



GOTHAM

BLOOMBERG IN WINTER

The Departing Mayor Looks Back—and Forward

GUIDE **imbibe**

A strawberry
Bellini at Michael
Lomonaco's
Center Bar.



Bubbling Over

TOAST THE SEASON AT THESE SPARKLING
HOT SPOTS. BY DALENE ROVENSTINE

Balthazar

Since 1997, Keith McNally's Balthazar has been serving French bistro fare, and the bubbly flows all day long thanks to the restaurant's festive atmosphere. Champagne offerings include nonvintage, vintage, and tête de cuvée; there are also five types of sparkly by the glass. Champagne is priced for every budget—from Pol Roger "Extra Cuvée de Réserve" brut (\$95) to a 1998 Bollinger "Vieille Vignes Françaises" Blanc de Noirs brut (\$950). **80 Spring St., 212-965-1414; balthazar.nyc.com**

The Bourgeois Pig

The cocktail list at The Bourgeois Pig is a potent lure all year, but those longing for Champagne with a twist make this glamorous bistro in the East Village a must-stop during the holidays. Try the Marie Antoinette, with blood orange juice, elderflower, orange bitters, and Champagne, or the Fleur de Florence, which combines bubbly with black walnut bitters and tea syrup. Pair a glass of Gardet "Pol Gardere" brut with a delectable small plate, like crab gratin or eggplant caviar tartine. **111 E. Seventh St., 212-475-2246; bourgeoispig.nyc.com**

Bubble Lounge

Devoted solely to all things sparkly, Bubble Lounge in Tribeca has more than 300 Champagnes and sparkling wines. The expansive space is

ideal for holiday gatherings of any size—book the Krug Room, which resembles a *cave à Champagne* with low, arched ceilings. The hard part is deciding what to drink: The menu features everything from magnums of Billecart, Lanson, Laurent-Perrier, and Veuve Clicquot to Champagne cocktails and numerous by-the-glass options. **228 W. Broadway, 212-431-3433; bubblelounge.com**

Center Bar

Michael Lomonaco's Time Warner Center cocktail lounge has reason to celebrate with a flute filled with bubbly—its one-year anniversary. Center Bar devotes an entire section of the drink menu to Champagne cocktails. The house's classic version features Roederer Champagne, bitters, a sugar cube, and a lemon twist. **10 Columbus Circle, Fourth Fl., 212-823-9482; centerbar.nyc.com**

The Champagne Bar at The Plaza Hotel

Overlooking Fifth Avenue and the Pulitzer Fountain, The Champagne Bar at The Plaza recalls the Champagne Porch, a popular spot at the hotel when it opened in 1907 and where everyone from the Prince of Wales to Diamond Jim Brady sipped and supped. As today's bar has a similar popularity, book early for holiday stop-bys. All the top Champagnes, such as Ruinart, Perrier-Jouët, and Veuve Clicquot, are on the list, along

with caviar, oysters Rockefeller, and steak tartare. **768 Fifth Ave., 212-546-5237; theplazany.com**

Jazz Room at The General

Live music and Champagne are sure to get anyone in a festive mood. Jazz Room at The General's curated Champagne list includes varieties from Armand de Brignac, Moët & Chandon, Pol Roger, and other top brands. One memorably named Champagne cocktail here is The Battle of Bowery, made with gin, Pavan liqueur, yuzu, and a Chandon float. Now that's a skirmish worth toasting. **199 Bowery, 212-271-7101; emmgrp.com/restaurants/jazz-room-at-the-general/**

The Lion

Sean Largotta and John DeLucie's West Village nook, The Lion, has long been a celeb magnet—Cameron Diaz, John Mayer, Anne Hathaway, and Rob Lowe have all stopped by. Take advantage of the restaurant's extensive bubbly list featuring Cristal, Dom Pérignon, Philipponnat, and Bollinger, to name a few, for end-of-year celebrations. "The Lion has such a storied past of revelry and long nights," says Largotta, managing partner of Crown Group Hospitality. A restaurant with that rap sounds just like the kind of place to ring in the new year. **62 W. Ninth St., 212-353-8400; thelionnyc.com** **G**

RAISE A GLASS

Flûte Bar & Lounge offers one of Manhattan's largest Champagne lists.

You know Champagne will be the star at a place named Flûte Bar & Lounge. And it most definitely is—the lounge offers a five-page menu of bubbly by the flute- or bottle-full. You'll find anything you want to sample here: sparkling wines, Champagne cocktails, brut nonvintage, extra brut, vintage, blanc de blancs, sweet, and rosé Champagnes, also available in magnum sizes and larger. Try the preselected tasting flights to sample a variety of bubbly from houses like Lanson, Piper-Heidsieck, and Charles de Cazanove. Conveniently, Flûte Bar & Lounge has three Manhattan outposts—and one in Paris, too. **303 E. 53rd St., 646-998-5434; 40 E. 20th St., 212-529-7870; 205 W. 54th St., 212-265-5169; flutebar.com**



Flûte Bar & Lounge has a five-page bubbly menu.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAN CRESAN (FLÛTE)