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## The 10 Best Places to Eat Brunch in NYC Right Now

Start making plans for Sunday Funday.

By Helin Jung



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**EAT BRUNCH**  
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What is brunch other than code for "celebrating life," right? It's the weekend, and you have all day to drink, eat, chill, and catch up with your favorite people. At brunch, life is beautiful. (That is, until *somebody* has a few too many Bellinis and gets belligerent — come on, Melissa!)

There's no better city for brunch than New York, where there are endless, unparalleled options. Among them, here are 10 restaurants that stand out.

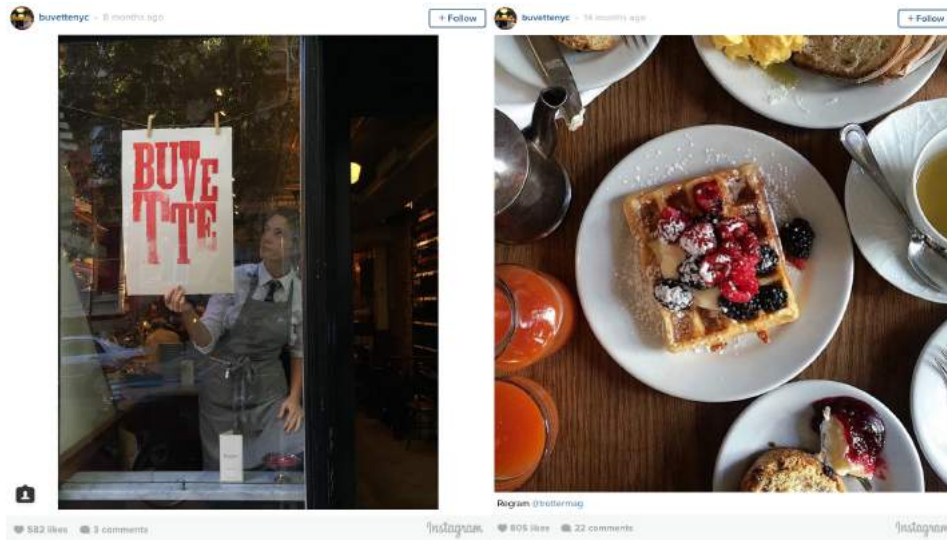
## 1. BUVETTE

**What's the vibe?** It's so perfectly cute it hurts. The West Village space is snug but chef-owner Jody Williams has filled the room — and even the sidewalk outside — with darling details, like a basket full of rolling pins.

**What kind of food do they have?** French bistro fare that leans heavy on the eggs and carbs. Be sure to order the croque madame, squishy croissants, and fresh orange juice. They can make you a lovely cocktail too.

**How much of a shitshow is it?** Plan to go early or late to quickly get a table or a seat at the bar; Buvette doesn't do reservations. This isn't the type of place you hit when you're rolling six-deep but when you have important gossip to discuss with your bestest of best friends.

**Anything else fun?** If you can't make it to New York, Williams has a cookbook, *Buvette*, which contains many of the recipes you'll find on the menu at her restaurants (there's another Buvette in Paris).



FACEBOOK/BUVETTE

## 2. COOKSHOP

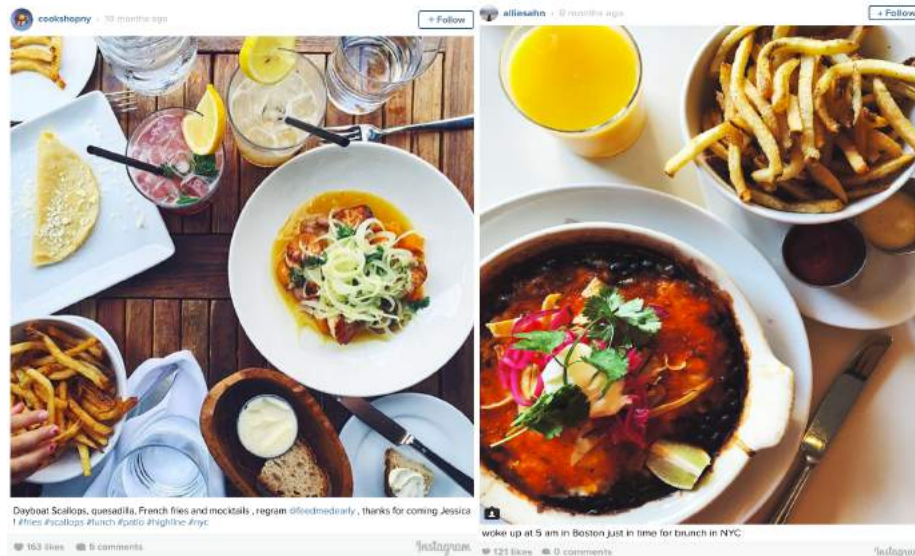
**What's the vibe?** The room gets great light thanks to its long wall of windows. It feels comfortable and warm from the minute you step inside.

**What kind of food do they have?** The [menu](#) features delicious, seasonal American items, but the standout at brunch is Cookshop's Bloody Mary list. There are five different styles of Bloodies, including a BLT Bloody Mary made with bacon-infused vodka and real bacon.

**How much of a shitshow is it?** The wait here will be pretty standard — an hour — if you plan to stop by during peak times without a reservation. But they'll take your number and text you when your table is ready.

**Anything else fun?** It's on the very west side of Chelsea, which puts you right by the High Line. Take a stroll down the elevated park space or browse Chelsea Market while you digest your food baby.





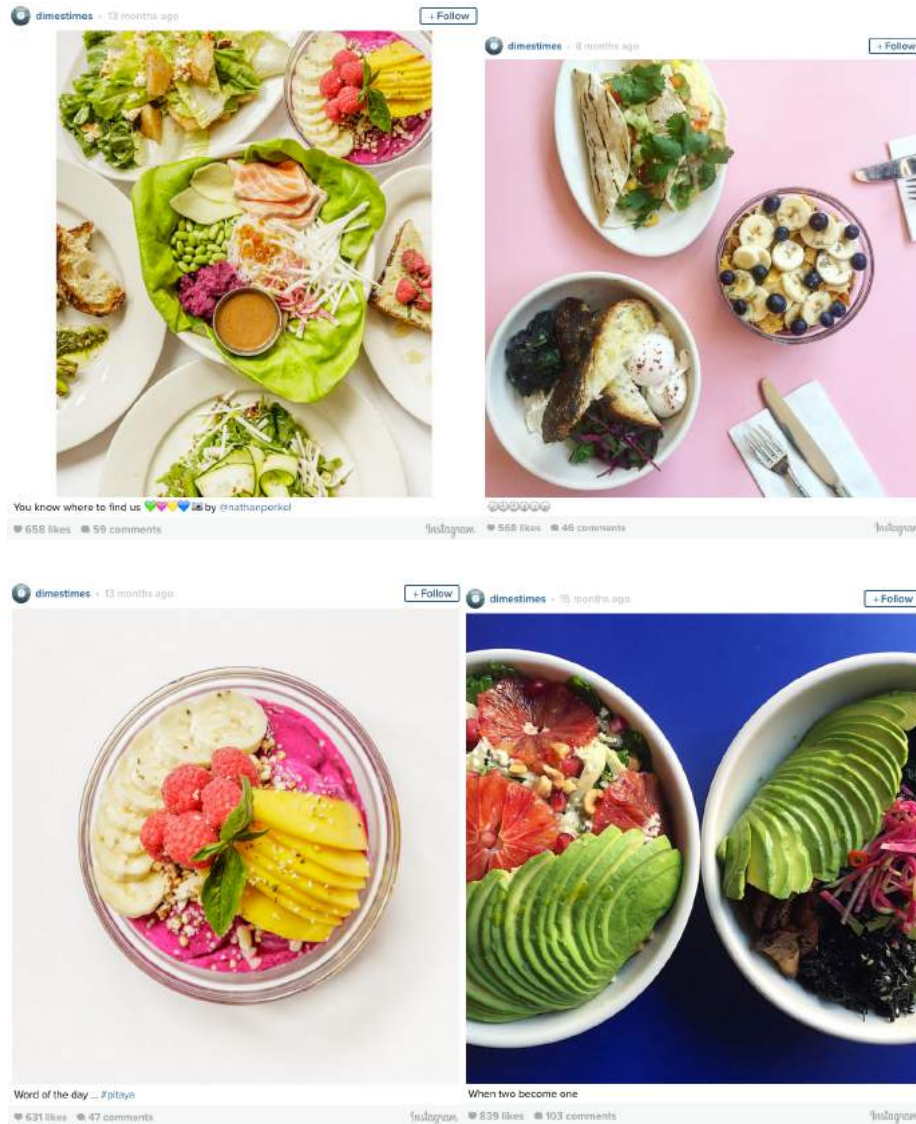
### 3. DIMES

**What's the vibe?** This Chinatown spot has a chic, super-modern interior and the patrons here are confident, stylish people. It's what Urban Outfitters wants to be when it grows up.

**What kind of food do they have?** Good, clean [stuff](#) inspired by California cooking. Toasts and bowls and salads and such. You will not feel bad about yourself for eating this delicious, healthy food.

**How much of a shitshow is it?** Kind of a shitshow. They don't take reservations and they get really busy for brunch. Between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., expect to wait before you get seated.

**Anything else fun?** They feature beautiful [floral arrangements](#) that change weekly.



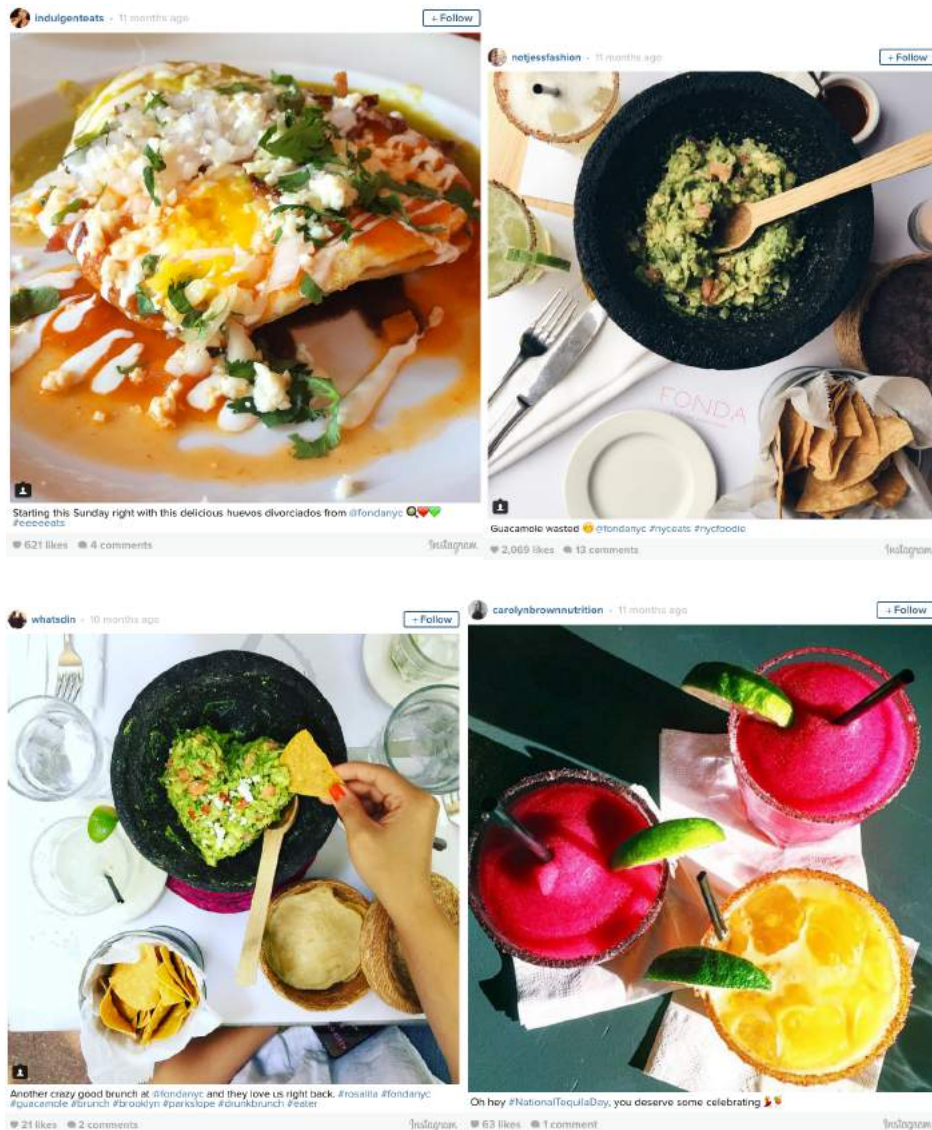
#### 4. FONDA

**What's the vibe?** The three locations (one in Chelsea, another in the East Village, and another in Park Slope in Brooklyn) are earthy and casual with exposed brick and clay-colored walls.

**What kind of food do they have?** Chef Roberto Santibañez cooks up really tasty Mexican food that's good any time of day, but especially so at breakfast, when you can get a burrito Texano smothered in a creamy tomatillo sauce that will have you licking your plate.

**How much of a shitshow is it?** It's very manageable for brunch, and they take reservations.

**Anything else fun?** Definitely do the \$27 brunch special. You get free margarita refills for an hour!



## 5. JACK'S WIFE FREDA

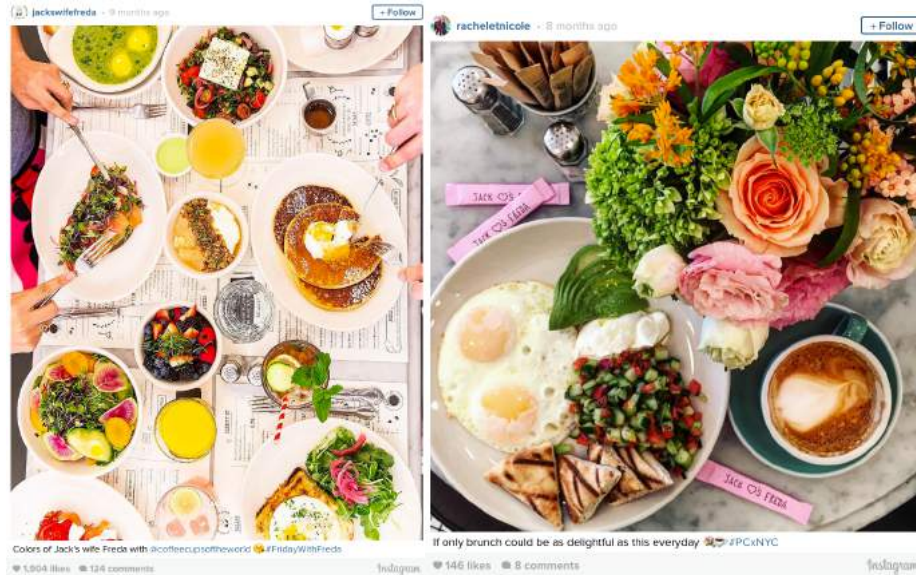
**What's the vibe?** This adorable restaurant (actually, there are two locations) is seemingly wall-to-wall with fashion bloggers, and that's when you know a place is not only tasty and hip, but also makes really freaking pretty food.

**What kind of food do they have?** It's, like, Jewish-ish — or "South African Israeli Jewish Grandmother" food, according to [New York Magazine](#). With this [menu](#), you have the option to go really light, let's say with a grapefruit and yogurt, or a bit heavy, with eggs and a grilled skirt steak.

**How much of a shitshow is it?** It varies, but it can be up to an hour. They do take reservations!

**Anything else fun?** If you go to the Lafayette St. location in SoHo, you'll basically be fueling up for a shopping trip down Broadway afterward.





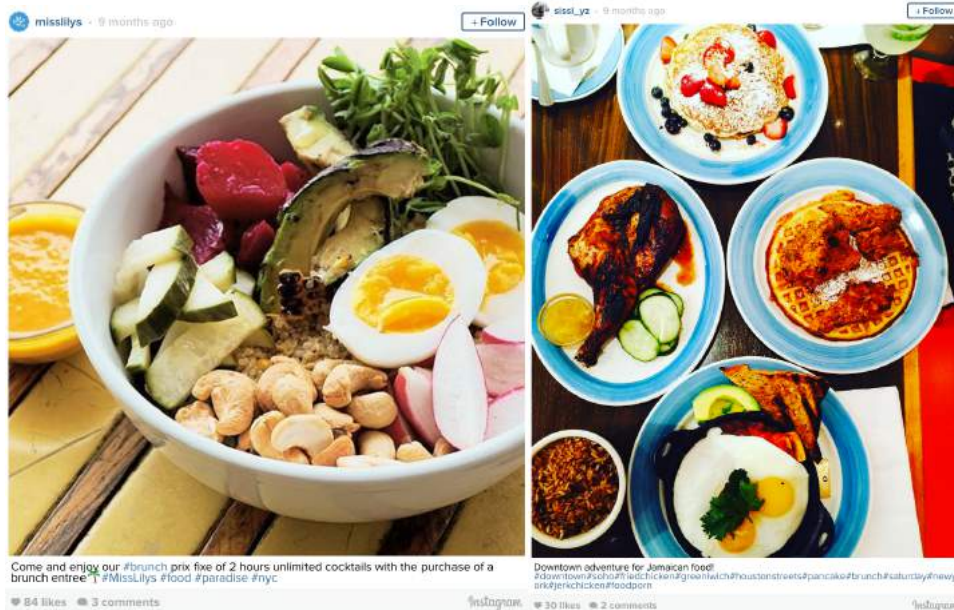
## 6. MISS LILY'S

**What's the vibe?** The vibe is vibin' and Jamaican. The original Miss Lily's, on Houston St. in SoHo, and the newer location, Miss Lily's 7A in the East Village, both have that easygoing, cool Caribbean feel.

**What kind of food do they have?** Jamaican staples like jerk chicken along with brunch standards like an egg white omelet. Their [boozy brunch special](#) includes an hour of unlimited Bellinis along with an entree for \$15.

**How much of a shitshow is it?** It's pretty reasonable here. Which is great when you're hungry and you just want to sit down and start eating.

**Anything else fun?** [Melvin's Juice Box](#), the juice place beloved by celebrities and models, presses delicious fresh juices that you can get at Miss Lily's during brunch.



## 7. REDFARM

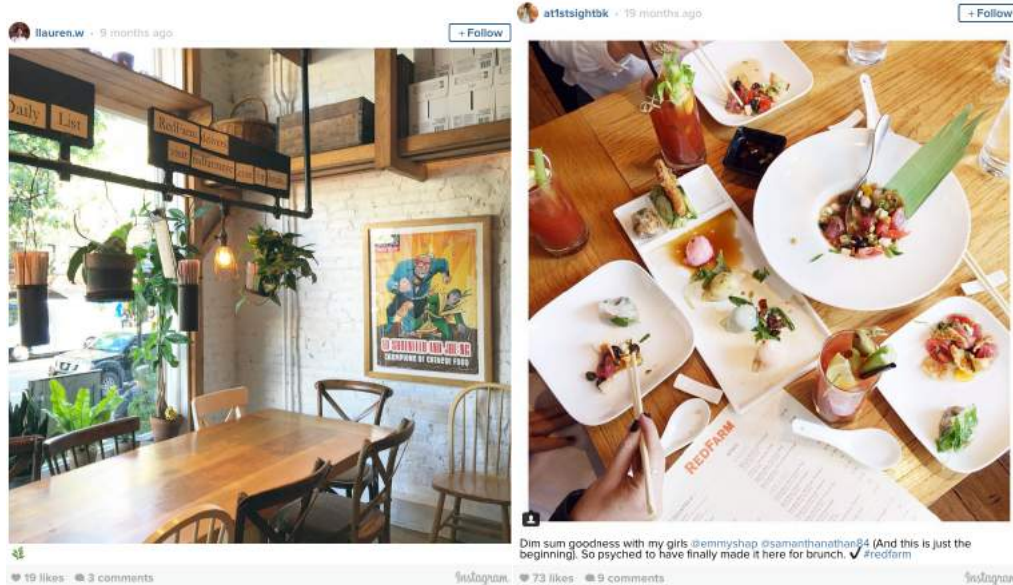
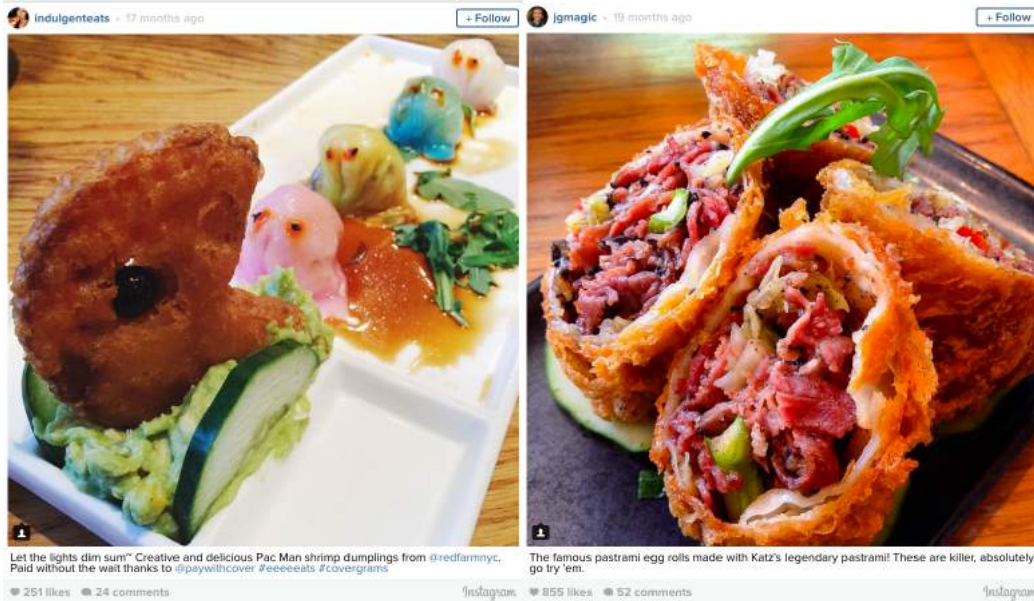
**What's the vibe?** Both the West Village and the Upper West Side locations of this really delicious Chinese restaurant feel like the right combination of rustic-casual and put-together. You'll feel like you have your own dedicated space somehow, even when you're sitting at a communal table.

**What kind of food do they have?** Modern interpretations of Chinese food and dim sum, like their famous Pac-Man dumplings that are an absolute must. Also be sure to try the Katz's pastrami egg roll. You really can't go wrong with anything you order.

**How much of a shitshow is it?** Any time after noon, you're looking at a wait of an hour to an hour and a half. If you get there early, though, you're much better off.

**Anything else fun?** What, Pac-Man dumplings aren't enough for you?





## 8. SADELLE'S

**What's the vibe?** It's a very pretty and posh Jewish deli, and [according to Bon Appetit](#), its look was inspired by Mendl's, the bakery from Wes Anderson's *Grand Budapest Hotel*. Everyone looks like a character, most especially the guy who comes out of the bagel room yelling, "Hot bagels!"

**What kind of food do they have?** Pastries, all manner of bagels, and smoked fish, but also the best, most buttery customizable omelet ever.

**How much of a shitshow is it?** It's pretty bad right now, but then again, they literally just opened and have had nothing but ecstatic praise from day one. Good luck getting a reservation or a table without waiting two hours. The restaurant does, however, open at 8 a.m., so if you can get out of the house early, you'll stand a better chance. They also have a takeaway option, but that line gets pretty long too.





**Anything else fun?** Its neighbor is the Whitney Museum, so you can get cultured after you stuff your face.



## 10. UPLAND

**What's the vibe?** It has a chic, vaguely country vibe with its gingham linens, white, wood-paneled walls, and jars of preserved lemons lining the entryway.

**What kind of food do they have?** Eggs, eggs, eggs, plus pizza, pasta, and a cheeseburger that won't quit (it comes with two burger patties and avocado, and chef Justin Simile, who grew up in Upland, California, reps his home state with a little toothpick flag that he sticks into the bun).

**How much of a shitshow is it?** Making a reservation is your best bet, but they do take walk-ins and you can get the full menu at the bar, which is first-come, first-served.

**Anything else fun?** During one of his recent visits to New York, President Obama [dined at Upland](#) with his daughters Malia and Sasha. FOR BRUNCH! If it's good enough for the Obamas...

