

MY FAVORITE PLACE

By NEIL ROSEN



JACKIE CHAN

"I love the restaurant Nobu because my favorite food is sushi and they make the best sushi there. You would think, with my Asian roots, that when I come

to Manhattan, with all the great restaurants to choose from and with all the different cuisines, like Italian or Greek, that I would want something different to eat. But I always go with what I like the most, and Nobu does it the best for me."



LEA THOMPSON

"The Met is my favorite place in New York City. There's a particular painting there, from the late 1800s, that I've been in love with ever since I was a little girl. It's 'Joan of Arc' by

Jules Bastien-Lepage. Every time I go to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, I have to see that painting."

Party down in Chinatown

Ring in the Lunar New Year with a downtown bar binge

By KRISTA GARCIA

It seems like you were just singing "Auld Lang Syne" and here it is, New Year's Day again — at least in Chinatown. You've had a month to recuperate, so why not get wild and wooly tonight, the first day of the year of the sheep?

If you think Chinatown's only good for deals on wontons or dubious Louis Vuittons, you might be in for a Shanghai surprise. There's an abundance of cool Canal Street-area drinking spots perfect for people looking to party their way through the 15-day Chinese New Year celebration.

There's nothing sheepish about karaoke, and **Winnie's** is a good place to get oriented. You won't find any gangs of New York in this popular Five Points mainstay, just a shameless crowd swilling strong drinks and mas-sacring Bon Jovi standards.

Jami Gong, co-founder of ChinatownNYC.com and self-proclaimed ambassador of Chinatown, is bent on bringing arts and entertainment to the often overlooked neighborhood. One of his goals is to "eventually have a venue for people like Robin Williams and Jerry Seinfeld to do a set."

In the meantime, he's content hosting shows like "We Deliver Fun," a comedy, music and magic revue set for Thursday at the karaoke bar **Asia Roma**. This

mellow alternative to Winnie's is one of the few bars in the area that seems to attract locals as well as Lower East Siders.

Mehanata/416 B.C. is a must for the Slavic set and the hipsters who love them. If you've ever dreamed of dancing while taking in the aroma of fried dumplings in an Egyptian/Polynesian decor, to a mix of techno-hillbilly-Latin-zydeco-ska-rock music, you'd better pinch yourself.

Anything-goes fusion is the name of the game at this upstairs Romanian restaurant-cum-club. The eclectic Saturday night party will set you back \$10, which includes a drink if you show up before midnight. Ask for the Bulgarian beer Zagorka, and you'll be dancing on tables and chairs like a regular in no time.

If you go in for trendy taprooms with ironically incongruous awnings and sordid pasts, Chinatown's outskirts are for you. Way east, **Good World Bar and Grill** lurks beneath an old Chinese barbershop sign.

Don't be fooled: This Scandinavian hot spot is a magnet for the Occidental tourist. Feel free to sample its full menu and selection of aquavits, but on weekends, expect to be crammed in like a can of herring. Fridays and Saturdays, the smorgasbord of a crowd is there for the hip-hop and R&B, not the Swedish meatballs.

If Confucius says to keep on kicking it, head over to a whole different house



Shaking it on the dance floor at Mehanata/416 B.C. in the heart of Chinatown.

Jonathan Barth

party "Left," at **169 Bar**. Deejays Lee and Mark are spinning underground dance music tonight, as well as the first Saturday of every month.

Cap off the night at half-hidden **Happy Ending**. If you were sharp enough to see Good World wasn't really a barbershop, it should be obvious that this space is no longer a "health club" either.

The bathhouse-turned-bar titillates a young, slinky crowd that fills the red banquettes upstairs.

Singapore sling on your sharpest outfit, and check out the downstairs steam rooms converted into tiled booths. Don't worry, the dirtiest thing you'll find down there are the martinis.

Alternatively, you can double your pleasure at nearby **Double Happiness**, another sign-less lounge with a seedy history (mobster speakeasy, not sleazy brothel) from the same owners.

Finding Lunar New Year amusements after dark is no ancient Chinese secret, after all.

China syndrome



N.Y. Post: Tamara Beckwith

Mehanata/416 B.C.

416 Broadway, at Canal St.
(212) 625-0981

Asia Roma

40 Mulberry St., between Mosco and Bayard streets
(212) 385-1133

Happy Ending

302 Broome St., between Forsyth and Eldridge streets
(212) 334-9676

Winnie's

104 Bayard St., between Mulberry and Baxter streets
(212) 732-2384

Good World Bar & Grill

3 Orchard St., between Canal and Division streets
(212) 925-9975

169 Bar

169 E. Broadway, between Rutgers and Jefferson streets
(212) 473-8866

Double Happiness

173 Mott St., between Broome and Grand streets
(212) 941-1282

Sheep date

By CHRISTINA TAM

Don't put away those noisemakers just yet. It's time for the "other" New Year's bash — the celebration of the Chinese Lunar New Year in Chinatown this weekend.

Opening ceremonies begin on New Year's Day today at 11 a.m. at Chatham Square, at East Broadway between Mott Street and the Bowery. Festivities will include six lion dance troupes performing traditional dances, street performers, Chinese acrobats, live musicians and some (highly controlled) firecracker action.

On Sunday, the Lunar New Year parade will begin at 1 p.m. on Mott and Bayard streets, and for three hours will weave its way through Chinatown, along Canal Street, East Broadway, Division and Market streets, ending at Park Row.

There will be dragon dancers, a colorful procession of floats, marching bands, Chinese musicians and martial arts groups.

The celebration will continue through March 2. And it's all free.

For more information, call (212) 764-6330 or visit www.ccbany.org.