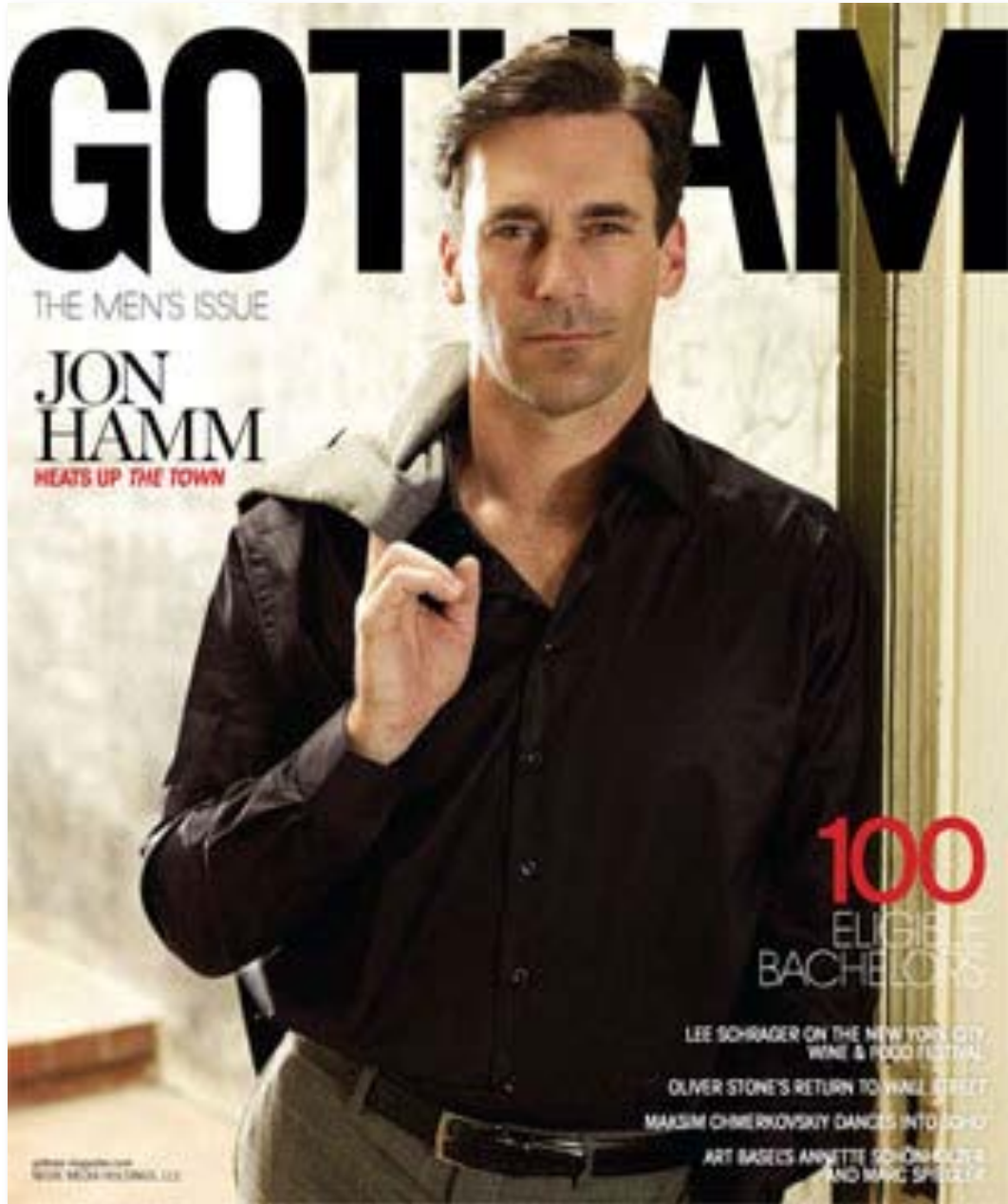


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ESTATE OF MIND CRACKING THE CODE



Bohemian National Hall

WALKING TOUR

BOHEMIAN NATIONAL HALL

Social halls built by and for immigrants chasing the American dream were a common sight in old New York, and this is one of the few survivors, catering to Czechs and Slovaks since 1896. After its ownership was transferred to the Czech Republic (which put a consulate inside), the Renaissance Revival building received a heavy-duty restoration that lasted most of the past decade. *327 E. 73rd St.*

RHINELANDER MANSION

How many French-style châteaux can wow history buffs while improving their wardrobes? Probably only this one, commissioned in the 1890s as one of the largest private residences in the city, though the original owners never moved in. After decades of various uses, Ralph Lauren converted the entire mansion into his flagship store. *857 Madison Ave.*

UNION CLUB

This limestone colossus could go toe-to-toe with most Fifth Avenue mansions, but it was built to serve as the clubhouse for one of New York's oldest men's social clubs (former members are said to include Ulysses S. Grant, William Randolph Hearst and Dwight Eisenhower). Nonmembers can try to sneak a peek at the main hall and its impressive coffered dome. *101 E. 69th St.*

10021

This small sliver of the Upper East Side is one of the country's most affluent zip codes, but the tony neighborhood has more than just a high net worth.

by Joey Arak

BOUNDARIES

The East River west to Fifth Avenue, and 69th Street north to 76th Street



Bemelmans Bar

BOOK SMARTS

The neighborhood has some of the most prestigious public and private schools in the city, including The Buckley School, the Hewitt School, the Lycée Français (where Brangelina stashed one of their brood while in town) and Eleanor Roosevelt High School, a young but already award-winning public prep school located in a former Sotheby's warehouse.

HOT SPOTS



BAR PLEIADES

Following a \$60 million renovation, The Surrey hotel created this intimate 40-seat lounge with black-and-beige décor inspired by vintage Coco Chanel designs. Upscale bar snacks are sourced from the Café Boulud kitchen, and the seasonal ingredients on mixologist Cameron Bogue's cocktail menu are more international than the UN General Assembly. *20 E. 76th St., 212-772-2600; danielnye.com*

BEMELMANS BAR

Whether it's the gold-leaf ceiling, the murals painted by bar namesake Ludwig Bemelmans (creator/illustrator of the *Madeline* books) or the nickel-trimmed tables that catch your eye, this watering hole in The Carlyle, A Rosewood Hotel remains just as awe-inspiring today as it was back in the days when JFK was rumored to be sneaking Marilyn Monroe into his penthouse upstairs. *35 E. 76th St., 212-744-1600; thecarlyle.com*

JG MELON

Getting a burger and a Bloody Mary at this crammed, tin-ceiling pub is as Upper East Side as the Polo-clad preppies that perform the ritual into the early-morning hours. *7297 Third Ave., 212-650-1310*