

ZAGAT

10/31/2012 11:41:00 AM

No-Reservations Guide: Where to Wait For Your Favorite Hot Spots



Line outside Prune during brunch; [Image via Flickr/Three Points Kitchen](#)

By Linnea Covington

When the wait for some of the city's hottest no-reservations spots is longer than it takes to actually eat the meal - where do you go to kill time? Most high-profile eateries are surrounded by lesser-known bars and restaurants that provide boozy waiting rooms filled with gourmet snacks perfect for quelling hunger pangs during your two-hour layover. Click through the slide show below to check out seven hot spots and where to go while you're waiting for them. Have something to add? Let us know in the comments.



Hot spot: The Meatball Shop LES
Where to wait it out: Epstein's Bar

The popularity of the original Lower East Side location of the Meatball Shop and its subsequent wait time has led to the growth of sales at the gastropub Epstein's next door, and we aren't making this up. Actually, the business publication *Crain's New York* asked them, and owner Erik McManus said transactions had gone up 25% since the Meatball Shop opened. He added that often times, customers waiting for a table at The Meatball Shop wander over to order drinks at Epstein's before heading back next door to dig into a plate of meatballs. We see this as a win-win situation. After all, the more beer you drink the hungrier you get.