abundance of natural light in the warehouse-style buildings moved in and the rest, as they say, is history. These days, it's an area buzzing with fashionable cafes, pop up bars, must-visit restaurants and quite possibly the best shopping in the world. Established department stores like Barneys and Bloomingdales neighbour upmarket boutiques like Aether (chic, understated sportswear), Kiki de Montparnasse (lingerie heaven) and Zimmermann (the A-lister's go to for beachwear).



Right in the centre of the action is the Mondrian hotel. Part of the Mogans Hotel Group, it channels the same quirky luxury vibe as its sister hotels in LA and Miami, and attracts the same young, buzzy crowd. Rooms are small – as is standard in New York – but perfectly formed, with vast, ridiculously comfortable beds, iPod docking stations, flat screen TVs and Malin + Goetz products adorning the marble bathrooms. Book a room on a higher floor to take full advantage of the breathtaking views. Whatever your evening plans, start with a drink at the hotels' Crudo Bar; the Aperol Spritz's are divine and the best way to kick off a night out in New York.

As in any major city, choosing where to eat and drink can be an overwhelming task, so here is Luxurious Magazine's guide to the 10 best places to eat and drink in lower Manhattan, right now:



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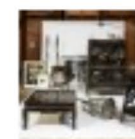
Reena Patel Checks In At Nira Caledonia For A Weekend Escape

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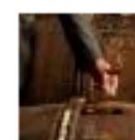
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