



## Viceroy New York

NEW YORK, USA

If Don Draper were a hotel, he would be something like the Viceroy. Drenched in machismo, the interior is as dark and suggestive as a midnight whisky sour and a roving hand. Speaking of cocktails, they serve them – all day – in the lobby, which is just as things should be. Colours are broody, moody, with lots of wood panelling, brass fittings and Paonazzo marble. The rooms are Midtown-compact, smothered in rich wood, with custom-made covetable leather furniture and the wafting scent of something rather virile, courtesy of olfactory specialists 1229. Bathrooms look like a vintage gentlemen's barbershop and come stocked with full-sized Neil George products. Scrub up, put on your glad rags and pop down to Marc Murphy's Kingside restaurant for signature boudin blanc and sweetbreads. Then it's to the roof for 29th-floor views, a nightcap and a sly grope. There is a plunge pool downstairs if you need to simmer down. **WEBSITE** [viceroyhotelsandresorts.com](http://viceroyhotelsandresorts.com) **TEL** 00 212 830 8000 **BOOK IT** Double, from £350, including breakfast. British Airways ([ba.com](http://ba.com)) flies from Heathrow to New York 55 times a week, from £520.

## Mercer Barcelona

BARCELONA, SPAIN

It's a historical sort of place, the Mercer, which is quite a feat given that it's new and shiny as a pin. Squirrelled away in a quiet street in the Gothic Quarter, the building incorporates the old Roman city walls, dating back to the 1st century, which gets Americans all worked up. But then alongside all that antiquity are smooth modern textures – a glass-enclosed courtyard, orb-like lights, steel fixtures. The rooms are big, with exposed stone walls and a calm palette of sand and mink jazzed up by candy-coloured sofas. The courtyard, set around 17th-century columns and sweet orange trees, is transformed into the main restaurant at night. The food goes all out: almond and celery-lime ice cream, pigeon with pig's trotters. Then flit up to the roof bar and channel some *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* – in a stylish, romantic way, not a threesome way. Unless you wish. We're not judging. **WEBSITE** [mercercatalonia.com](http://mercercatalonia.com) **TEL** 00 34 93 310 74 80 **BOOK IT** Double, from £250, including breakfast.

