

The New York Times

Dates With a Book, Meals for Roller Skaters and More Reader Requests

Looking to celebrate a quiet birthday on your own? No problem.



The new Lobby Bar at the Hotel Chelsea. Eric Medsker

A Lobby Bar That Doesn't Disappoint

I am planning to travel to New York in October on my birthday, but I'm going to have a solo trip there. Do you have any recommendations for the people who want to have a special meal for their birthdays alone? — Heekyung S.

May I recommend the [Lobby Bar](#) at the Hotel Chelsea? It opened in Chelsea in July as not only a place to nurse a drink while waiting to get into [El Quijote](#), but also as a spot to grab a full meal. There's something terribly charming about its plush aesthetic, which includes velvet booths, hexagonal marble tables, midcentury armchairs and sharply dressed waitstaff. Order the dirty martini oysters, top-tier beef tartare or the burger with fries, plus any of the well-considered cocktails. Forge an intimate if fleeting relationship with your bartender and hit the hay knowing you celebrated yourself the right way.