

HAPPY ENDING



## BEST BAR

### Happy Ending

The arousing moniker—insider lingo for getting more than your back serviced by a masseuse—refers to Happy Ending’s previous incarnation as an Asian massage parlor. Now that the bi-level space has been reborn as a sleek lounge (and given a thorough Clorox treatment), the fun is strictly of the good, clean variety. But patrons know there’s still plenty to get off on. The new owners took advantage of the old brothel’s configuration, turning white-tiled sauna rooms into private hideaways and sticking plush spherical banquettes where hot tubs once lived. Both provide relaxing spots for slurping flirty cocktails like the Golden Screw and the Cantonese Mule. Chef Chris Santos’s mature bar food, including barbecued-duck-confit empanadas and club sandwiches involving foie gras, make exquisite sponges for the potent juices. A hot-towel treatment is the foreplay to it all: A kindly server delivers, with tongs, a piping-hot washcloth with which to ready yourself.

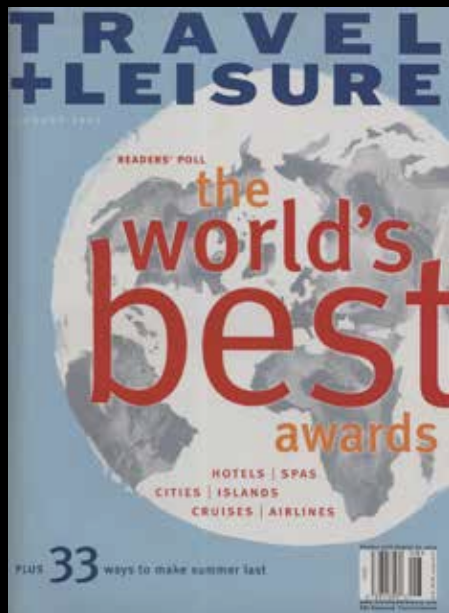
*302 Broome St between Eldridge and Forsyth Sts (212-334-9676). Subway: J, M to Bowery; Grand St S to Grand St.*



## HAPPY ENDING

If this downtown hipster lounge sounds like old news to you, that's because its clever location (in a two-story space that formerly housed an Asian massage parlor) and name (same as the former occupant) made a big splash when it opened in January. Owned by the downtown good-cheer cartel responsible for Double Happiness and Wyanoka, Happy Ending also recently won *TONY's* Eat Out Award for Best New Bar. The shiny red booths upstairs and seedy tile nooks below continue to draw a cool crowd, and DJs spin nightly. Parties include Monday's model-packed DMR (Droppin' Mad Records) and Tuesday's Sneaker Pimpin'. Bar snacks from Wyanoka genius Chris Santos are heaven in the form of crispy-snapper-and-arugula tacos with mango salsa, or a five-spice-duck club sandwich.—*Valerie Stivers*

*302 Broome St between Forsyth and Eldridge Sts (212-334-9676).  
Subway: F to Delancey St; J, M, Z to Delancey–Essex Sts. Sun–Wed  
6pm–2am; Thu 6pm–3am; Fri, Sat 6pm–4am.*



## cities



After two years out of the No. 1 spot, four-time champion

Sydney again reigns supreme. Although Europe continues to claim more of readers' favorite cities than any other region (five of the top 10), keep an eye on the Far East: Bangkok makes its top 10 debut at a lofty No. 3, giving Asia two cities in the group for the first time. Here, we've provided dispatches from T+L's correspondents on the winning city in each geographic region.



### UNITED STATES AND CANADA

- 1 **New York** 88.00
- 2 **San Francisco** 86.48
- 3 **Vancouver** 83.13
- 4 **Chicago** 82.93
- 5 **Santa Fe** 82.82
- 6 **New Orleans** 81.95
- 7 **Boston** 81.91
- 8 **Victoria** 81.72
- 9 **Charleston, South Carolina** 81.49
- 10 **Montreal** 81.46

**NEW YORK** Even before the last girder was removed from Ground Zero, New York started moving forward. Ritz-Carlton returned to the city with not one but two hotels: a sleek high-rise at Battery Park (212/344-0800; doubles from \$325) and a grand one on Central Park South (212/308-9100; doubles from \$425). The Lower East Side, once best known for its bars—the current favorite is über-hip Happy Ending (302 Broome St.; 212/334-9676)—has established itself as *the* neighborhood for dining out thanks to the spinoffs of wildly popular 71 Clinton Fresh Foods—A.K.A. Café (49 Clinton St.; 212/979-6096; dinner for two \$30) and Alias (76 Clinton St.; 212/505-5011; dinner for two \$60)—as well as stylish Latin spot Suba, much loved by design mavens for its dining room surrounded by water (109 Ludlow St.; 212/982-5714; dinner





## WHERE TO DRINK

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### Happy Ending

Voted *TONY*'s Best New Bar, this place is firmly part of the cutting-edge cool that characterises the Canal Street area. It's the speciality of owners Peter Kane and Oliver Pihlar to work miracles on dodgy locations, and once again they've excelled to create a laid-back lounge that transcends its past as a massage parlour. The swish ground floor is the place to sample the ample cocktail list. Downstairs, the design is edgier, with a packed-out dancefloor lined with tiled booths converted from steam rooms. The name is a nod to the service offered to parlour clients to bring their massage to a joyful finale. *Happy Ending*, 302 Broome St between Forsyth and Eldridge Sts (212 334 9676).



**Best New bar/lounge**

**Happy Ending**



Best Bar in a  
Converted Space

**Happy Ending**

302 BROOME STREET (212-334-9676)

**LIKE DOUBLE** Happiness, its older, cheaper, ex-speakeasy sister bar to the west, this trendy one-year-old bar plays up its previous existence—in this case, as a massage parlor (hence the name). You can stay upstairs in the lounge and snack on duck-confit empanadas or snapper-and-arugula tacos. But we'll be downstairs at the real bar: a much darker space with mirrored walls, a D.J., and small, tiled former steam rooms where, or so we're told, some very naughty, very gay things have been known to happen late on Tuesdays. On that particular night, as the flirty Jesus-look-alike bartender warns a female patron, "it's all dudes, baby!"







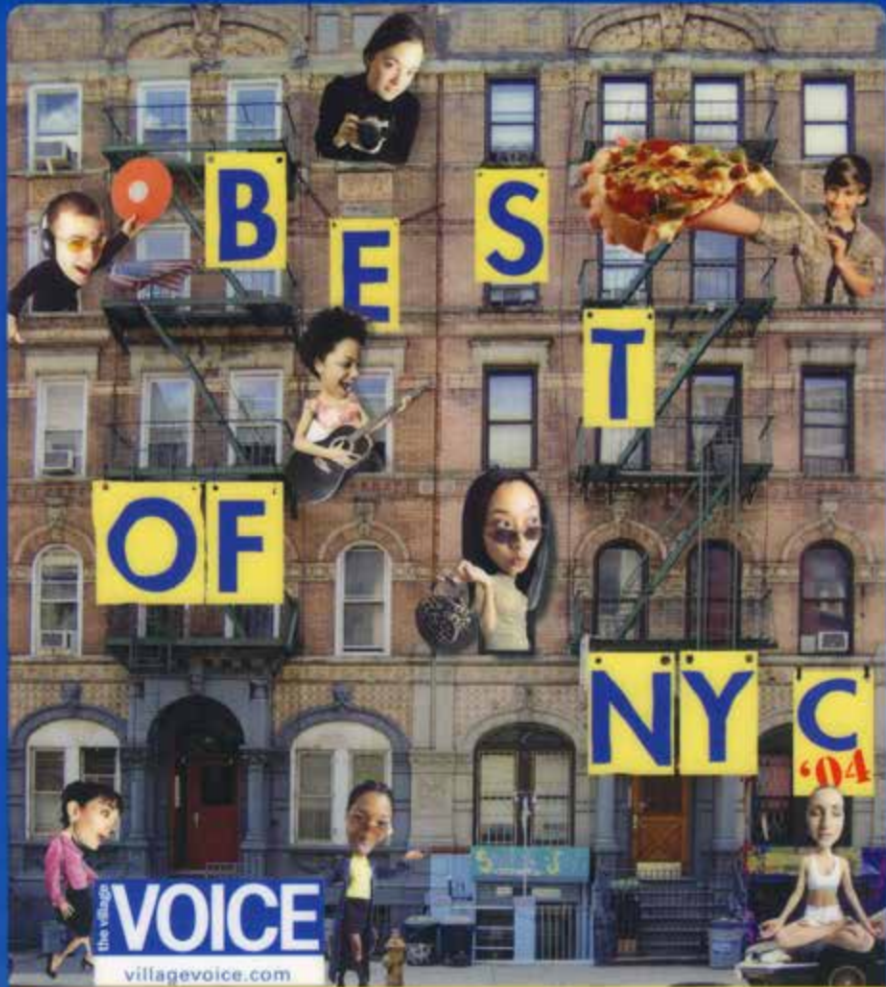
## BEST READING SERIES

HAPPY ENDING READING SERIES

**Most fun, best crowds.** Amanda Stern is the hardest-working woman in New York literary nightlife, as she demonstrates every Wednesday (summers off) with the Happy Ending Reading Series in Chinatown. Situated on the encroaching border of the LES at Forsyth and Broome Sts., the reading series takes place in a bar known as the Happy Ending Bar that's marked as a healing center on its yellow awning. One of our favorite things to do is stand around and watch newcomers figure it out.

Inside, a surprisingly swank bar serves drinks while the readers do their thing. Each is obligated to sing or dance or perform in some way in addition to presenting their material. The crowds are always thick, the guests are consistently amazing, and the fact that Amanda ends every show by encouraging people to "get drunk, go home with somebody" leads to that actually happening.





Best Ex-Massage Parlor Turned into a Club of the Same Name

# HAPPY ENDING



2005 Best of Citysearch: New York Nightlife

**Happy Ending**

302 Broome Street New York NY

Voted "Best New Bar/Lounge" by TimeOut New York Readers **9.9** Conversation

**Happy Ending**

302 Broome Street New York NY

Voted "Best New Bar/Lounge" by TimeOut New York Readers **9.4** Private Party

**Happy Ending**

302 Broome Street New York NY

Voted "Best New Bar/Lounge" by TimeOut New York Readers **9.3** See, Be Seen

Bar/Club

## Happy Ending

A brothel-turned-bar brightens the Chinatown lounge scene.

302 Broome St  
New York, NY  
**Phone:** (212) 334-9676  
**Fax:** 10002  
**Cross Streets:** At Forsyth Street

 **Citysearch Offers**  
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**Editorial Rating** (39 Reviews) Author: Ben Widdicombe

This Bar/Club has not been rated. Be the first to post your opinion and rate it.

 **Add your rating**

### Editorial Review

#### The Scene

This former massage parlor makes a swish addition to a swiftly gentrifying neighborhood. Lounge in banquettes on the ground floor, or descend to the DJ-ready basement--where the original steam rooms have been renovated as tiled booths. The vibe is hip and fresh and attracts many of the fashion-forward young things who patronize the avant-garde boutiques nearby. The name is a reference to the coy way in which the space's previous occupants used to offer clients a "happy ending" to their massage.

#### The Booze

One thing this otherwise excellent venue hasn't yet got right is the house cocktail list. The Cantonese Mule, with Ketel One, ginger beer and lime juice, is ruined by the addition of Chambord. The house mojito is cloying, although the "H.E. martini"--made with Grey Goose and a drizzle of scotch whiskey--shows promise. Stick to the standards while they figure things out.

### Tip Sheet

#### In the Neighborhood

Owners Peter Kane and Oliver Pihlar also masterminded Double Happiness and Wyanoka. 

#### More Eats

Chinese delicacies at Funky Broome. 

#### Bar Hop

Catch up on Chinatown nightlife. 

### Profile Information

#### Hours

Sun-Wed 6pm-2am; Thu- 6; N, R at Canal St  
Sat 6pm-4am

#### Directions

#### Atmosphere

Lounge  
Martini Bar  
Glam



Photo by James Sardone

# CITY'S BEST 2006

We nominated and you voted!

How the Winners Were Determined | See Another City | Meet the Editors

AOL cityguide



### Latino Scene

Restaurants, bars, clubs and entertainment in your city:

[See what's hot.](#)

From Our Partner



### In Your Town

Live, Love, Work:

- [Personals](#)
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- [Jobs](#)



### Choose a Dining Category

- Bagels
- Barbecue
- Breakfast
- Burgers
- Cheap Eats
- Chinese
- Coffeehouses
- Desserts
- Family-Friendly

### Choose a Nightlife Category

- Bars
- Beer Selection
- Conversation Bars
- Dance Clubs
- Dive Bars
- Gay Bars

- Send *City's Best* to a friend.
- Download a [printable page](#) listing all the winners in this city.
- For restaurant and bar owners: [Business Resource Center](#)

## Bars

### ★ WINNER ★

- Happy Ending**  
Lower East Side  
Formerly a shady massage parlor, Happy Ending has a new meaning in downtown's nightlife scene.
- Walker's**  
Tribeca
- 7B**  
East Village
- Old Town Bar**  
Gramercy
- The Campbell Apartment**  
Grand Central
- Lenox Lounge**  
Harlem
- Galapagos**  
Williamsburg
- Russian Samovar**  
Theater District
- Pete's Candy Store**  
Williamsburg
- Great Lakes**  
Park Slope

Next: [Beer Selection](#)



More CR-V to crave.

# AOL cityguide CITY'S BEST 2006

BEST BARS | HAPPY ENDING

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The all-new CR-V  
Something new to crave.



# PAPER MAGAZINE'S THIRD ANNUAL NIGHTLIFE AWARDS

**Perez Hilton, Coco Rocha, Andre J, The Misshapes and other Fabulous Types Celebrate the Nightlife, PAPER-Style**

For the third year in a row, a who's who of the freaks that make up the New York nightlife world came out to drink, be merry and get up to no good at PAPER Magazine's Nightlife Awards, presented by **DIESEL.com**, and held this year at the lovely and disco-ball-heavy **Spotlight Studios** in Times Square. **Perez Hilton** hosted; **Lady Bunny** DJ-ed; **Q-Tip** performed; **Dos Equis** and **Svedka** kindly provided the bevies; shenanigans ensued. Highlights included:

**Jackson Pollis**, the (is he legal yet?) "fourth" Misshape filling in for absentee presenters **Benjamin Cho** and **Moby**. "You may know me from my Grammy-winning album *Play* featuring Gwen Stefani," he deadpanned.

*Village Voice* columnist **Michael Musto**, gay porn bad-boy **Michael Lucas** and PAPER's **Mickey Boardman** super-bantering during the People's Choice Awards segment of the evening, which devolved into a discussion of who on stage was a "bottom" and Michael Lucas bearing his six-pack.

**Perez Hilton** karaoke-ing to "Hit Me With Your Best Shot"

Seeing the issue of PAPER on a jumbo screen outside of Spotlight Studios shining onto Times Square. We were kind of tearing up!

Perez Hilton making models **Coco Rocha** and **Behati Prinsloo** (whose name he didn't even pretend to be able to pronounce) walk the runway (i.e. the stage) and telling them if they wanted to make it onto his blog, they best make out. They didn't, alas. But still made it onto his blog.

**Sally Singer** and **Andre J** making a perfectly absurd and wonderful presenting duo!

The identically-dressed **Six Six Sick** girls winning the award for Best Party and **Jordan Silver** (whose party **Circus 68** did not win) going up and throwing the microphone onto the stage.

Presenters **Luigi Tadini** and **Kate Schelter** -- they're just really, really cute.

**Lady Bunny** and (a disrobed) **Andre J** having what appeared to be a dance-off following the awards and preceding Q-Tip.

**Q-Tip, Q-Tip** and more **Q-Tip!** He played a medium-length, quite amazing set, featuring new stuff and old chestnuts like *Electric Relaxation* (from his *Tribe* days), "Breathe and Stop" and "Vivrant Thing." Clad in sweatpants and a long-sleeved T-shirt, Q-Tip tore the house down. His new album, *The Renaissance* is out Dec. 18.

And the Winners Are...

- Best New Club:** The Box
- Best New Bar:** The Anchor
- Best Party:** Six Six Sick
- Best Gay Night:** Cuckoo Club
- Best DJ:** Jacques Renault
- Best Hotel with a Nightlife Scene:** Bowery Hotel
- Best Restaurant with a Nightlife Scene:** Gemma
- Best Nightlife Photographer:** Cobrasnake
- Best Designer with Influence on Nightlife:** Threesasfour

People's Choice:

- Best Bar:** Happy Ending
- Best Club:** The Box

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People's Choice:

- Best Bar:** Happy Ending
- Best Club:** The Box
- Best Gay Night:** Sundays at Metropolitan
- Best DJ:** Roxy Cottontail
- Best Party:** Cheeky Bastard

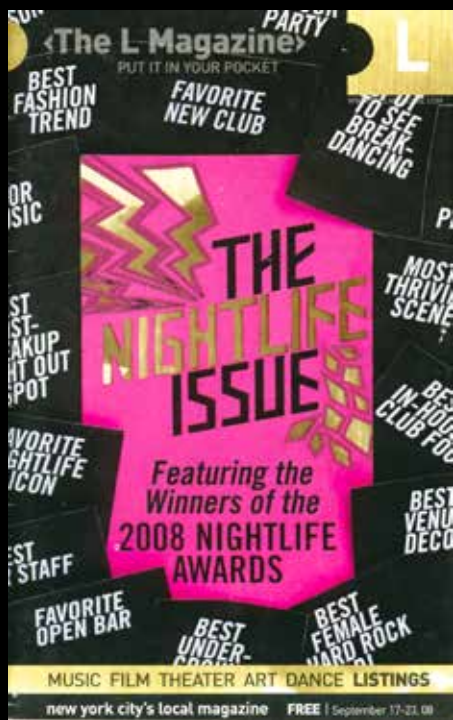
PAPER'S THIRD ANNUAL NIGHTLIFE AWARDS

(CLOSE)



Best Party winners Six Six Sick





# THE 2008 NIGHTLIFE AWARDS

It's been a year since our little Nightlife Awards experiment succeeded, and this election year, partiers have once again run for their [night]lives. In preparation for November's slightly more serious Tuesday election, *The L's* Nightlife Editor Zachary David Palmer reached across party lines to poll nightlife pundits, themselves line-jumpers. This year's ballot was updated to reflect both the suggestions and criticisms of the event's inaugural year, but selecting the winners remained the same: after a lengthy vetting process, panelists were tapped to serve on a party-school version of an electoral college — an Orwellian nightmare where all partiers are equal, but some are more equal than others — given the task of picking winners from the nominees short-listed by the reader's poll. Now that the conventions are over, catering [spoon-fed, as per money-rules] to the lobbyists, *The L* ignores the hobbyists and honors nightlife professionals.

## MUSIC



COURTESY: SLOVANA/ANALOGUE BLOSSOM

### DJ PERFORMANCE AT A PARK OR FESTIVAL: Paul Van Dyk

In a decade, seeing Paul Van Dyk's genre-breaking set as the waves of the Hudson River broke not far away might replace our memories of bike-riding on an elementary school summer vacation. Of course, Bruce Springsteen will never write a song about that, but maybe Van Dyk will do a remix of classic Springsteen.

**Nominees:** BEMF, McCarren Park, Santogold at Summer Stage, Diplo and A-Trak at Summer Stage, Siren Music Festival, Kevin Saunderson at The Yard

### NEW SONG: 'Kids', MGMT

We are not sure that this can still be considered new, but it is newish. We are such old men, and did you see what MGMT did to the McCarren Park Pool this summer? We guess it counts... rekLES?

**Nominees:** Kingdom, Dave Gahan; L.E.S. Artistes; Santogold; Shut up & Let Me Go, The Ting Tings; Paper Planes, MIA; I'm Not Gonna Teach Your Boyfriend How to Dance With You, Black Kids; Electric Feel, MGMT

### RECORD LABEL: iheartcomix

We love that Interscope was nominated, perhaps we failed in our intention: independent record label. However, look at *The Predator* (released on Interscope) by Ice Cube, whose early N.W.A. stuff was all DIY. If Johnny Cash wrote the first rap song, congratulations DIY-hipsters, you just maybe commodified out-of-trunk LA and street corner NYC hip-hop for street cred for your noise "project."

**Nominees:** DIY, Norton Records, Interscope, DFA, Trouble & Bass, "they all suck"

**Last Year's Winner:** Vacancy Records

### ROCK 'N' ROLL DJ: Miss Guy

Maybe you heard him at last year's Nightlife Awards, maybe you have been following him since the 90s, as a DJ and rockstar [the Toilet Boys].

**Nominees:** Twig the Wonderkid, Michael T, Theo Kogan

### FEMALE HARD ROCK DJ: Lady Starlight

A write-in award, we are not sure that it makes any difference what equipment you have as a DJ, so long as you know how to use it. Just because you put a woman on a platform does not mean that everyone will like your Party. That goes for John McCain and Sarah Palin, too.

**Nominees:** Theo Kogan, Carin Shock, Shar Gorgiiss, Lauren Flax

### DJ: DJ Jess

So what if he plays too much Morrissey? Jess is the real deal, able to go from The Smiths to electro to mod to punk rock and back to The Smiths in just two steps: a double-shot of The Smiths.

**Nominees:** Jeremy (DJ Bastard), Jake Destroyer, VDRK, Dimitry!!!, Lauren Flax, Michael T, Twig the Wonderkid

**Last Year's Winner:** rekLES

## PARTY

### NEW PARTY: Disco Down

Hosted by the Glitter Kids, DJ Bastard's electro, disco, rawk party plays revisionist history — punk and disco getting along

**Nominees:** Girls & Boys, Mix reo-Type, Campout

**Last Year's Winner:** High Voltage

### PARTY: BYTE

If only every party could be a mix of play areas, pass-out worthy performances, fabulous costumes and songs that are not heard everywhere else.

**Nominees:** TRASH!, High Voltage, Trouble & Bass, Rated X, Six Six Sick, Fixed, Unstoppable Perfect, Subway Soul Club, The Pull-Out Method, Nacothèque, Stereo-Type, Cheeky Bastard, East Side Social Club, The Panty Raid

**Last Year's Winner:** FUN

### GAY NIGHT: Sundays at Hiro

One member of the Academy's "Friday (anywhere)" pretty much captures it, but what Sundays at Hiro does is say:

## PARTIES

### NEW PARTY: Disco Down

Hosted by the Glitter Kids, Twig the Wonderkid and DJ Bastard's electro, disco, rawk and indie Tuesday night party plays revisionist history to the Disco Demolition — punk and disco getting along?

**Nominees:** Girls & Boys, Minou, Ether, Bottoms Up!, Stereo-Type, Campout

**Last Year's Winner:** High Voltage