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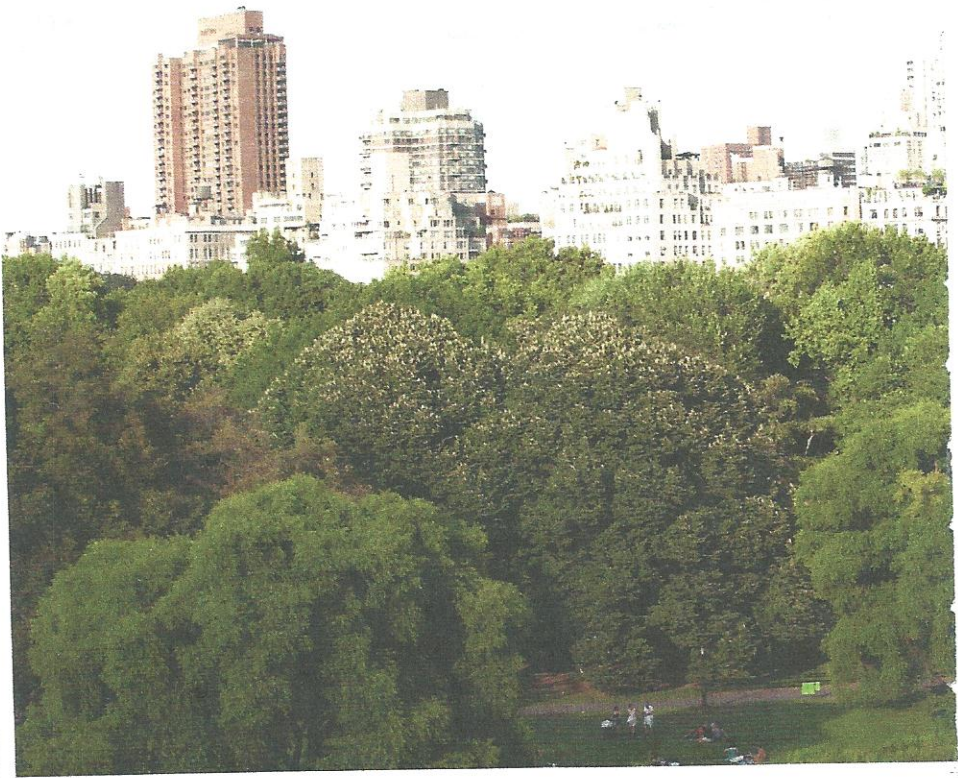
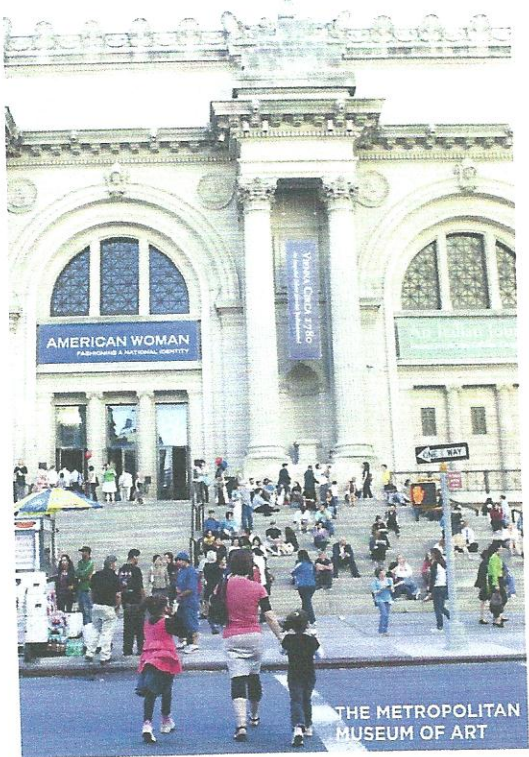
Forget Brooklyn chic, springtime in New York calls for meandering through Manhattan

By BECCA HENSLEY

**TAKE A WALK**

A repurposed railyard has become a park in the sky for New Yorkers—and it was the brainchild of a San Antonio native.

PHOTO: SHAWN BROWN / THE HIGH LINE



**A**sk any New Yorker what they like to do in the sunny, breezy days of April and they'll tell you in one word: walk. Who can blame them? With winters so long and brutal, denizens coop themselves up for months at a time. So when the sun finally comes out and temperatures rise, cafe tables hit the sidewalk faster than a taxi driver will honk at a tourist stepping off a curb. Understandably, Manhattan dwellers of every ilk relish the warm rays. Given the chance, they'll take the city by foot—sometimes even choosing the longest route from A to B—just to bask in the sun. So, if you want to make like a New Yorker in springtime, bring your walking shoes (but keep some pretty ones ensconced in your purse).

A favorite trek? Park Avenue when the tulips are in full bloom. See them on the “islands,” the dividers that separate the uptown/downtown part of Park Avenue. When you tread along the stretch of Park from 57th to 72nd streets, you'll get the architectural grandeur of the avenue, accented with spectacular color.

Ready to refuel? Turn off Park at 65th, and grab a seat at Nespresso, on Madison Avenue, where you can ogle tourists and sip an iced coffee topped with a scoop of ice cream. If it's cocktail time, meander into The Pierre's posh Two E Bar/Lounge (East 61st) or The Carlyle (off Madison) where Bemelmans Bar has murals drawn by Ludwig Bemelmans, the writer/artist of *Madeline* book fame. At both spots, join other Manhattanites who've been out walking. To blend in, be sure to do a quick change into your fashionable footwear.

While anything in Central Park (the zoo, the Loeb Boathouse, the playgrounds) delights, the

High Line is among New York's most innovative public spaces. Built on the historic freight line that once carried carcasses to the Meatpacking District, mail to the post office and agricultural goods to the factories on the lower West side. San Antonio native Robert Hammond led efforts to repurpose this elevated industrial infrastructure as a savvy hovering park for the people.

Owned by the city but run by Friends of the High Line, a foundation of devotees for which Hammond serves as executive director, the High Line extends from Gansevoort Street in the Meatpacking District to West 34th Street between 10th and 11th avenues. Around one-and-a-half miles long, it's a former freight rail line elevated above the streets that is now a green, public space perfect for walking. With a water feature, a sundeck, an observation platform and copious spots for gathering, the space has become a popular venue for lectures, art exhibits and performances. In spring, bedazzled with more than 200 species of self-seeded plants and wildflowers, the High Line looks like a cool kid's loft in the sky.

The nice thing about a walking tour of New York is that it doesn't mean eschewing high culture. Walking around a museum for three hours can burn 350 calories or more, so don't think it's not a mind, body and spirit adventure. If you can visit only two, be sure to hit the Metropolitan Museum of Art, probably the world's best fine arts stop. Nearby, the Cloisters, a branch of the Met, devotes itself to the art and architecture of medieval Europe in a fetching setting.

Perambulating around Gotham also provides ample excuses for guilt-free indulging. Sotto 13

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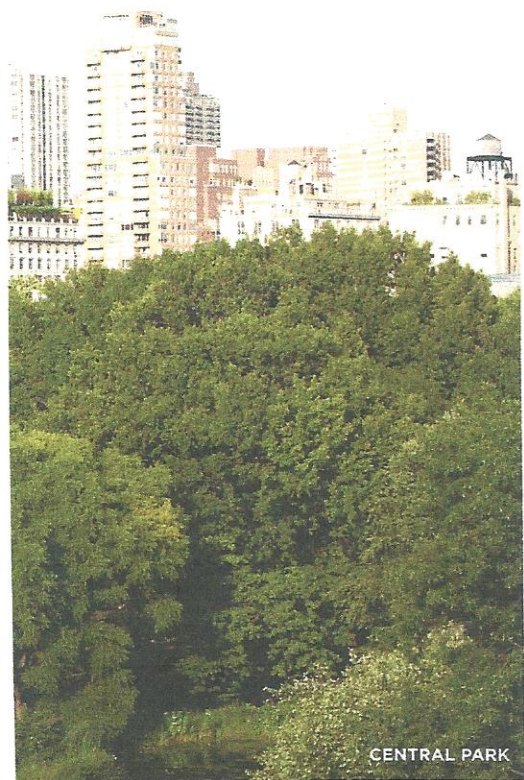
Egg: [eggrestaurant.com](http://eggrestaurant.com)  
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### DRINK:

Two E Bar: [tajhotels.com/thepierre](http://tajhotels.com/thepierre)  
Bemelmans Bar:  
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### DO:

The High Line:  
[thehighline.org](http://thehighline.org)  
Central Park Zoo:  
[centralparkzoo.com](http://centralparkzoo.com)  
Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Cloisters:  
[metmuseum.org](http://metmuseum.org)



CENTRAL PARK

gratifies our obsession with DIY with a do it yourself Prosecco bar—among the first in the city. Garnering rave local reviews, this West Village brunch venue evokes a bit of Italy. Its *cacio e pepe*, a play on the iconic Roman pasta dish, features soft scrambled eggs topped with cacio cheese. Crisp brunch pizzas comprise everything from Brussels sprouts to spicy salami. But for libation, brunch eaters become their own mixologist when the bartender brings a tray loaded with a bottle of Prosecco and a coterie of mixers and toss-ins, like berries.


All this movement means shuteye will come easy, especially if you bunk at one of the city's many upscale hotels. The recently renovated Carlton Hotel fuses old world luxury and Beaux-Arts adornment. Adding whimsy to the mix, it dabbles in history with its Speakeasy Suite, which resembles a racketeer's hideaway with period G-men photos, a poker table, dark wood paneling, a small bar and backroom camouflaged by a classic bookcase. Or try one of the various Affinia Hotels that dot Manhattan with boutique, contemporary charm. From Murray Hill to Madison Square Garden, locations ensure quality without breaking the (designer) pocket book. The Affinia Shelburne comes with a complimentary teal and yellow Republic Bike. No, you don't get to take it home, but free rental also means a lock, a basket and a map of bike routes, must-see landmarks and—just because it's New York—a list of available bike parking. It also means giving your feet a rest. ★

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