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## 5 New York Hotel Bars That Melt Away the Winter Blues

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When the February air is biting and Manhattan's avenues seem never-ending, few pleasures compare with ducking into a hotel bar and sinking into a club chair beside a fire.

Not all hearths are equally inviting, of course. There are sleek fireplaces that, like people, seem to warn, "Look, but keep your distance." There are fireplaces that beckon yet can be enjoyed only by guests and those who slide past doormen at hotels like the **Jane** and the **Bowery**. There are playful fireplaces too, such as the virtual blaze at **Aloft Harlem**. But unforgiving winter days call for the real thing: crackling fireplaces that inspire slow sipping and invite you to come closer.

And what better time to get closer than Valentine's Day? A fireplace crawl a few days before the holiday winnowed the competition to five Manhattan hotels where you don't have to be a guest (you don't even have to have a reservation) to enjoy the heat with your flame.



# Refinery Hotel

## *Refinery Rooftop*

An artful arrangement of hat-making tools in the lobby of this garment district boutique hotel, which opened in 2013 in a century-old building, is a nod to its former life as a millinery factory. On a Monday night, jazz wafted from the intimate, Prohibition-era-style lobby lounge, but up in the more than 3,500-square-foot indoor-outdoor rooftop lounge, 1980s hits ruled and visitors were treated to close-ups of the [Empire State Building](#). In a corner, a handful of tables and couches are clustered around a fireplace. Alas, it's not especially warm. But sitting below strings of cafe lights amid exposed brick walls, tucking into terrific comfort food — margherita flatbread (\$14), butcher's meatball sliders with herbed ricotta (\$12), tater tot nachos with short rib, tomato, horseradish and Cheddar (\$21) — one feels cozy all the same. The rooftop was busy around 9:30 p.m., though a table for two near the hearth was easily procured without a reservation (but do make one if you can). Perfect for: date night; girlfriend get-togethers. 63 West 38th Street; [Refineryhotelnewyork.com](http://Refineryhotelnewyork.com).