



# The Insiders

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THOSE WHO KNOW THEIR CITY BEST

## NEW YORK BERNARDO REYES, CONCIERGE, W NEW YORK UNION SQUARE

**A new restaurant in town to see and be seen?**

The newest upscale throwback to mid-century Italian American culture in Greenwich Village is Carbone. (It) has the whole package – music, a classic red sauce menu, clever tuxedoed servers, and a celeb-peppered scene – promising a dynamic evening in downtown NYC.

**The new shows in town this Autumn?**

The fall season of the Joyce opens with *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* at the David Koch Theatre September 9th-14th. Also not to be missed is the *St. Matthew Passion* performance by Berliner Philharmoniker led by Simon Rattle at the Park Avenue Armory October 7th & 8th. If you're in the hood, make sure to stop by to see "Jeff Koons: A Retrospective" (through October 19th) as the Whitney Museum closes its doors uptown to relocate downtown off the High Line.

**Jetlagged at 3am, where can I go for some culture?**

Catch an after-hours jazz set at Smalls in the Village before hopping into a taxi and grabbing a cocktail at Apotheke in Chinatown. Recharge with soup dumplings before heading to Dumbo (Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass) where you may walk over the Brooklyn Bridge to enjoy the sunrise and Lady Liberty in the distance.

## LONDON TONY VERRI, CONCIERGE, GROSVENOR HOUSE

**Best place to see and be seen?**

Dabbous - modern English / European cuisine, fresh herbs, vegetables and wild foods. Book as early as possible.

**Jetlagged at 3am, where can I go for some culture?**

Take a taxi to The Duck and Waffle restaurant in the heart of the city - open 24/7 and 40 floors up so there are fantastic views of London, too. Their signature dish – unsurprisingly, is duck with a waffle and is not to be missed! Or, go to Smithfield Meat market and see the market trading as it has been for nearly a thousand years – cafes and pubs open early there for breakfast.

**What's the best show in town this Autumn?**  
*Skylight*, the David Hare 1995 drama.



It pits two exceptional actors, Bill Nighy and Carey Mulligan, against each other. Also Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* at the Royal Opera House from September 19 to October 5.

**I'm attending a gala and need a new outfit.**

**Where do I head?**

To buy, head to Denis Basso at Harrods or to hire, for Ladies, One Night Stand on Flood St, Chelsea or for Gentlemen, Moss Bros on Regent St.

**What's the best new spot for a quiet coffee or tea?**

Tapped and Packed on Rathbone Place off Oxford St in Central London.

TOP LEFT: COURTESY W NEW YORK UNION SQUARE; FAR RIGHT: COURTESY GROSVENOR HOUSE LONDON

## —ASK THE CONCIERGE

### SHANGHAI

**JASON WANG, CHIEF CONCIERGE,  
THE FOUR SEASONS SHANGHAI**

**I need a new outfit for a gala. Where do I head?**

If you have enough time, we recommend you to get a tailor-made outfit and there are more than 10 tailor shops located on South Mao Ming Road (Between Chang Le Road and Nan Chang Road).

**Best spot for a quiet coffee or tea?**

Dak Town Pu'Erh Club in the French quarter. Dak Town was built in 1933 as a French style villa for a warlord. Its multiple stained-glass windows and wooden stairs give the house a modern feel and the old building has been fully renovated and transformed into the Dak Town Pu'Erh Club which offers the most complete collection of Pu'Erh teas, some dating back more than a century.

**Jetlagged at 3am, where can I go for some culture?**

Go to a nearby 24-7 restaurant to enjoy the local breakfast known as Four Guardians, including deep-fried dough sticks, roasted Bannock, glutinous rice rolls and soybean milk. Or go to the Bund and practice Tai-Chi or Kung-Fu with a master, besides the Huangpu River.



### TOKYO

**MAYAKO SUMIYOSHI, CHIEF  
CONCIERGE, PALACE HOTEL TOKYO**

**What's the best show in town this Autumn?**

For jazz aficionados, the 13th Annual Tokyo Jazz Festival will be coming back to town 5-7 September. The line-up includes artists from overseas as well as some of Japan's very own talented musicians, and shows will include combined performances between artists as well as entire bands (such as 'Makoto Ozone band vs. Christian McBride Big Band') so there will be some very original performances, no doubt!

For the more classically inclined, Japan's traditional performance art of Kabuki will be in season come Autumn. Some say it's an acquired taste, but if you've never been, it's a must once in your life to experience what is perhaps the most prominent of Japan's three major classical performance arts. The historic Kabuki-za Theater just recently reopened after an extensive renovation so that, in itself, is a sight to see. To experience Kabuki at Kabuki-za in Tokyo is tantamount to catching a performance at the Met Opera in New York City – it's exclusive, exquisite and refined.

**Jetlagged at 3am, where can I go for some**



**culture?**

Well, 3 am is just about the right time to get in line for the tuna fish auction at Tsukiji Market that's very popular among out-of-towners. Registration doesn't actually begin until 5 am and the auction follows thereafter. You can reward yourself with the freshest sushi breakfast you'll ever have afterwards. Alternatively, you can browse up and down the aisles of one of the Don Quijote stores to your heart's content (and your mind's amusement). It's open 24 hours, 7 days a week. Located in various areas throughout the city, this megastore stocks floors and floors of products, everything from travel essentials (in case you lost your luggage!) to toys, costumes, and snack foods to wacky contraptions and, of course, kitschy souvenirs. It's definitely not a cultural destination of substance, but if you'd like to get a glimpse of local products – both the common and the absurd – it's unlikely you'll find any place like it elsewhere in the world. ◀

— Robert Michael Poole

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