A New York By Rail Exclusive!

THE BEST IN THE
BIG APPLE

New York City's top concierges reveal their favorite places to eat, drink, shop and be entertained

New York By Rail surveyed members of the New York City Association of Hotel Concierges to find out what's trending in the city. Here are the current hotspots from those who tell others where to go, exclusively for readers of New York By Rail:

Illustrations by Michael Mantel

WATCH MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE AT:

#1 *Columbus Circle*

"A big clearing that provides the best view of the balloons. Some restaurants around there also have views so you can avoid the cold."

"One of the few spots where you won't have the limited space of a narrow sidewalk or a building behind you. You also have the added advantage of watching the floats coming down Central Park West and making the turn onto Central Park South."

"Since you are closer to the start, the parade ends early so you won't be in the cold for too long. "

"Get there early and dress according to the weather report. Don't forget to take care of Mother Nature's needs prior to going. There are no facilities."

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Blue Bird of London
"In the Time Warner Building. It has the best view of the parade as it turns onto Central Park South. It's three stories up, the best height to watch it all. Get an aerial view of Columbus Circle and great prices."

American Museum of Natural History
"Forego the actual parade and watch the balloons get inflated the night before! On Thanksgiving Eve around 5:00 p.m., watch Charlie Brown, SpongeBob and Spiderman come to life!"

Herald Square
"Always stands out as the best place to watch the live performances. You can really feel the full effect of the parade."

50's off Sixth Avenue
"The sidewalks are wider, and access is easier, as several of the buildings have large courtyards. You are not as penned in as you would be further south."

Wayfarer
"A fabulous brunch on Thanksgiving morning with a great view of the parade."