

November 2011

**GQ**

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A 12-STEP  
STYLE  
PROGRAM**

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GREATEST  
CITY ON THE  
PLANET?  
WHO IS  
THE WORST-  
DRESSED  
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CANDIDATE?  
WHY ARE  
MEN GETTING  
NAKED IN  
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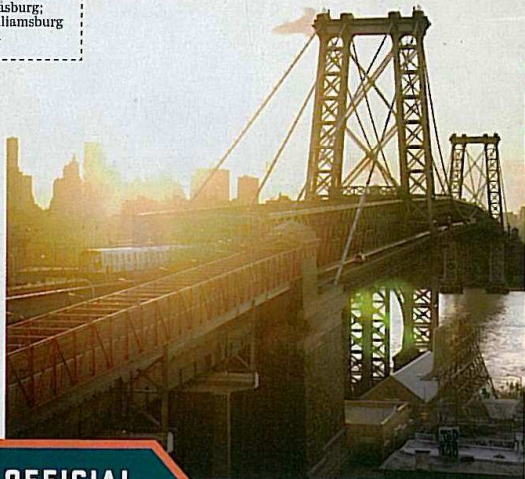
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Clockwise from above, a brick-oven pie from Roberta's; the open-window policy at Fort Defiance; frosted carbs from Smorgasburg; the Williamsburg Bridge.



Amber Marsalis

It's OFFICIAL

# Brooklyn Is the Coolest City on the Planet



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**DON'T TAKE** that as a knock on Manhattan, which is doing just fine. But for the first time since, well, ever, you can spend every New York minute of your trip on the far side of the East River and never feel like you're missing out. The borough that every exploding indie band has to play? Brooklyn. The best restaurant in New York? Right here. Complain that the borough's not as polished as any cosmopolitan city and you miss the point: Brooklyn's too busy creating to waste time smoothing out the rough stuff—and it's better that way. Here's how to explore the place where everything's happening before it's happening. →→



**You Are HERE**  
*(It's About Time)*

• **Where to sleep:** Although you're right across the river from a world-class hotel collection, Brooklyn isn't known for its accommodations. But while its hotels don't advertise in neon like in that other borough, some of them beg you to spend your days inside.

**1. NU Hotel**  
Sleek, serious about service, and smack in the heart of four neighborhoods—Carroll Gardens, Boerum Hill, Cobble Hill, and Downtown.

**2. Hotel Williamsburg**  
A rooftop cocktail lounge, a rustic farm-to-table restaurant, and in-room record players (there's a library of vinyl in the lobby) nail every Brooklyn stereotype—and yet the hotel still comes off as cool, not kitschy.

**3. The Box House Hotel**  
Its furnished loft apartments make you feel like you're house-sitting for a friend with good taste and cash to burn. The secluded Greenpoint location is at a nice remove from the action.

• **How to get around:** Car service is king here. For Williamsburg, Greenpoint, and Bushwick, call Northside (718-387-2222). For all points south, including Carroll Gardens and Fort Greene, let Areelbo Car Service (718-783-6465) be your chariot. Now put those numbers in your phone.

**WAKE UP!**  
*Breakfast Is Reinvented*

• If you want an egg-white omelet with soy cheese, you're in the wrong place. The best Brooklyn joints are the ones that reverse-engineer morning staples—the egg-and-cheese sandwich, meat hash, the Bloody Mary—and rebuild them as hunger-crushing masterpieces.

**Mile End Boerum Hill**  
This Montreal-style deli is where we take our Canada-sized hangovers. The cure? Smoked-meat hash with two sunny-side-up eggs, potatoes, and perfectly burnt nuggets from Mile End's famous brisket.

**Egg Williamsburg**  
Seriously, it's called Egg, and should your "breakfast" be postponed to the early afternoon, you can still get an omelet, scrambles, or, if you want our advice, the Eggs Rothko: an

over-easy egg in brioche, topped with Grafton Cheddar.

**Char No. 4 Carroll Gardens**  
Southern-style comfort food has no business being this good this far north. And while every main dish is delicious, the sides seal the deal: creamy grits, a biscuit with bacon gravy (bacon gravy!), and a bourbon Bloody Mary.

**Saltie Williamsburg**  
You're here for the Ship's Biscuit—scrambled eggs and fresh ricotta on cloud-fluffy focaccia.



No matter what you order, you'll leave the nautically themed Williamsburg sandwich shop Saltie with a full stomach, so you might as well go big: The Scuttlebutt, above, is stuffed with feta, hard-boiled egg, and pickled vegetables.



**SEATTLE'S GOT NOTHING ON BROOKLYN**

• To understand how seriously Brooklyn takes java, watch the baristas at Gimmel Coffee in Williamsburg pour a cappuccino. That delicate foam rosette means the milk was folded into the locally roasted espresso so you taste both in every sip. And you can get a straightforward brew at Café Grumpy (Park Slope or Greenpoint). But true coffee geeks have to stop by Williamsburg's Blue Bottle, where the Japanese slow drippers look like lab equipment and take over twelve hours to brew your twelve ounces of Kyoto iced coffee. The \$4 price tag seems like a bargain.  
—OLIVER STRAND