The MONOCLE Travel Guide Series

New York

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... Taxi! Take a journey through the city's outposts of good food, design, retail and more ...
The High Line Hotel, Chelsea

Underrated chic

The brick façade of the High Line Hotel might fool the unsuspecting passer-by. A former seminary, the building comes by its modest appearance honestly. The hotel is a slice of old-school New York in a neighbourhood that is increasingly modernising.

The front courtyard is dotted with bistro tables and a row of planters; a great spot to sit and have a cappuccino from the vintage Intelligentsia coffee truck at the far end of the space. In the summer the patio sheds its daytime caffeine crowd and becomes Champagne Charlie's, where guests and locals gather.

The property has become a de facto retreat from the glitzy establishments in the nearby Meatpacking District. The hotel's 60 rooms are understated yet well kept and offer a smart mix of accents from classic to mid-century. This place reminds you that a stay in New York doesn't have to be all pomp; it just has to be about pride of ownership.

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thehighlinehotel.com

MONOCLE COMMENT:
Architecturally this is one of New York's most unusual hotels. Be sure to check out the Harry Potter-esque Hoffman Hall, a high-ceilinged, turn-of-the-century conference space that is a fine example of collegiate gothic architecture.