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# HIGH LIFE

May 2019 NEW YORK HOTLIST, MAURITIAN STREET FOOD AND THE SHEPHERD AT THE END OF THE WORLD

## GAME CHANGER

*Sophie Turner, star of the  
biggest TV show on the planet,  
on life after Sansa Stark*



# NEW YORK HOTLIST

It may not have slept since 1624, but NYC shows no signs of slowing down. Here is your neighbourhood-by-neighbourhood guide to what's new, what's on, and where to stay – from Hudson Yards to the Met's tribute to all things camp



**Words:** Kerry Smith, Melissa Lawford, Beth Fine

Photograph: Michael Moran/PhotoEye & Omerci



WEST SIDE

WHAT'S NEW...

A once barren parcel of land, Hudson Yards is the trailblazing new neighbourhood that's shifting the power centre of New York west. Rebranded back in 2005, Hudson Yards perches atop the old rail yards of West Manhattan. This ambitious multi-billion-dollar mega-project will breathe life into the area with new skyscrapers, apartments, shops, parks, and restaurants curated by chef Thomas Keller, along with the first Neiman Marcus NYC store. Its tallest skyscraper, 30 Hudson Yards, will be home to an open-air deck, suspended more than 1,000 feet in the air (opening 2020). One of the current stars of the site is the curious landmark, Vessel by Thomas Heatherwick (above). Unmissable at the centre of the five-acre park, 154 flights of stairs with 2,500 steps and 80 landings soar 150 feet above the ground. It's an extraordinary climb (book ahead). Also debuting next month at 35 Hudson Yards, the first hotel from gym giant Equinox Fitness will be targeting the same sort of driven, high-flying Spandex set its fitness clubs have enticed. And it means business, through an acquisitional ultra-marathon that intends this to be the first of 80 hotels by 2030.

[hudsonyardsnewyork.com](http://hudsonyardsnewyork.com)

DON'T MISS

If there's one woman transforming New York, it's Liz Diller. Named by *Time* magazine last year as the only architect in its list of the 100 most influential people of 2018, her practice, Diller Scofidio + Renfro, helped to design the High Line, the old railway viaduct given new life as an elevated park. Now, it's behind the Shed (below), the shiniest new attraction of Hudson Yards. The biggest arts project to hit NYC since the Lincoln Centre opened in 1962 (which Diller's practice has also reformed), it cost multi-millions of dollars and promises to be a multi-disciplinary, multi-audience, multi-functional space. Its most striking feature is a cathedral-sized sliding shell, which retracts to create a 20,000-square-foot outdoor plaza for huge events. The artistic director is 51-year-old Brit, Alex Poots, a veteran of Channel 4, The Tate and, most recently, Manchester International Festival. With the Shed finally opening last month, Poots has pulled together a cast of impressively eclectic names to kick off with, including Steve McQueen, Ben Whishaw and Björk. If you needed an excuse to visit New York, this is it.

[theshed.org](http://theshed.org)



CHECK INTO

The Crowne Plaza HY36 has a stunning façade of interlocking, aluminium-finished corrugated metal and glass panels, which frames a tumbling, contemporary lighting installation. It is probably the most glamorous place in Midtown to eat a wagyu burger – the restaurant TGA NYC has 80-foot ceilings and a backyard bar with a retractable roof. Expect spacious rooms, hexagonal floor-tiling and state-of-the-art fitness facilities. [ba.com/cphy36](http://ba.com/cphy36)



Photographs: Courtesy Forbes Massie/Heatherwick Studio; Brett Beyer/Diller Scofidio + Renfro/Rockwell Group; Getty Images

TIMES SQUARE



WHAT'S NEW

In 2020, exactly a century after Times Square Theatre was built, the long-abandoned limestone colonnaded building will reopen – thanks to a \$100m makeover – as a 52,000-square-foot retail centre, featuring glass walls, a two-tiered outdoor terrace and a restored proscenium arch and ceiling dome. (The theatre showed its last film in 1989; it's the last remaining property to be redeveloped along 42nd Street, in a process that began in the 1980s clean-up of once-seedy Times Square.) Expect something grand: the architecture firm also did the celebrated restorations of Grand Central Terminal, The Frick Collection, and The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

DON'T MISS

When politicians make a mess, who cleans up? This is the (timely) question at the heart of *Gary: A Sequel to Titus Andronicus*, a comedic follow-up to Shakespeare's first (and bloodiest) tragedy. It's 400 BC in the Roman Empire, civil war has ended, the country is in chaos, casualties are everywhere – and a lowly servant (three-time Tony Award-winner Nathan Lane) is among those charged with cleaning up the corpses. The play is by the (intentionally) outrageous performance artist/writer Taylor Mac, whose show, *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music*, was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize. [garyonbroadway.com](http://garyonbroadway.com)

CHECK IN

Step into the InterContinental New York Times Square and you'll forget the buzzing arena outside. The lobby is all soothing creams and browns, and behind the front desk is a very Zen glass-enclosed courtyard garden of bamboo, white stones and greenery. Rooms are spacious by New York standards, with spa-inspired bathrooms that have walk-in showers. The Stinger (the bee-themed 'kitchen' from celebrity chef Todd English) features cocktails with honey from the hotel's rooftop apiary. Get buzzed on the place's namesake drink. [ba.com/icnytimesquare](http://ba.com/icnytimesquare)

