

# The best bars

We've sleuthed out your perfect watering hole.

By **Amanda Waas**

## The place

## The scene

## The drinks

To avoid the crowds

### Jimmy's Corner

140 W 44th St between Sixth Ave and Broadway (212-221-9510)



Escape the madness at Jimmy's Corner, a bona fide dive that harkens back to the old days. Jimmy Glenn, the owner for more than 30 years, stays true to his boxing-coach roots—the wall behind the bar is a shrine to the sport, covered with shots of famed fighters.

While Jimmy's is a full-service bar, don't embarrass yourself by ordering a Caramel Appletini. Stick to beer. At \$4 a pint, it might be the cheapest drink in the area.

For beer geeks

### Village Pourhouse

366 W 46th St between Eighth and Ninth Aves (212-979-2337, villagepourhouse.com)



The second offspring of the East Village pub manages to feel cozy and cavernous at the same time. Exposed-brick walls are adorned with framed sports memorabilia and more than 21 HDTVs that are tuned indefinitely to ESPN. The kitchen churns out the type of standard pub fare (gooey mac and cheese, spicy wings and crispy chicken tenders) that goes perfectly with the bar's phone-book-size beer list.

The Pourhouse is all about beer, with more than 100 to choose from. Craft-brew aficionados can knock back a Flying Dog Horn Dog from Maryland, while less adventurous drinkers can order a Bud Light. Happy-hour deals, including \$1 drafts at lunchtime, are truly special.

For dazzling views

### R Lounge

Renaissance New York Times Square Hotel, 714 Seventh Ave at W 48th St (212-765-7676, rloungetimesquare.com)



With the R Lounge, a laid-back space in the Renaissance Hotel, the Bromberg brothers (the sibling team behind the Blue Ribbon empire) expand their reign over late-night grub. The floor-to-ceiling windows offer breathtaking views of the lights and mayhem on the street, and the bar-snack menu includes spins on some of the brothers' most classic dishes. Be on the lookout for their famous Northern-fried chicken wings and pork-chip nachos (each \$15). Want to take in the sights all night? Do it—in the spirit of the Blue Ribbon eateries, the kitchen stays open late.

Surprisingly, you won't pay through the nose for the incredible view—the average cocktail is \$12. Looking for something hearty? Knock back a Partners & Spade, a Bloody Mary designed by messenger-bag guru Andy Spade. Jonesing for something sweet? Try the Empire Apple—a cinnamon-sugar-laced cocktail featuring apple liqueur, apple cider, and brown-sugar syrup.

To impress your date

### Aspen Social Club

157 W 47th St between Sixth and Seventh Aves (212-221-7200, aspensocialclub.com)



Want to take someone on an extravagant ski trip but can't pony up the cash? Look no further than Aspen Social Club, where the roaring fireplaces, towering birches, worn wood and antler accents transport you to a cozy ski lodge in the mountains. Spend an hour by the fireplace and you'll swear you're in Colorado.

Prices are a bit steep. The bar prides itself on artisanal cocktails (\$15-\$20), especially "The Biff," a shot of Baileys Irish Cream topped with Chivas Regal—a favorite of notorious boozier Hunter S. Thompson.

To make a splash

### Room Mate Grace Hotel pool bar

125 W 45th St between Sixth Ave and Broadway (212-354-2323, room-matehotels.com)



A dip in the Room Mate Grace Hotel's pool bar ranks among the most unusual Times Square experiences. For \$10, you can gain access to this urban oasis, complete with sunken swim-up bar, underwater lighting and a DJ spinning on weekends. Never thought you'd wear a bikini in Times Square, did you?

In addition to the admission fee, there's a two-drink minimum, but once you taste the Passion Fruit Martini or the Green Tea Vodka Martini (each \$15), we're pretty sure that won't be a problem.