



New York a la Lena: Weekly Picks (64)

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[Michael Jordan's The Steak House N.Y.C.](#)

Steak Houses

23 Vanderbilt Ave New York, NY

June 18, 2015 - In some ways, this star-branded steakhouse is exactly what you'd expect it to be, and in some ways it's the exact opposite. It is in the most amazing setting -- the beating heart of Manhattan -- on the second level of Grand Central. The elegant dining room feels vaguely like Olympus, in the sense that diners are floating in an expansive VIP setting elevated way above the shouting humans below. From a balcony vantage point, you can observe mankind or just ignore them and concentrate on the epic feasting. This all seems very on-brand for Michael Jordan.

Here's what it's not: Gimmicky. Sports-themed. Overbearing. It is not a chain. It feels like a person owns it, not a company. And this is the case. The managing partner was in business for decades before partnering with Jordan -- who, word to the wise, apparently has a fantastic wine cellar that he uses to inform his restaurant's wine selection.

The food is classic and delicious. No twists or experimentation -- and actually, in the steak category, they don't even do sauces. It's all about the perfectly cooked prime beef. I had bone-in rib-eye, hanger steak and filet -- plus thick-cut steak fries and a wedge salad. It was a meat extravaganza of the sort that can and does drive a lesser carnivore to the sweaty brink. One of the best things about New York City is that such a place can quietly exist in Grand Central for years, and you can be the one to surprise people with it after work.

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