

PARTY BARS

GET ROWDY

The Whiskey Brooklyn

This adult rec room allows New Yorkers to indulge their childhood-birthday-party nostalgia while satisfying their mature, bourbon-swilling tastes. Make a reservation for up to 80 people (with no fee or minimum), then keep your guests amused with shuffleboard, Skee-Ball, mini basketball, arcade games and a photo booth. To spur rabble-rousing, you can choose from more than 60 bourbons and whiskeys, house beers (\$4) and spicy picklebacks (\$7). 44 Berry St at North 11th St, Williamsburg, Brooklyn (718-387-8444, whiskeybrooklyn.com)

Taproom No. 307

This pub has more than 40 craft brews on tap, plus dozens more in bottles, cans and casks. A beer sommelier is present almost every day to help patrons navigate the rotating list, which ranges from lagers and cream ales to porters and saisons. If party hosts convey their flavor preferences in advance, the chef will create a personalized, off-the-menu meal of hearty fare. One recent bespoke fete included a three-course pairing dinner (for around \$30 per person). 307 Third Ave between 23rd and 24th Sts (212-725-4766, taproom307.com)

The Shop Brooklyn

Now that this motorcycle garage has a full liquor license, you can order a stiff pour or enjoy a \$3 PBR amid a creative, bike-appreciating crowd. The spare industrial space isn't big on ambience, but like a true garage, it takes on whatever role is needed: a low-key Sunday barbecue (a house smoker turns out sausage, ribs and pork shoulder)

THROW A BASH AT HOME

1 Prepare to booze

Your first priority should be getting libations in order. For a massive selection and reasonable prices, head to Warehouse Wine 8 Spirits (735 Broadway between 8th St and Waverly, 212-982-7770). The staff won't wax poetic about the bouquet of a win or the finish of a bourbon, but they'll have what you need to set up a basic bar.

2 Ensure plenty of edibles Diana Yen, of catering

company the Jewels of New York (thejewelsofry .com, 718-360-1951), recommends starting with a cheese plate while you finish things up in the kitchen. It's also a good idea to let partygoers relax a little before bringing out desserts and coffee. In order to keep your hosting stress to a minimum, Yen suggests making your celebration a potluck.

3 Add festive decorations "One of my favorite ways to

decorate a holiday table is to scatter kumquats and other types of citrus along the center," says floral designer Ariel Dearie (arieldearieflowers.com, 917-362-6441). Take a trip to the Union Square Greenmarket, which offers the best deals on fresh flowers, seasonal fruit and foliage.—Lisa Butterworth

or a foot-stomping concert that blares into the street. The repair floor doubles as a venue for live acts, which span rock, reggae and bluegrass, as well as DJs who spin party jams. 290 Metropolitan Ave between Driggs Ave and Roebling St, Williamsburg, Brooklyn (347-227-7603, www.theshopbrooklyn.com)—Carolyn Stanley

BELT OUT SONGS

Arlene's World Famous Live Rock 'n' Roll Karaoke

Bring your A-game to Arlene's—the members of the bar's house group include musicians who have performed alongside Queen, Aerosmith and Guns N' Roses. Live your rocker fantasies while you belt out songs by Black Sabbath, Alice in Chains or other staples, and be prepared to bust out your most ridiculous moves—air guitar and onstage stripping are encouraged. 95 Stanton St between Ludlow and Orchard Sts (212-358-1633). Mon 10pm; free. Fri midnight; \$10.

Pulse Karaoke Lounge & Private Suites

Business-casual attire is required here, but don't let the slightly upscale vibe deter you from letting loose. You can party down at Pulse without spending a ton of cash: Songs are only a buck, the bar offers two-for-one drinks from 6 to 8pm Monday through Saturday, and private rooms can be rented for as little as \$30 for two hours of unlimited singing and drinking. Plus, the extensive songbook features 60,000 tunes in four different languages (English, Spanish, Korean and Russian), and new songs are added every month. 135 W 41st St between Sixth Ave and Broadway (212-278-0090). \$1 per song.—Rebecca Gehman

CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY

The Counting Room

A rustic street-level restaurant provides ample seating for informal gatherings, where revelers can clink glasses of fine wines such as Ermitage du Pic St. Loup 2007 (\$42 per bottle), a fragrant French syrah. Or head to the candlelit basement to swill specialty cocktails like the Rose #2 (\$10) or Octavian in Treme (\$12), both of which use house-made infusions and bitters. A communal table fits 8 to 15 people, while the curtained-off VIP section can accommodate up to 40. Bonus: When you reserve your feefree space (a week or two in advance is recommended), you can ask the manager if they can craft a special cocktail for your soiree. 44 Berry St between North 11th and 12th Sts, Williamsburg, Brooklyn (718-599-1860, thecountingroombk.com)





The Gutter

Rally your friends and snag one of the eight lanes at this retro bowling ally. Get there early and book by the game (before 8pm \$6, after 8pm \$7) or by the hour (weeknights before 8pm \$30, weeknights after 8pm \$40, weekends \$45). The spacious bar area offers a solid selection of beers on tap (pints of Dogfish Head Indian Brown Ale and Allagash Whiterun \$6), which you can toss back while you wait for an open lane. If you're inviting 10 to 20 people on a weeknight (Monday through Thursday), book a set package a week or two in advance, and you'll get two lanes to yourselves for four hours (\$400). 200 North 14th St between Berry St and Wythe Ave, Williamsburg, Brooklyn (718-387-3585, thegutterbrooklyn.com)

Saint Vitus

A relatively new addition to the Greenpoint scene, this moody, metal-focused music venue and bar caters to headbanging honorees and their friends. Shows by up-and-comers and seasoned favorites take place in the back room most nights; recent acts have included Hate Hate Hate and Bloodiest. Nosh on steamed pork buns (\$3) and kick back with New York craft beers from breweries like Ommegang and Captain Lawrence. 1120 Manhattan Ave between Box and Clay Sts, Greenpoint, Brooklyn (saintvitusbar.com)—Erin Griffith

BRING A BIG GROUP

Night of Joy

Cocktail enthusiasts come with a bevy of pals to this cozy parlor, where the libations are refined yet totally affordable. Barkeeps wield botanical ingredients and herbal house infusions to create seasonal quaffs, such as a basil-lime gimlet and a jalapeño—black currant margarita (each \$9). There's plenty of prime seating to stake out: benches along the windows, four couches and several antique-looking ottomans in the main room, plus three tables in the back alcove. 667 Lorimer St at Meeker Ave, Williamsburg, Brooklyn (718-388-8693, nightofjoybar.com)

Drop Off Service

Big booths and lots of barstools at this Euro-style bar provide ample room for large, festive gatherings. Happyhour pricing (\$3 pints; weeknights 3–8pm, weekends 1–8pm) extends to nearly all of the 26 beers on tap, including Avery Jubilation and Crossroads Cream Ale. The jukebox is packed with upbeat '80s and indie hits, so carve out a slice of floor space and have an impromptu dance-off. 211 Ave A between 13th and 14th Sts (212-260-2914)—RG

BOOZE WITH COWORKERS

Greenwich Village Country Club

If you need an activity to distract you from awkward conversations with nosy colleagues, this 16,000-square-foot leisure den offers plenty of diversions. Depending on how many people you're expecting, you can book a section, a VIP lounge or the whole 16,000-square-foot venue. Engage in some collegial shit-talking over a game of bocce, pool, air hockey or foosball while keeping your energy high with campy cocktails, cans of Porkslap and fancified comfort food. Open-bar packages are available in both the Clubhouse and the Part-ee Lounge, and all your options include one round of minigolf per person. 110 University Pl between 12th and 13th Sts (212-255-8818, gvccnyc.com)

Casa Mezcal

Adorned with ceramics and folk art, the upstairs gallery of this Oaxaca-inspired spot lends itself to a suit-and-tie-friendly formal party for 40 to 50 people. Reserve the whole space or a few tables, and sip selections from the extensive





The Whiskey Brooklyn



Casa Mezcal

MUCH MORE ONLINE!

For tons more celebration bars and cool parties, plus extra tips on throwing your own, visit newyork.timeout .com/parties. mescal menu. You and your compatriots can also nibble on appetizers like the venue's *queso fundido* with deep-fried grasshoppers (\$7). Or book the sultry basement lounge, where there's room for live music, salsa dancing and other spirited festivities. Order a mescal margarita (\$11), grab a seat on one of the plush couches and watch for drunken hookups. 86 Orchard St between Broome and Grand Sts (212-777-2600, casamezcal.blogspot.com)—EG

MELLOW OUT

The Bearded Lady

This mod cocktail parlor has the soul of a neighborhood dive straight out of the '60s. Vibrant leather chairs surround a concrete bar, where you can rest easy, order craft beers or smart, balanced drinks like the Mr. Howell (\$9), and groove to soul, Motown and blues tracks. For a festive celebration, the cocktails can be tailor-made as part of an open-bar package (starting at about \$20 per person per hour). Right now, the venue works best for intimate get-togethers (the space tops out at 50), but a second party-ready room will be available by spring. 686A Washington Ave at St. Marks Ave, Prospect Heights, Brooklyn (469-232-7333)

The Tippler

Cocktail enthusiasts don't have to sacrifice quality for quantity at this underground mixology haven. Groups of 20-plus can make a reservation to delve into the Tippler's extensive menu of libations, such as the Buzzing Black Buck (\$12), an elixir of rum, coffee liqueur, espresso and ginger beer. If everyone in your crew has similar tastes, opt for an open-bar package (\$30 per person for the first hour), which includes a specific cocktail alongside unlimited beer and wine. Chelsea Market, 425 W 15th St between Ninth and Tenth Aves (212-206-0000, thetippler.com)—CS



COOL PARTIES

GO DANCING

Romantically Uninvolved at the Manhattan Inn

The Manhattan Inn's reputation is one we can get behind: The place is a well-mannered piano bar by day, and a raucous, packed danceathon by night. Every Saturday, Romantically Uninvolved taps into Greenpoint's wild side, going hard until 4am. The opening midnight set includes familiar big names Jimmy (Pretty Good Dance Moves), Leanne (Neon Indian) and Eric (Ego Puppets). They keep things fresh with impulsive sets—synth-pop and Motown, for example—dictated by the response of devout regulars. It won't be long before you're one of them. 632 Manhattan Ave at Nassau Ave, Greenpoint, Brooklyn (718-383-0885, themanhattaninn.com). Sat midnight—4am; free.

Trash! at the Studio at Webster Hall

Webster Hall's nine-year-old weekly basement party draws some of New York City's freakiest underdogs—this won't just be any Friday night out in the Village. DJ Jess (who was featured in *Black Swan*) spins indie, electro, dubstep and rock, while S&M showgirls perform on the throbbing, sweaty dance floor. Smeared lipstick, messy hair, leather and torn fishnets are encouraged. 125 E 11th St between Third and Fourth Aves (212-353-1600, thestudioat websterhall.com). Fri 11pm—4am; \$10, with R.S.V.P.\$5.

Deep Space at Cielo

Grab your gang and head to one of the city's greatest parties, courtesy of NYC clubland vet François K. This Monday night staple is known for its superb guest DJs, spinning everything from dubstep to disco at the start of the workweek. Dance-floor freaks, be warned: Strap on your dancing shoes extra-tight for this one. 18 Little W 12th St between Ninth Ave and Washington St (212-645-5700). Mon 10pm—3:30am; \$15.—Lauren Moore



SantaCon



Floating Kabarette



Trash!

MORE ONLINE!

For tons more places to let loose, visit newyork .timeout.com/parties.

TOAST THE HOLIDAYS

SantaCon

For boozehounds, this truly is the most wonderful time of the year: Thousands of thirsty New Yorkers wear their finest (or most outrageous) holiday-themed getups—St. Nick is the most popular, but raunchy versions of elves, gingerbread men and reindeer are welcome additions—and take to the streets for a daylong pub crawl. Meet-up details won't come out until the night before on the SantaCon website, and revelers can also follow @santacon on Twitter for real-time updates on where to find the roving Kringles & Co. Visit santacon.info/new_york-ny for more info. Sat 10 time TBA; free.

The Harry Potter Yule Ball at the Bell House

J.K. Rowling's series and the Warner Bros. film juggernaut have come to an end, but Harry Potter nerds can stoke the fires of their obsession at this annual winter tribute to Hogwarts and Harry's gang. Don your fancy dress robes in preparation for an evening of magical concoctions and wizard rock, featuring Harry and the Potters and Draco and the Malfoys. The Bell House will also donate \$3 for every ticket sold to the Harry Potter Alliance (thehpalliance.org), a nonprofit that draws on the messages of love and tolerance Rowling wove into the series to fight against real-world social issues. Alohomora your wallets! 149 7th Street between Second and Third Aves, Gowanus, Brooklyn (718-643-6510, thebellhouseny.com). Dec 17 at 5pm; \$18.

No Office Holiday Party at Littlefield

If you work from home or are currently unemployed but find yourself hankering for the yearly humiliation that comes with a drunken office party, you're in luck: local blogs the Skint, Brooklyn Based, Brokelyn and Fucked in Park Slope will combine forces to host an alternative holiday work party for people who don't work together but want to pretend that they do for one night. Pose in a photo booth, heckle your compatriots during the live-band karaoke and keep the holiday punch flowing to increase the possibility of an awkward "work" hookup. Don't forget to bring along an inexpensive gift for an impromptu secret-Santa exchange; there's no need to sign up in advance. 622 DeGraw St between Third and Fourth Aves, Gowanus, Brooklyn (littlefieldnyc.com). Dec 15 at 7:30pm; \$5.—Melody Serafino

DRESS UP

The Glitter Ball

Party-planning mavens Gemini & Scorpio are launching their tenth-anniversary year with a bash inspired by the epic final blowout at Studio 54. Dressing to the theme is required, so make sure that you're decked out in something in the vicinity of '70s disco or shiny spaceman, or risk being barred from the event. Once you're in, get down all night long alongside aerialists and go-go dancers to deejayed funk and Afrobeat music. Irondale Center, 85 South Oxford St between Fulton St and Lafayette Ave, Fort Greene, Brooklyn (geminiandscorpio.com). Dec 31 time TBA; \$35–\$45.

The Winter Ball

Michael Arenella and his Dreamland Orchestra host their annual Winter Ball at Bogardus Mansion, an 18th-century Venetian palazzo just below Tribeca. Work up a sophisticated glow to swinging Jazz Age tunes by Dreamland, and take in performances by tap-dancing vixens the Minsky Sisters and French singer and accordionist Nicole Renaud, among others. Think vintage glamour when it comes to your wardrobe—the more sparkles, the better. Bogardus Mansion, 75 Murray St

PARTIES PARTIES

at West Broadway (dreamlandorchestra.com). Sat 10 8pm-2am; \$50 (includes one drink).—Sarah Rammos

DRINK YOUR MONEY'S WORTH

Mehanata

Party down Slavic-style at culture-clashing Bulgarian disco Mehanata, where you can pound up to six drinks in its infamous ice cage (a see-through freezer that houses more than 50 different types of vodka). Before you enter, you're given a Soviet fur uniform and a timer set to two minutes: guzzle as much as you can in the time allotted. Afterward, heat things up with an eclectic crowd—Russian pole dancers included—on a disco-dive dance floor. 113 Ludlow St between Delancey and Rivington Sts (212-625-0981, mehanata.com). Thu-Sat 8pm-4am; \$10, ice cage \$20.

Nasty Mondays at Le Poisson Rouge

This rowdy New York City-via-Barcelona blowout makes a mark with a reliable open vodka bar. Go wild with a young rock & roll clientele while DJs Max and Sören spin new wave, grunge and Top 40. 158 Bleecker St at Thompson St (212-505-3474, nastymondays.com). Next party: Dec 19 10pm-4am, open bar 10-11pm; free. —Lauren Moore

BE UNCONVENTIONAL

Floating Kabarette at Galapagos Art Space

Galapagos reclaims the circus with this weekly cabaret night: Enjoy performances by the venue's house dance company, Jenny Rocha and Her Painted Ladies, burlesque performance artist Cassandra Rosebeetle and male trapeze stud Jan Manke, alongside the venue's glistening indoor lakes, all hosted by potty-mouthed performance-art duo Olga and Bjorn. 16 Main St at Water St, Dumbo, Brooklyn (718-222-8500, galapagosartspace.com). Sat 10 at 10bm; \$20.

Saved by the 90s: A Party with the Bayside Tigers! at the Canal Room

The Canal Room is the new Max tonight: Don your snap bracelets and acid-washed jeans and practice your electric slide in preparation for this night of '90s nostalgia in honor of Zack, Kelly and the rest of the gang. The Bayside Tigers will play covers of the Backstreet Boys and Smash Mouth among other songs you haven't danced to since your seventh-grade Valentine's Day dance—shake ass with the confidence of knowing that we are totally gonna beat Valley



THE **NEW HOT SPOTS**

The Beatrice Inn was a eist-defining party spot, like the Paradis Garage or Studio 54 before it, with such NYC has yet to find a suitable replacement. Spaces continue to jock for the honors that venue won; we look at a few of

1920 Bunker Club

Bunker Club is the Beatric heir with the best claim to the throne—it's cowned by Bea cofounde underground space has a ceiling that's a bit too high to evoke its forebearer's claustrophobic intimacy but the Bunker Club has aptured some of the oldfashioned rowdiness nat helped persuade Bea patrons to let loose aided by a cheese-friendl music policy. 24 Ninth Ave at 13th St (212-837-4700)

The Ballroom at the Jane Hotel

You won't find all-night anymore, but the music hasn't died. When the Bea passed into that great ightclub in the sky, a lot of the energy that the block to the Jane. The DJs here still spin some of the old favorites. and the door remains tough enough that this is still a good place for the sens and other celebri ties to let their hair down like they used to up the street, 113 Jane St between Washington and West Sts (thejanenyc.com)

The Electric Room

The Dream Downtown's s probably the toughes door in the city right now It's almost brand new and painfully tiny, with about a hundred revele But it's still more lounge nan club, and whether this particular dream can be dirty enough to snatch the Bea's scept nains to be seen. 355 W 16th St between (212-229-2559, —Dave Hughes

at the track meet this year. 285 West Broadway at Canal St (212-941-8100, canalroom.com). Fri 9 at 9:30pm; advance \$10, at the door \$12.—Molly Gallagher

HAVE A BOOZE-FUELED BRUNCH

The unpretentious vibe of this neighborhood restaurant makes it a popular weekend haunt for the downtown crowd. Hearty Southern-inspired brunch entrées like vanillabrandy French toast (\$15) and eggs with biscuits and gravy (\$12) are accompanied by a complimentary drink (mimosa, sangria, juice or soda), and the menu rotates regularly to include fresh, seasonal ingredients. Groove to live bluegrass music or grab a drink at the bar while you wait for a table. 47E Houston St between Mott and Mulberry Sts (212-625-1712, nolitahouse.com). Sat, Sun 10am-3:45pm.

Reaumarchais

Formerly known as Bagatelle, this see-and-be-seen brasserie serves brunches with a background soundtrack of fistpump-worthy Top 40 and European beats. The combination attracts a crowd still dressed for a night out: The party gets under way around 3pm, when bottles of Cristal flow as model-look-alike revelers in miniskirts and teetering heels mix and mingle. Indulge in Nutella-drenched Belgian waffles topped with fresh berries (\$18) to soak up the spirits during this daylong drinksfest. 409 W 13th St between Ninth Ave and Washington St (212-675-2400, brasseriebeaumarchais .com). Sat, Sun 11:30am-5pm.

Paradou

The promise of an unlimited champagne and cocktail brunch explains why this Provençal bistro is perpetually packed. For \$29, choose one of the many French-inspired entrées and guzzle bottomless beverages like Bellinis, mimosas and kir royales. Don't be fooled by the restaurant's countryfarmhouse-chic decor; it's a veritable watering hole during the weekend, when the enclosed garden provides the backdrop for some serious daytime boozing. On Sundays, DJs start their sets around 3pm, and late risers can chow down on brunch until 7pm. Reservations are a must. 8 Little W 12th St between Ninth Ave and Washington St (212-463-8345, paradounyc .com). Sat 11am-4pm, Sun 11am-7pm.—Melody Serafino

THROW A BACHELORETTE OR **BACHELOR PARTY**

Rebel Night at Otto's Shrunken Head

Bring a coed group to this rockabilly shindig, where ladies and gents can usually get a free dance lesson from the DJs if they show up at 10pm. Pair off for a fast jive, or get the bride and her gals together to practice the stroll, a traditionally all-female line routine. Once you've learned the moves, hit the dance floorbut don't leave before forcing the bride or groom to make cutesy faces in the bar's black-and-white photo booth (\$4), 538 E 14th St between Aves A and B (212-228-2240, ottosshrunkenhead .com). Third Friday of every month 10bm-4am: free.

Skip the strippers-and-sex-toys scene and instead gather a few of your closest friends at this casual gay venue. There are a few clubby attributes—such as shirtless bartenders in skivvies and booming dance music—but the vibe is more like a casual sports bar. Plus, there's no fee to reserve a private space; both the front alcove and the area around the pool tables and dartboards in the back can be claimed for up to 40 people. 37 W 20th St between Fifth and Sixth Aves (212-255-5082, boxersnyc.com)—Alison Zeidman





THE BEST PARTIES project, injecting a strong

OF 2011

DJ Spinoza and his party the Bunker bring the best and brightest of Berlin's Berghain venue to Public Assembly on a regular basis—past draws include Marcel Dettmann and Donato Dozzy. The bash benefits from Spinoza's keen ear and great connections among the highlights this year were Scotland's Optimo and NYC's own Derek Plaslaiko, a party regular. Public Assembly, 70 North 6th St between Kent and Wythe Aves, Williamsburg, Brooklyn (718-384-4586, publicassemblynyc.com). Biweekly, next party: Jan 6 at 10pm; \$TBA.

All Day I Dream

The legendary selector Lee Hong Kong, officially

Sunday-afternoon Williamsburg rooftop parties this June, but he's been working on the concept for a while. His 2008 podcast for Resident Advisor, titled *All Day I* Dream of Her, sets the tone for this bash—dreamy, melancholic, melodic house perfect for falling in love, or at least watching the sun melt into the haze beyond Manhattan. The July 4th edition featured killer views of the fireworks, with one of the best soundtracks in the five boroughs. OfficeOps, 57 Thames St between Knickerbocker Ave and Vandervoort Pl, Williamsburg, Brooklyn (718-418-2509, officeops.com). Limited summer season.

Dances of Vice

Shien Lee's roving fete is

akin to a collective art

Burridge, from England by way of San Francisco and inaugurated his series of

GO WILD!

scene. Informed by Dada and the New Romantics. each event centers on a particular theme, and denizens dress, accordingly, to kill. Lee transforms spaces as varied as the Ace Hotel and Le Poisson Rouge into decadent, bacchanalian wonderlands. Last year's New Year's function was a particular hit; this year's will bring a vintage-circus theme to Morningside Heights' castlelike Riverside Church just before we kiss 2011 goodbye. Riverside Church, 91 Claremont Ave at 122nd St (212-870-6700, dances ofvice.com). Dec 30 at 8:30pm;\$30-\$35.

dose of theatrics into the

New York's track record

Electric Zoo

when it comes to music festivals isn't the greatest, but we have, over the past few years, been blessed to have Electric Zoo, a homegrown celebration of electronic music that transforms Randalls Island into an Ibiza on the East

River every Labor Day. The enormous 2011 lineup featured local luminaries including Danny Tenaglia. Nick Catchdubs and Victor Calderone, among the Skrillexes and Tiëstos. (electriczoofestival.com). Aug 31, Sept 1, 2; price TBA.

The year 2011 saw a serious

718 Sessions

resurgence of deep house, to the point that one of dance music's leading lights, Seth Troxler, poked fun at the trend in his "Party Guilt." "You wanna get deep? What, like deep house? I know the soul. I've felt the rhythm, yeah yeah yeah, boom boom." That snarkiness had no place at Danny Krivit's 718 Sessions, which was deep and soulful even before the wave crested, and always pushed a positive vibe. Santos Party House, 100 Lafayette St at Walker St (212-714-4646, santospartyhouse.com). Monthly Sun 6pm, next party Sun 11; \$20, before 7pm \$5.—DH



Patton Oswalt, visit

16 TIMEOUTNEWYORK.COM December 8-14, 2011