

# The experts

Your travel queries answered The gadget to pack Ombudsman Classic itinerary Venice

## Q&A Classic question

**We are looking for a really good hotel in Manhattan for three or four nights in October. We want somewhere stylish, not too big and within easy walking distance of Central Park. Can you help?**

### JOYCE CARUSO CORRIGAN

To miss the Manhattan foliage in its full glory – Central Park is splendid in October – would be a crime. Still, when it's too cold or wet to venture out, The Hudson Hotel is the oasis you need. Two blocks south of the Park, this hip 24-floor hotel (a converted 1920s apartment building) is a short walk from a couple of the hottest tables in town. Per Se and Masa at The Time Warner Center. Philippe Starck knows that visitors to New York need green: hence, he designed a private 'park' in the elevated lobby, with 45ft trees, ivy-covered walls and glass ceilings. There's the Sky Terrace for sweeping views of the city; the Hudson Cafeteria serves comfort food at huge communal tables; and the post-modern Hudson Bar has an illuminated, disco-style glass floor and a ceiling painted by artist



Francesco Clemente. *The Hudson Hotel, 356 West 58th Street (00 1 212 247 0769; www.hudsonhotel.com). Doubles from \$410 a night*

### HANNAH METCALFE

**The AKA Central Park on West 58th Street is a really good choice if you want to have the**



The bar at the Hudson Hotel. Below, AKA Central Park

flexibility and ease of a private residence but the service of a great hotel. This, the third AKA apartment, is like having your own pied-à-terre in the city with all you'd expect from a five-star hotel but with the added benefits of a fully equipped kitchen and a spacious living area. It's great for that 'home from home' feel if you're travelling with your family. The first-class concierge service, in addition to knowing smart answers to questions such as

**One of the suites at The Carlyle has a Steinway and glorious views over the Park**

'where is the nearest place for a rooftop drink?', is just as adept at delivering on requests for private cooks, yoga classes or Spanish lessons. Not only will staff be able to provide you with keys to a car to zip off to the Hamptons for the weekend but they will pack a picnic, too. ➤

➤ **AKA Central Park, 42 West 58th Street (00 1 866 252 9999; www.hotelAKA.com). Apartments from \$440**

### OUR EXPERTS THIS MONTH

★ **Joyce Caruso Corrigan** is a native New Yorker who has worked at *American Vogue* and *The Sunday Times Magazine*. She is now senior editor-at-large of *Marie Claire* in New York.  
★ **Hannah Metcalfe** is a California-based journalist who has spent three months staying in New York hotels this summer.

★ **Roo Rogers**, a resident New Yorker, has just launched *OZOLife.com*, an on-line publication dedicated to smarter living and lifestyle eco-solutions.  
★ **Heather Hodson** was associate editor of the *Saturday Telegraph Magazine* before moving to New York. She now writes for the *Observer* and *Harper's Bazaar*.

**BED SPREAD** Boutique-hotel specialist Hotelbook.com has a new website dedicated to good-value deals on New York hotels: [www.new-york-city.hotelbook.com](http://www.new-york-city.hotelbook.com)