



TRAVEL

New York's luxury comeback

By Venetia Thompson



The Chatwal, which opened in September last year, marks a clear return to the sort of New York super-luxury that has been missing from Midtown for far too long. The circa-1905 Stanford White-designed building on 44thstreet was originally opened as the clubhouse for the Lambs, America's first professional theatre club. (Fred Astaire famously stated "When I was made a Lamb, I felt like I had been knighted.") The club now exists as a spectacular bar and restaurant under chef Geoffrey Zakarian. Unlike many hotel restaurants that seem to operate entirely independently and often at odds with the aesthetic of the hotel itself, The Lambs Club serves the kind of food and cocktails that you would want to be eating and drinking if you found yourself sat opposite Orson Welles in *Citizen Kane*: straight-up, no-messing-around drinks like the Gold Rush (hefty slosh of bourbon, lemon and honey) and a bang-on-the-money Old Fashioned. The cuisine is perfectly executed classics: veal sweetbreads, lamb loin, heritage pork chop. I was also excited to find two fish dishes that came with braised oxtail (the sturgeon) and slow-roasted pork belly (the Chatham cod) - making my perennial meat-or-fish dilemma that little bit easier.