

PLUS: 2015 EVENT STYLE AWARD WINNERS & FINALISTS

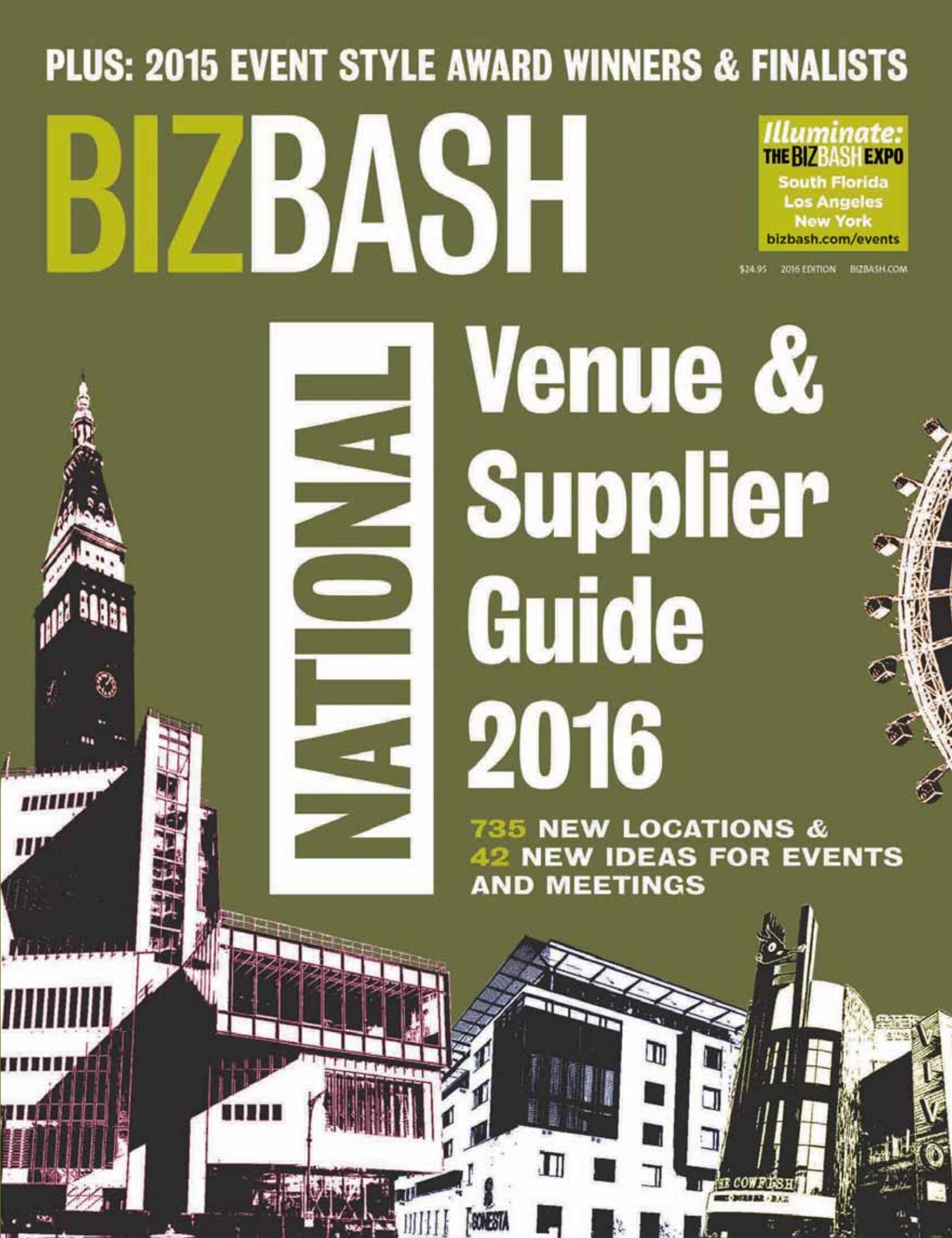
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NATIONAL

Venue & Supplier Guide 2016

735 NEW LOCATIONS &
42 NEW IDEAS FOR EVENTS
AND MEETINGS



1 Kings of Queens

A quick subway ride from Manhattan, Queens offers interesting new spaces for events and meetings.

The **Bonnie** restaurant in Astoria opened a new outdoor space called the Bar Garden in May. The 100-person venue features custom wood tables, a retractable awning, and an on-site herb garden that bartenders have access to when mixing the botanically inspired cocktails. Chef Shaun Vanalphen also introduced a new menu in 2015 that includes items such as striped bass ceviche, soft-shell crab sandwiches, and wild mushroom cubano. (29-12 23rd Ave., Queens, 718.274.2105, thebonnie.com)

Z NYC Hotel in Long Island City redesigned its lower-level restaurant and lounge space and brought in a new restaurant concept. The new eatery, Villa Enrico, opened in May and focuses on Italian seafood and fresh pastas. The space seats 120 or holds 200 for receptions. For semiprivate dinners, drapes can section off areas of the dining room. The redesign also moved the bar to the front room in a dedicated lounge space, where the owners also added a sushi bar. Large groups can also meet on the rooftop, which has panoramic views of the Manhattan skyline; it holds 200 for receptions. The hotel also has a 500-square-foot meeting room. (11-01 43rd Ave., Queens, 212.319.7000, zhotelny.com)

BROOKLYN BEAT

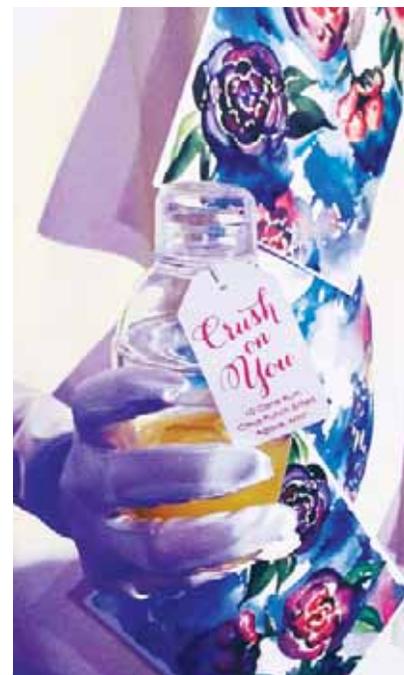
New York's ever-popular borough offers a diverse array of venues.

The **New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge** unveiled its redesigned ballrooms and meeting space in September, the latest chapter in a \$43 million renovation to the borough's largest hotel. Other improvements to the downtown Brooklyn property include a redesign of the M Club Lounge and the industrial-chic Bar. Overall, the hotel has more than 40,000 square feet of meeting space. The renovations, including updates to all 667 rooms, are slated to finish in 2016. (333 Adams St., Brooklyn, 718.246.7000, marriott.com)

With views of Brooklyn skyline, **Kimoto Rooftop Beer Garden** opened in September atop the Aloft New York Brooklyn hotel. Designed with a clean and modern aesthetic, the space features blond wood tables, stools, and curving benches as well as landscaping that combines some 100 species of plants. The menu from chef Brian Tsao features a mix of Asian and American comfort

foods such as the Spam sushi dog—a Spam “hot dog” rolled in sushi rice and nori—and Shibuya disco fries topped with beef brisket, jalapeño, daikon chili, garlic sour cream, and sriracha. The beer list features 20 craft brews that are either local, Asian, or made with Asian ingredients. The venue has 110 seats on the outdoor terrace and 115 seats indoors, including in a private dining room that seats 30 and adjoins a zen rock garden. (216 Duffield St., Brooklyn, 718.858.8940, kimoto-rooftop.com)

For event planners who want a blank slate, **Redwood Studios** is a 5,000-square-foot warehouse in the Gowanus neighborhood of Brooklyn. The space has two built-in bars, a green room, full kitchen, and a sound system, stage, and lights. The venue opened for events in May and holds 350 for receptions. (55 9th St., Brooklyn, 603.831.1226, redwoodstudiosnewyork.com)



CATERING

The edible art installation from Stamford, Connecticut-based **Marcia Selden Catering & Event Planning** (203.353.8000, marciaselden.com) is a conversation starter for holiday parties, corporate events, and other gatherings. The interactive food and beverage station includes behind-the-scenes staff, who wear long white gloves and hand out menu items, like the “Apple-y Ever After” cocktail at the Knot gala (pictured), through holes in a hanging curtain. Pricing is available upon request. —M.L.