

# BIRTHDAY TABLES:

*The best tonic for becoming another year older is celebrating with your group at the perfect party spot. But finding the right place shouldn't cause more discomfort than your age, so we've found the best large-party tables for every type of reveler—our gift, to you.*

## 1 FOR THE FOOD GROUPIE CAFÉ SELECT

Sit in the center of the action at the private table nestled in a roomy corner of the kitchen. Chef Jo Herde provides entertainment as he turns local ingredients into a multicourse, Swiss-influenced menu. After dinner, slip past the kitchen's back door and finish the celebration in the bunkerlike, semi-hidden lounge.

212 Lafayette St. (between Broome and Prince sts.); 212-925-9322 or [cafeselectnyc.com](http://cafeselectnyc.com)

*The chef's table holds up to 10 people; a four-course menu is \$55 a person; alcohol based on consumption; custom birthday cakes available.*



## 2 FOR THE WINE SNOB L'ARTUSI

Surround yourself with friends, loved ones and Italy's finest grapes at L'Artusi, where the glass-enclosed wine cellar is the perfect setting to enjoy chef Gabe Thompson's refined Italian food. Craft your own menu for up to 16 people and make toasts with selections from wine director Joe Campanale's impeccable all-Italian list.

228 W. 10th St. (between Bleecker and Hudson sts.); 212-255-5757 or [lartusi.com](http://lartusi.com)

*The wine cellar holds up to 16 people; four, five, and nine-course menus are \$75, \$90 and \$150, respectively; alcohol based on consumption.*



## 3 FOR THE MEATHEAD SHAKE SHACK

Dreading adding another candle on the cake? Feed your inner child in the wood-paneled rec room below the Shack's UWS location, where you'll gorge on burgers, hotdogs and fries. Ideal for big parties, the room comes equipped with a stereo (BYO iPod) and flat-screen TV, and the passed milkshakes will make you and your guests feel young at heart. Plus, everyone walks away with a \$10 gift card.

366 Columbus Ave. (at 77th St.); 646-747-8770 or [shakeshacknyc.com](http://shakeshacknyc.com)

*The rec room holds up to 38 people; \$500 room fee for 90 minutes and \$600 food and drink minimum; \$30 a person includes food, passed mini milkshakes, frozen-custard station and unlimited soft drinks.*



## 4 FOR THE ROMANTIC BOBO

You can indulge in all of your artist's-garret fantasies by booking the secret dining room atop this West Village townhouse, away from the raucous scene below. With multitudes of flickering votives and exposed brick, the room matches the rest of Bobo's handsome décor. In the adjacent kitchen, chef Patrick Connolly will prepare a five-course, French-Asian inspired menu for up to 16 people. Step out onto the terrace for some fresh air between rounds of cocktails mixed tableside.

181 W. 10th St. (at Seventh Ave.); 212-488-2626 or [bobonyc.com](http://bobonyc.com)

*The private dining room holds up to 16 people; a five-course menu is approx. \$100 a person; alcohol based on consumption.*



## 5 FOR THE WANDERLUSTER TÍA POL

If you can't make it to that dreamy destination for your birthday this year, book the back room of this tiny Chelsea spot. The small plates are perfect for sharing with big groups, and the bold Spanish flavors will transport you to the Mediterranean much faster than an eight-hour flight.

205 10th Ave. (between 22nd and 23rd sts.); 212-675-8805 or [tiapol.com](http://tiapol.com)

*The back room holds up to 15 people; a choice of six small plates is \$45 a person; a choice of six small plates and one shared entrée is \$65 a person.*



PHOTO: CAMILLE DOMAINE