



Map No. 16: The New Yorkville

Someday, the neighborhood won't just be culinarily and culturally rich—it'll be subway convenient. But why wait for the MTA?

- By [Rachel Wolff](#)
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Since the Second Avenue subway line broke ground last spring, the blacktop between East 91st and 95th Streets has been chewed up by excavators and the sidewalk has been cleaved from the street by chain-link

fencing. It's not pretty. But a few blocks south, in Yorkville, life (and Eastern European-flavored commerce) goes on. Though some 52 tenants will ultimately be uprooted to make way for subway entrances, the blocks from Third Avenue to the East River and from 77th Street up to 90th are packed with a lively mix of recent college grads and fancy-stroller people, Hungarian newsstands and SoCal-style boutiques. Its specialty-food shops are tops in the city, and Carl Schurz Park's view over the East River makes a great picnic backdrop.

1. Lifshitz Gallery

247 E. 77th St., nr. Second Ave. 646-573-3066

Elias Lifshitz stays busy by selling and repairing antique Rolexes, but his real passion is his figurative bronze sculptures (from \$4,000) and selection of vintage Tiffany-style lamps (from \$50).

2. Orwasher's Handmade Bread

308 E. 78th St., nr. Second Ave. 212-288-6569

You'll smell Orwasher's before you see it. The 92-year-old boulangerie perfumes the surrounding blocks with the scent of freshly baked challah and marble-rye bread.

3. Hungarian Meat Market

1560 Second Ave., at 81st St. 212-628-5147

One of a handful of butchers left on what was once termed Goulash Avenue. The shop sells the same types of sausages, smoked meats, and headcheese it did 50 years ago.

4. Bar @ Etats-Unis

247 E. 81st St., nr. Second Ave. 212-517-8826

Livelier and louder than its haute predecessor across the street, Bar @ Etats-Unis is filled with small groups sopping up fondues (\$19) and chilaquiles (\$17).

5. Emack & Bolio's

1564A First Ave., nr. 81st St. 212-734-0105

The homey ice-cream shop spruces up the standards: It's not vanilla, it's "triple fold Madagascan vanilla with marinated vanilla beans in an egg custard" (\$3.85 a scoop).

6. Comic Strip Live

1568 Second Ave., nr. 81st St. 212-861-9386

The hit-or-miss stand-up institution pulls in Times Square tourists with weekday promotions. The talent is better on weekends, but book in advance.

7. Beneath

265 E. 78th St., nr. Second Ave. 212-288-3800



Karyn Riale's boutique has carved out a surprising niche: the year-round beachgoer. Her collection of flattering tanks, tees, and dresses are from primarily SoCal designers.



8. Blue Danube Gifts

217 E. 83rd St., nr. Third Ave. 212-794-7099

Embarrassingly behind on your Hungarian-celebrity gossip? The racks here have nearly 200 tabloids, glossies, and broadsheets, all from Hungary and refreshingly Britney-free.

9. Logos Bookstore

1575 York Ave., nr. 84th St. 212-517-7292

The indie bookshop houses a small but well-curated crop of fiction and a reading group called Kill Your TV that meets on the first Wednesday of every month.

10. The Ethiopian Restaurant

1582 York Ave., nr. 84th St. 212-717-7311

A welcome break from the area's Italian and Eastern European overload. The bigger-than-it-seems dining room and far-east address mean no lines for a table.

11. Jacques Brasserie

204-206 E. 85th St., nr. Third Ave.; 212-327-2272

Killer steak (\$28) whenever, but drop in on Mondays, when moules-frites and a draft beer are \$20.

12. Kidfresh

1628 Second Ave., nr. 84th St. 212-861-1141

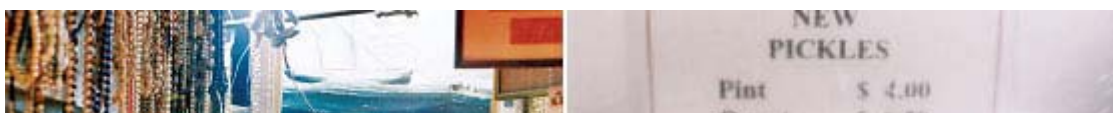
Billed as a Whole Foods for kids (complete with mini shopping carts), the market's target customers congregate in a play area while parents shop for packaged, mostly organic meals.



13. Make

1566 Second Ave., nr. 81st St.; 212-571-6868

For the arts-and-crafts equivalent of "adult swim," drop by this kids' art studio on Thursday through Saturday nights, when free wine may enhance (or impair) your dog-bowl-painting skills (from \$16, with pottery).





14. Andre's Cafe

1631 Second Ave., nr. 85th St. 212-327-1105

The café offshoot of a Queens-based Hungarian bakery has locked up the East Side market in cherry-cheese strudel (\$24 a strip).

15. M. Rohrs' House of Fine Teas and Coffees

310 E. 86th St., nr. Second Ave. 212-396-4456

The ancient coffeehouse's java selection—ranging from Brazilian Bourbon Santos to butterscotch—is as varied as its walls, adorned with subway doors and burlap sacks.

16. Heidelberg Restaurant

1648 Second Ave., nr. 86th St.; 212-628-2332

Family-friendly during the week; a beerfest on weekends. Earn your lederhosened waiter's respect by ordering the sausage platter for six (\$113) and two-liter glass boots of Dinkelacker pilsner (\$29 each).

17. Schaller & Weber

1654 Second Ave., at 86th St. 212-879-3047

Heidelberg relies heavily upon this 70-year-old butcher for its excellent wursts and steak tartare.

18. Aces & Eights Saloon

1683 First Ave., at 87th St. 212-860-4020

The amenities: cheap beer (\$10 open taps on Fridays and Saturdays from 9 p.m. to midnight), bar games galore, and nachos served 'til close.

19. Pickles, Olives Etc.

1647 First Ave., nr. 86th St. 212-717-8966

Spice up a brown-bag lunch with seasonal horseradish pickles (\$6.50 a quart).

20. Glaser's Bake Shop

1670 First Ave., nr. 87th St. 212-289-2562

The 106-year-old bakery still serves its renowned mini black-and-white cookies. And there's still nowhere to sit.



21. Elaine's

1703 Second Ave., nr. 88th St. 212-534-8114

No longer the celeb draw it once was, but you can still be dissed by the ever-feisty proprietor.

22. The Auction House

300 E. 89th St., nr. Second Ave. 212-427-4458

A Victorian-inspired lounge rife with R-rated portraits screams “cool enough for downtown.” There’s a strictly enforced no-fur policy.

23. Carl Schurz Park

86th St. and East End Ave.

Grab bread from No. 2, meats from No. 3, sweets from No. 14, and condiments from No. 19, and make a picnic of it.

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