



# THE NEW YORK OBSERVER

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O2: FOOD & DRINK

## TOP 10 Under-The-Radar Brunches

BY KATHLEEN SQUIRES  
DECEMBER 5, 2008

Thousands of restaurants serve brunch in this city. Of course, it seems like everyone goes to the same spots each week, making standing in line a New Yorker's weekend-long ritual. While we plead guilty of adding fuel to that fire (see our Top 10 Brunches Worth Getting Out of Bed For), we thought it fitting to point out spots that serve up some damn fine food without the agonizing scrums. For every swarming morning venue, there's another, equally impressive setting, from the restaurants that locals laud, like **Village**, to those surprisingly open on the heels of their hot nightlife scenes, such as **Stanton Social**, to the off-the-beaten track joints with bonuses, like outdoor dining at Harlem's **Hudson River Café**. Why go to a crowded Mott Street dim sum hall when you can enjoy elbow room in the Noho knockoff of **Chinatown Brasserie**? Or why not opt for something completely different, like the chocolate-themed brunch at **Seppi's**? Diners have the same chances (slim to none) of spotting Bobby Flay in the morning at **Mesa Grill** as the filled-to-the-gills dinner service. And if you're not feeling so brunchy after all, destinations like **Hill Country** serve favorites from their regular menu in addition to eggs and grits. So forget the weekend wait. At one of the 10 venues below, you'll find a filling surprise outside the usual brunch boxes.



### 1 The Stanton Social 99 Stanton St. • 212-995-0099

A happening nightlife scene made a name for this loungey eatery, but some revelers have caught on that brunch here can be just as hot. You'll find nearly as many dressed-to-impress tw... [Read More »](#)



### The Stanton Social

99 Stanton St.  
(nr. Orchard St.)  
New York, NY 10002  
212-995-0099  
[thestantonsocial.com](http://thestantonsocial.com)  
Cuisine: Eclectic/Global



### OBSERVATIONS

BY KATHLEEN SQUIRES  
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A happening nightlife scene made a name for this loungey eatery, but some revelers have caught on that brunch here can be just as hot. You'll find nearly as many dressed-to-impress twenty-somethings chatting each other up during the weekend "Morning After" service, which really feels more like "The Afternoon Before." The room is as designy as the patrons, with white-washed brick walls, semicircle booths, chocolate-toned wood and pressed tin ceilings. Though the popular upstairs lounge isn't open, patrons can still order trendy eye-openers from the "Bloody Mary and Bellini bar." A bittersweet mimosa comes with a touch of Campari, while Bloodies are fancied up with sun-dried-tomato-infused vodka. The small-plate brunch bites are also good for groups looking to get lively. Some dishes, like light potato latkes

and crispy fried pierogies filled with smooth potato and goat cheese, allude to the days when the area's streets were filled with immigrants instead of hipsters. Famous sliders complete the scene's update, from tarragon-touched mini lobster rolls to a sloppy-yet-delicious grilled cheese with bacon, served on a biscuit. Between all the sips, nibbles and mingling, and the lack of sunlight in the ground floor dining room, it could be 1am.

**Hours:**  
Mon-Wed, 5pm-2am; Thu-Fri, 5pm-3am; Sat, 11:30-3am; Sun 11:30-4am.

**Subway Stops:**  
F, V to Second Ave.

**Entree Prices:**  
Moderate (\$11-\$25)

**Credit Cards:**  
Amex, Mastercard, Visa

**Special Features:**  
Bar Scene, Brunch-Weekend, Celeb-spotting, Dine at the bar, Good for groups, Hot Spot, Late-night dining, Notable Chef, Private dining/party space, Single's scene

**Alcohol:**  
Full Bar

**Reservations:**  
Recommended