II Buco:

The hippest Italian restaurant in New York right now, chef Joel Hough transforms locally sourced ingredients into simple but stunning Italian dishes. Sit upstairs to soak up the buzz, or head down to the astonishing wine cellar to sit among the 400 wines on offer with dinner. Hunt down General Manager Scott Henkel if you can; he is an absolute gem and will bend over backwards to make your dining experience the best it can possibly be. Il Buco, 47 Bond Street, New York, NY 10012

Diablo Royale:

Bustling with 20-something New Yorkers, Diablo Royale is a fun Mexican restaurant in New York's West Village. Start with a giant bowl of the best guacamole in town, then tuck into tasty tacos, enchiladas and fajitas. Wash it down with a jug of freezing cold margarita – perfection. Diablo Royale, 189 W 10th Street, NY 10014

Balthazar:

Head to New York institution Balthazar for brunch and the top rate coffee and piles of homefries (you MUST order these as a side) will keep you going until dinner. You'll most probably spot a celebrity or two, too. Balthazaar, 80 Spring Street, NY 10012

Rosemary's:

This busy West Village trattoria is the perfect place for a romantic meal a deux. Turn up early to people watch while you sip on a glass of prosecco and tuck into a plate of cured meats and focaccia. Leave room for a main course though – the pasta dishes are out of this world. Rosemary's, 18 Greenwich Avenue, NY 10011

Café Cluny:

A good coffee is just as important as a good cocktail; this West Village café has both nailed. Visit mid-morning for a tasty brunch and a glass of horchata (the best I've ever tried) or book in after dark and enjoy a Snapdragon (Grey Goose vodka, ginger beer, pineapple, lime, chilli and basil) or two before dinner.

Café Gitane:

You could be mistaken for thinking the interior of Nolita's Café Gitane was last updated in 1974, but that's all part of the appeal to the super cool hipsters who frequent this hot spot for breakfast. Try the baked organic eggs and smoked salmon with a flat white; hipster heaven. Café Gitane, 242 Mott Street, NY 10012

Café Habana:

This Cuban hole in the wall is often packed wall to wall, but wait for a table and you'll be rewarded with delicious grilled corn, fat tacos packed with marinated pork and juicy spicy shrimp. Café Habana, 17 Prince Street, NY 10012

Little Branch:

Tucked down a staircase behind an ominous unmarked brown door, the only thing that gives this hidden speakeasy bar away is the queue of beautiful people waiting to get in. Be patient, and it'll pay off; the cocktails are some of the finest I've ever tasted, and the dim lighting and gentle jazz make for an intimate atmosphere. Little Branch, 20 7th Avenue S, NY 10011



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