

# A Taste Of Mexico Along The Streets Of New York City



**Michael Alpiner** Contributor 

Travel

*I write with a journalist's mind and a poet's heart*



A bit of Mexico in Hell's Kitchen COURTESY OF CANTINA ROOFTOP

Finding reliable places to eat in any city ultimately has its highs and lows. In fact, since the city began its front window rating system in 2010, and with the growing popularity of sites like yelp.com, restaurant recommendations are more a matter of print than of simple word of mouth.

A strong personal recommendation for one of the best Mexican food experiences in New York City is [Cantina Rooftop](#) at 605 West 48th Street at 11th Avenue. The venue includes a bar, lounge and events space in addition to a rooftop bar which boasts admirable views of the city, a moderate noise level, and an atmosphere that does not overwhelm the diner with Mexican artifacts.



Lunchtime at Cantina Rooftop COURTESY OF CANTINA ROOFTOP

There is a casual aura here that is quite welcoming, accomplishing the sense that it might be a restaurant but it might also be the upper patio of a villa in Tijuana. Day of the Dead decorations, native flora, and a festive Mexican color scheme add just enough spice to the salsa for one to one to feel the Mexi-mood. Cantina Rooftop is also prepared for any weather conditions as it features a climate-controlled retractable glass ceiling.



Cantina Rooftop's retractable glass ceiling COURTESY OF CANTINA ROOFTOP

Chef Saul Montiel, a recent addition to the team, now heads the kitchen bringing new flavors to the already tasty menu. He was featured on Telemundo's "Al Rojo Vivo," and even appeared on the front page of El Diario. The menu features classic dishes such as guacamole, tacos, enchiladas and Mexicana-infused appetizers, all with Chef Montiel's unique and authentic creations which were inspired by his mother and grandmother, who have run a traditional Mexican "fonda" in his hometown of Hidalgo.

Cantina Rooftop is also the place to visit for expertly crafted cocktails using a select pick of premium tequilas and mezcals.