

# Neighbourhoods

## HARLEM

NYC's latest chill spot

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PHOTOS BY REBECCA MCALPIN

**H**arlem is New York City's new chill spot, drawing **Sarah Ferguson, Jennifer Lopez, Bill and Hillary Clinton, and Woody Allen** to its revamped soul food restaurants and jazz and blues hangouts. Three years ago, President Clinton moved his office to 125th Street, starting the migration to uptown Manhattan; soaring real estate prices did the rest, prompting the area's rebirth. Style-savvy boutiques dot the area, and new luxury condos and renovated brownstones are being snapped up by the likes of **Alfre Woodard, Marcia Gay Harden, and Maya Angelou**. When you go, keep the car running, because this sprawling universe runs from 110th to 168th Streets, river to river.



Harlem's renovated brownstones

### RESTAURANTS/BARS

Don't miss the Sunday gospel brunch from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. at **SYLVIA'S RESTAURANT** (328 Lenox Avenue; 212/996-2669; \$50/e42), where **Bill Clinton, Ashley Judd, and Stevie Wonder** come for the smothered chicken, slammin' meatloaf, and great music. Order finger-lickin' ribs or blackened catfish at **LONDEL'S SUPPER CLUB** (2620 Frederick Douglass Boulevard; 212/234-6114; \$80), ideal for a power meal. **J.Lo** enjoys the European and Latin American fusion food at newly revamped **ORBIT EAST HARLEM RESTAURANT** (2257 First Avenue; 212/348-7818; \$60), which sports the first sidewalk café in the area. At night, **LENOX LOUNGE** (288 Malcolm X Boulevard; 212/427-0253; \$48) sizzles. Billie Holiday sang here in 1939. Now **Jim Carrey** and **Mary J. Blige** come for the R&B and jazz.



Bill Clinton

### SHOPS

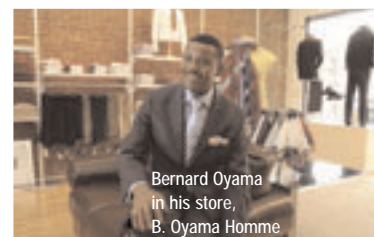
Former mom-and-pop storefronts have become trendy boutiques. **PIECES OF HARLEM** (228 W. 135th Street; 212/234-1725) is where **Rosie Perez** and **Foxy Brown** go for premium label T-shirts, jeans, and chunky gold and silver jewelry, including huge hoop earrings by hip underground designers Weight, True Religion, and Modern Amusement. **B. OYAMA HOMME** (2330 Seventh Avenue; 212/234-5128), regarded as the Haberdasher of Harlem, makes colourful men's shirts and English cut suits with Italian finishes. **ZZAJ GIFT GALLERY** (270 St. Nicholas Avenue; 212/662-1300), a favourite of **Whoopi Goldberg**, is an art gallery-cum-gift shop where you can buy Michael Wainwright's hand-made porcelain dinnerware trimmed in platinum or 22-karat gold, hand-carved alabaster serving pieces by Victor Carrzena, or a handmade ceramic-and-wire, four-foot-tall doll made by James Baldwin's sister, Paula Wayley, a former Broadway costume designer and well-known dollmaker. You might run into **Alicia Keys** or **Aaron Neville** at **HATS BY BUNN** (2283 Seventh Avenue; 212/694-3590), for one-of-a-kind chapeaux and clothing, such as a printed beaver cloche (\$175) or a grosgrain ribbon, wide-brim bonnet (\$125).



Sylvia's Restaurant



Hats by Bunn



Bernard Oyama in his store, B. Oyama Homme

### SIGHTS NOT TO MISS

History is everywhere, especially at the **MORRIS-JUMEL MANSION** (65 Jumel Terrace, btw. 160–162nd Street; 212/923-8008), where George Washington was headquartered in the autumn of 1776, during the Revolutionary War. **THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM** (144 W. 125th Street; 212/864-4500) has ongoing exhibitions featuring global black artists. Check out the legendary **APOLLO THEATER** (253 W. 125th Street; 212/531-5300) for Amateur Night Wednesdays and top acts the rest of the week.