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Tom Douglas Restaurants

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## And a shout out to the great American food city of New York!

There are many delicious reasons to visit New York City these days, and this is the perfect time of year to carve out a little three day weekend to treat yourself. The fall colors are in full spirit. The holidays are bigger in this town since revelry and parades are a way of life. If you're like my wife Jackie who complains that the 72 hour stay is not long enough to justify the long excursion then you might never make the time and lose out on some of the best dining, theatre, arts and American history in this country.

I, on the other hand, enjoy flying and getting caught up on my newspaper reading, crossword compulsion (am I the only one that feels really stupid after Wednesday?) and answering overdo emails. A "free" six hours of flying time each way with a bartender (ok, flight attendant), driver (ok, pilot), and a pillow is my idea of time well spent! Plus you're not gone long enough to develop serious jet lag. For me a week is a big commitment and often not doable whereas three days seems just perfect.

My most recent trip featured a guest-hosting gig behind the microphone of the Martha Stewart Living Show on Sirius satellite radio. The studios, located on the 36th floor of the McGraw Hill building in Midtown, are buzzing with activity due to the huge variety of genres represented on their system. It was a bit shocking to come in on my first shift to be confronted by the sight and sound of the remaining members of the Sex Pistols reliving their past lives in the "fishbowl" studio. That was a bit scary until the next day when KISS, in full regalia, entertained a small throng in the lobby with some lip smacking rock and roll. Yikes, what do you suppose it's like when Martha and Eminem gangsta walk the hallways there together? Better watch out!!

I am putting together a list of faves from this trip. My entourage of six coworkers, yes, I only travel with an entourage now that I've seen how Eminem rolls, had a mile long list of must-dos for our three days in the Big Apple, so we had to stretch our bellies a bit to accommodate like the true professional eaters we are. I'll list the standout dish from each, but we really ate through most of the menu at all of these joints.

Rays Pizza....a decent NY slice; Fatty Cue....fun Southeast Asian take on BBQ; Try the Perla...ribeye steak; Russ and Daughters....wild smoked king salmon on a great chewy bagel; Katz's....perfect pastrami on rye, heavy on the mustard; Ma Peche....roasted broccoli; Momofuko Ssamm Bar....spicy pork sausage with crispy rice cakes; Pastis....simple goat cheese omelet with baguette toast and marmalade; Nomad....roasted whole chicken, desserts; John Dorey....oysters, oysters, oysters; Gramercy Tavern....the cookie plate and sorbets; ABC Kitchen....spicy shrimp salad, roasted carrot salad; Babbo....perfect squid ink pasta, white truffle service on pappardelle; Alidoro.....get the Fellini sandwich and sit in the park next door; Bar Masa....agadashi tofu and mushrooms, Peking duck; Red Rooster....chicken wings, fries; Roberta's.....Neapolitan style pizza with good cheeses; (Brooklyn) Taim....harissa falafel; Marea....terrific but costly seafood, try the liver and eel terrine; Egg....duck hash; (Brooklyn) Mile End Deli..... turkey sandwich; (Brooklyn) If you're still hungry, two more.....Joe's Shanghai for soup dumplings; and Porchetta for the crispy bits in fried potatoes..... yummmmmmm!

Cheers,

Tom

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