NEW YORK CITY

The summer months might be low season for travel in the Big Apple, but not even the sweltering heat can stifle the city’s perpetual freneticism.

**Dine Maysville** (17 W. 26th Street; maysvillenyc.com) is a bit of Bluegrass in the Big Apple. A native Alabamian, Chef Kyle Knall’s standouts include the beet and quinoa salad, crispy grits with country ham and bourbon aioli, and smoked whole trout. Wash it all down with a dizzying array of bourbons available straight up, on the rocks or as part of a classic cocktail. Tables are coveted at **Lafayette** (380 Lafayette Street), a grand space reminiscent of Café de la Paix in Paris. A retail bakery and pastry shop up front caters to those taking their sweets and carbs on the go, while those looking to linger longer can enjoy Chef Andrew Carmellini’s new French country cooking in the multi-level dining room. Though billed as a lowly side, the truffled gnocchi with parmesan cream at **The Arlington Club** (1032 Lexington Ave; arlingtonclubny.com) is easily one of the most memorable dishes I have enjoyed in recent memory. Located in the Meatpacking District, we sought out **Toy** (18 Ninth Ave; toyrestaurant.com) primarily for the scene – Jeffrey Beers-designed interiors and aerial cirque du solei-style performances during dinner – and were pleasantly surprised to discover that the top-notch cuisine was not just an afterthought. For breakfast or a midday treat, pop over to the **Doughnuttery** inside **Chelsea Market** (425 West 15th Street; chelseamarket.com) for a pint-sized fresh-out-of-the-fryer treat. Chelsea brasserie **Montmartre** (158 Eighth Ave; montmartenyc.com) is the sixth establishment for Gabriel Stulman’s Little Wisco restaurant group and crowds pack the petite space.

**Shop** A canopy made of 25,000 paper bags are a focal point at **Owen** boutique (owennyc.com), which opened in May at 809 Washington Street in the Meat Packing District. More than 70 emerging men’s and women’s designers (many of which cannot be found elsewhere) happily co-exist with a carefully selected mix of established brands. **Lavin** opened its first men’s flagship earlier this year at 807 Madison Avenue. Comprised of three-floors, a plush VIP lounge is located on the top level.

**Stay** Opened in October 2011, **Hyatt 48 Lex** is a boutique hotel property with 116 “pied-à-terre”-style guest studios and suites with floor-to-ceiling city views. A comfortable second floor Lexicon Lounge offers club-level amenities for all guests from 6:30 a.m.-midnight as well as a 24-hour fitness studio and in-room spa treatments. Rates from $499 (48lex.hyatt.com). The epitome of Bohemian chic, the Julian Schnabel-designed interiors of the **Gramercy Park Hotel** (2 Lexington Ave) are a favored haunt of the younger who’s-who in music, film and fashion. Hotel guests are given access to the hotel’s Rose Bar until 9 p.m., after which time you have to be on “the list” (ask the concierge to pull some strings for you). Rates from $499 (gramercyparkhotel.com).