

# DEPARTURES

Summer 2014



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USA

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SECRET**

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**THE SUMMER**

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RIVERSIDE HAMLET IS  
**READY FOR  
ITS SPOTLIGHT**

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# BLACKBOOK

WHERE TO GO NEXT **TRAVEL** WHAT TO KNOW NOW

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## WHAT WAS UP, HAS COME DOWN

A host of hotel openings in the Big Apple offers opportunities to stay in the increasingly hip downtown, says CJ HUGHES

As Manhattan's centre of gravity continues to shift from Midtown to downtown, its magnetic pull grows stronger: this year, the High Line park is expanding, the Ground Zero museum is opening and dozens of hectares of new parkland are blooming on Governors Island. And, visitors can now stay nearby, like at **The High Line Hotel** ([thehighlinehotel.com](http://thehighlinehotel.com)), on Tenth Avenue in Chelsea, across from the park of the same name. Tucked inside neo-Gothic buildings on the campus of the General Theological Seminary, the 60-room property offers hardwood floors and decorative brick fireplaces; outside is a leafy courtyard that's on par with that of an Ivy League university.

A different kind of courtyard – lined with Moroccan tile, like something glimpsed on a shopping trip through a North African souk – greets arrivals at **The Broome** ([thebroomenyc.com](http://thebroomenyc.com)), a 14-key property in SoHo. The penthouse boasts a private 32sq m terrace and an additional private balcony, and the furnishings all come from local boutiques such as Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams. More of a modernistic touch has been deployed at the **Hotel Hugo NYC** ([hotelhugonyc.com](http://hotelhugonyc.com)), a recently constructed 20-storey tower on Greenwich Street in the emerging Hudson Square neighbourhood. Its 122 rooms sport chrome fixtures and walnut panelling, while travertine walls adorn the lobby. Up

on top, Bar Hugo, a two-level lounge, crowns the roof. It is history that guided the look for the new penthouse atop the **Greenwich Hotel** ([thegreenwichhotel.com](http://thegreenwichhotel.com)), a few blocks away at 377 Greenwich; actor and owner Robert De Niro, under pressure from city officials, restyled the top floors to better fit with their historic TriBeCa setting. The dazzling result, from the design team of Axel Vervoordt and Tatsuro Miki, boasts 631 square metres of indoor and outdoor space, including four fireplaces, a spa pool and pergolas draped with wisteria.

Other properties are springing back to life with new looks and features, like André Balazs's **The Standard, East Village** ([standardhotels.com/east-village](http://standardhotels.com/east-village)), which has given a new visage to the Bowery's one-time Cooper Square Hotel. More countrified than the first go-around, with brick walls and ample plantings, the hotel also now houses the restaurant Narcissa, named for a cow on Balazs's upstate farm, which provides eggs and produce. Meanwhile, **The Ludlow Hotel** ([ludlowhotel.com](http://ludlowhotel.com)), a long-stalled project near Katz's Delicatessen on the Lower East Side, has also finally been resuscitated. Developed by Sean MacPherson (a profile of whom begins on page 54) and Richard Born, the team behind the Marlton Hotel and other boutique properties, the 187-room Ludlow will soon add the restaurant Dirty French, for those who want an alternative to pastrami. And farther down the line, a long-delayed **Four Seasons** ([thirtyparkplace.com](http://thirtyparkplace.com)), between City Hall and the World Trade Center site, is set to debut in 2016. Guest rooms will grace the lower floors of the 80-storey tower, designed by Robert A M Stern, and apartments will fill the top.