

THE STYLE + CULTURE ISSUE

TRAVEL
+ LEISURE

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TRIP TIPS

NEW YORK

◆► **WHY GO NOW** In December, Disney's musical *The Little Mermaid*, based on the feature-length animated film (itself drawn from Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale), splashes onto Broadway. The adaptation features Alan Menken and Howard Ashman's winning music and lyrics from the movie, plus 11 new songs by Menken and lyricist Glenn Slater. Director Francesca Zambello, known for her innovative opera stagings, and set designer George Tsypin and costumer Tatiana Noginova (both have created productions for the Met and the Mariinsky Theatre) form an ideal team to conjure up the magical kingdom beneath the sea and the human realm above. The cast includes stage veterans Norm Lewis (King Triton) and Sherie Rene Scott (Ursula, the sea witch), and Sierra Boggess, making her Broadway debut in the starring role. *Lunt-Fontanne Theatre; 212/307-4747; disneyonbroadway.com; opens Dec. 6.*—BILL ROSENFELD

◆► **STAY** New York's **Royalton** (44 W. 44th St.; 212/869-4400; royaltonhotel.com; doubles from \$590) reopens this month with a new look, thanks to former Hollywood production designers Roman & Williams. With 20 films under their belt, the two know drama: bronze fireplaces, rosewood furniture, and leather upholstery are their trademarks.

◆► **EAT** Opened by Craft veteran Marco Canora, **Insieme** (777 Seventh Ave.; 212/582-1310; dinner for two \$170) has a mix of modern and traditional cuisine, offering two menus—one classic Italian, the other contemporary.

◆► **DON'T MISS** Midtown is home to Broadway, but downtown remains a lab for creativity. The **Crown Point Festival** (crownpointfestival.org; Oct. 27–Nov. 17), on the Lower East Side, celebrates new theater and indie films.