

metro

RESTAURANT GUIDE

DINING OUT

Benjamin Steakhouse

52 East 41st Street
212-297-9177

Peter Luger chef of 20 years, Arturo McLeod left to open his own restaurant -- Benjamin Steak House. For serious steak-connoisseurs, Benjamin is a must visit. The restaurant, located in the heart of Manhattan, offers the finest and carefully selected prime USDA meat, dry aged to perfection, as well as other fine culinary seafood dishes to please any discerning palette. Wide selection of wines and vintages for pairing. The 5,000 square foot restaurant features a ten-foot crackling fireplace, rich chocolate brown leather seating, oak wood paneling, vaulted decorative ceiling, and modern brass amber-toned chandeliers. Semi-private dining/event space available. For more information, including dining hours, menu, etc., please visit www.benjaminsteakhouse.com. For reservations, please call (212)297-9177



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For more information on Metro's Restaurant guide, contact Gillian Syracuse (646-792-8007) or Alex Schott (646-792-8035).

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16 weekend **INGREDIENTS:** 2 oz. Ten Cane Vodka, 1 oz. of cherry syrup, 1 oz. of Voss Soda, splash of lime juice **HOW TO MAKE IT:** Mix ingredients in a shaker and strain into a martini glass. **WHERE TO DRINK IT:** Pera (303 Madison Ave., 212-878-6301) **METRO**

Going Out

Bowling for Harlem

Strike out at this uptown spot for the young and younger

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PROFILE. Even when Harlem was down and out, its legendary past kept its charm in tack. Now, in the midst of a much-talked-about social and economic revitalization, the neighborhood that was once known for its jazz clubs and artists' enclaves is coming back with the help of both heavy-pocket corporate investors and smaller, creative entrepreneurs.

Enter Gail Richards and Sharon Joseph, an aunt and niece duo, for whom a stroll along bustling 125th Street nearly five years ago led to the April 2006 opening of Harlem Lanes, the first bowling alley in the neighborhood in nearly 30 years. "We spent six months researching, literally sitting in bowling alleys, trying to figure out if it was an activity that would be embraced by this community," Richards says. "It turns out that it is the No. 1 indoor sport in the country."

SITUATED ON Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard between 125th and 126th streets, Harlem Lanes occupies two floors of the former Alhambra Theater. The venue features 24 newly minted



Will he get a strike or gutter ball? Perhaps it depends on how many times he visited the bar at Harlem Lanes.

lanes split between its two floors, with the first level dedicated to family kid-friendly activities, a busy party room and a kitchen serving the requisite wings, pizza and fries, along with niche treats such as plantains with black beans and sour cream, fried lobster ravioli with spicy lobster tomato sauce, and Ying Yang salmon cubes with passion fruit miso dip for private parties and corporate events.

Singletons and the older crowd can head up to the sophisticated second floor, where there's a private bar decorated with several flat-panel televisions. In the

back, a small stool and table area leads to a plush lounge with a landscape view of several more lanes.

"In the world at large, people have so many things going on that the sense of community throughout America has been lost," Richards says. "I'm watching it come back here. Harlem has always been an epicenter for culture, arts, community and family. To see the resurgence of that is extremely exciting, and it is demonstrated at Harlem Lanes. I come here, and I feel like I am in the United Nations."

IN COMPARISON to the other three bowling alleys in Manhattan, Harlem Lanes offers competitive pricing with games set at \$5.50 before 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and \$7.50 after that time. In addition to private parties, the ven-

ue hosts several special nights, including speed dating every other Thursday, a gospel brunch for the church set at noon on Sundays and a successful karaoke bash on Monday nights.

"For people who have never bowled before, this place is awesome because it is very chic," says Sharon Joseph, the younger of Harlem Lanes' partners. "Once you do it and that ball goes in the gutter, you realize how competitive you are and you keep bowling. People come and say, 'Oh, I have never bowled before!' and then you can't get them off the lanes."

Harlem Lanes
2116 Adam Clayton Powell Blvd.
212-678-BOWL
www.harlemlanes.com



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