

SLEEP NO MORE

NEW YORK IS A CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS, BUT THOSE OF US WHO VISIT TO EXPERIENCE ITS CHARMS CERTAINLY NEED A BED. **DANIEL SCHEFFLER** SUGGESTS A FEW

New York is known for its assemblage of unbelievable, never-to-be-experienced-before, prolific hotels. From capsules where you can sleep for less than a hundred bucks, to Airbnb rooms where you can share someone's deepest intimacies, to a minuscule wooden cabin in the East Village with no bathroom, the city offers everything and more. But this wonderful city truly dazzles when it comes to luxury hotels – away from the obvious Plaza and Palace, New York romances a number of smaller, more veritable hotels that manage to form part of a bigger zeitgeist of finding home – where unfeigned aesthetic is primary, along with skillful service and an acute attention to even the smallest personal detail.

Crosby Street Hotel (firmdalehotels.com/new-york/crosby-street-hotel) is the New York love child of offbeat and fabulously leftfield designer Kit Kemp, and her husband Tim, who hail from the



CROSBY STREET HOTEL

UK. The hotel manages to break through New York's cynical bearings and deliver mirth in the nucleus of the ever-popular and tourist packed SoHo neighbourhood.

Great windows bring the city's beauty and beast into the oversized rooms. Fresh flowers are everywhere and

there's a mini bar filled with a dreamlike milk and honey selection. Design-wise, Kit has layered a colourful combination of once-off antiques, magical objects and fun elements like animal book stands for a touch of humour.

Known for its ability to attract the



THE CARLYLE HOTEL



THE GREENWICH HOTEL



CROSBY STREET HOTEL

The high-ceilinged drawing room with its **WELCOMING FIREPLACE AND BRIMMING BOOKSHELVES** feels perfectly appropriate in our current age of new romanticism

right crowd, including neighbour David Bowie, the Crosby Hotel Bar offers a well-deserved diversion from the city's eternal noise and bustle. Sunday brunches accompanied by the New York Times and an extra spicy Bloody Mary are a customary among locals and the hotel's Sunday evening film club screens Hollywood darlings and other independent films in a private cinema

after dinner. A touch of quirk that works so well in this little slice of SoHo.

What sets the Crosby Street Hotel apart is the feeling of a new kind of luxury that has nothing to do with bling. The hotel is unpretentious, full of quirky touches that give it a goofy edge. There's a chicken coop for guests to visit on the rooftop, a statue garden if you enjoy sitting quietly and contemplating life and of course the

fireplace in the drawing room where time becomes the ultimate indulgence.

The Greenwich Hotel (thegreenwichhotel.com) is owned by actor Robert de Niro, who is also co-founder of the TriBeCa Film Festival. But de Niro aside, this hotel is a true repository for appeasement and decadence. It's now run by the famous actor's son, Rafael, and follows a family

tradition – the real estate business has been in the De Niro blood for generations. Great uncles, aunts and grandfathers have owned properties across the US, especially in Manhattan's TriBeCa region.

Each of the hotel's 88 rooms is individually decorated with a cultural



THE CARLYLE HOTEL

mélange including Italian terracotta floors, Moroccan tiles and hand loomed Tibetan rugs. When you enter the hotel it's like taking a magic carpet ride to a far-off land. The high-ceilinged drawing room with its welcoming fireplace and brimming bookshelves feels perfectly appropriate in our current age of new romanticism. And each suite, with its hand-crafted marble tub, is the ultimate sanctum.

The hotel also boasts a Japanese spa, making it one of the best places to hide out in Manhattan. Designed by Mikio Shinagawa, the Shibui Spa, whose name refers to the Japanese aesthetic of simplicity and unobtrusive beauty, is discreet and simple. The spa, which has only four treatment rooms, offers seasonal soaking tubs, and its a signature Drunken Lotus massage that merges shiatsu, acupressure and traditional Thai with sake-drenched towels.

New York boasts some ageless institutions that continue to present a certain timeless class. **The Carlyle Hotel** (rosewoodhotels.com/en/carlyle) is one of these establishments. Since it opened



CROSBY STREET HOTEL

in 1930, the Carlyle has been the place to live, work, entertain, dazzle and fraternise.

Located on famous Madison Avenue, the hotel overlooks the vast green expanse of Central Park. On Monday nights, Woody Allen comes to the hotel's Carlyle Café to play music. There are 180 rooms for guests, and of course the 60 privately-owned residences that form part of this renowned establishment, and visitors who have stayed here include every famous person imaginable, from Lady Diana to Phil Spector.

Fabulously named, 'the New York White House', during the Kennedy administration, this is where Marilyn Monroe sneaked in though a service

entrance after her rendition of 'Happy Birthday, Mr. President' at Madison Square Garden in 1961. But aside from numerous famous guests, the hotel has maintained its discretion and superlative service and is still a very popular retreat. The ultimate Deluxe Tower Rooms, created by interior designer Alexandra Champalimaud, are 400 square feet with king beds and impossible Manhattan views. Infused with fine antiques, prized art works and wool carpeting, they offer a quintessential classical experience. Luxury, an almost dirty word at the hotel, isn't about ostentatious behaviour or exploits, but about celebrating heritage and a discernment for time to be meaningful again. 🍷