

JUST OPENED



Barca lounge College students are notoriously broke—which explains why so few ambitious, mid-priced restaurants crop up around NYU. God knows how much plasma would have to be sold to pay for a sea-bass fillet. To be clear, **Barca**, a new Mediterranean restaurant, is not aimed at students, despite its location. The velvet-curtained, brick-walled space wends over two floors: a dining room upstairs and a late-night multiroom lounge (with DJ) below. The menu offers trout stuffed with serrano ham, cilantro and lemon; chill-rubbed pork loin; and spiced couscous topped with seafood. For the less hungry (or the poor) among us, tapas start at \$5. 222 Thompson St between Bleecker and W 3rd Sts (212-420-0808).—Reed Tucker