

TRAVEL

A First Look at Nine Orchard, the New York Hotel That Embodies Downtown Glamour

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June 10, 2022



If you need any more evidence that Dimes Square is New York's neighborhood of the moment, here's another: [Nine Orchard](#).

This June, the 116-room hotel will open in the century-old former Jarmulowsky bank at the corner of Canal and Orchard. It's a majestic second life for the Beaux-Arts building: once dubbed a "shrine to American capitalism" by *New York Architectural Digest*, it has been completely empty for the past six years, its intricate millwork and hallowed halls welcoming nothing but dust.

Until now: After extensive restoration by DLJ Real Estate Capital Partners, Nine Orchard is once again back in the business of beauty. Guests check in where bank tellers once cashed them, as a vaulted ceiling soars above. The original clock and 60-foot tempietto (that, once upon a time, was used to mask an unseemly water tower) have been painstakingly recreated from archival photographs. Then there's the rooms themselves: filled with honest wood furniture and crisp linens, a visually quiet juxtaposition to the bustling Lower East Side below.

"New Yorkers, myself included, have been waiting for years to see if and when it would come back to life," says chef Ignacio Mattos, who spearheaded the food and beverage offerings at Nine Orchard. "It's a true, inspiring demonstration of craftsmanship—and it just feels so good to spend time within those walls."

Much of that aforementioned time is bound to be spent at one of Mattos's two bars: first, there's Corner Bar, a warm space where colorful painted motifs by Happy Menocal adorn the dark pine wood. Mattos describes it as "the perfect place to have a quiet breakfast, only to come back in the evening for a quintessential New York night." Then there's the hotel staple of a lobby bar, where you can indulge in a martini service while soaking in the old-world glamour. "The Lobby Lounge is about grandeur and opulence: just look at those high ceilings and all that ornamentation," Mattos tells *Vogue*. "The idea here was very much to embrace that old-world sophistication, while encouraging an atmosphere that feels celebratory and contemporary." In September, a third space, Amado Grill, will join the hotel's offerings.