

# RAISE THE ROOF

Well-staged rooftop venues kick off as the sun goes down, adding stylish intimacy to post-workday events and meetings.

#### By Michael J. Solender

Savvy planners know that when a meeting's finished for the day, important networking and valued connections are made during social, casual, pre-dinner mixers. Even as COVID-19 abates, meeting-goers continue to be keen on social distancing and fresh air-infused event space. For sweeping vistas, dramatic cityscapes and setups that encourage flow, it's hard to beat the top floor. Here are 10 rooftop venues across the United States to consider for your next alfresco gathering.

#### 1. Merchant & Trade at Kimpton Tryon Park Hotel Charlotte. N.C.

Merchant & Trade (merchantandtrade.com) delivers 4,500 square feet of sleek rooftop space at this 19-story-high overlook in the heart of uptown Charlotte. Guests get the VIP treatment with private entry and express elevator, indoor-outdoor flow, outdoor fire pits, gas-fired sconces and skyline views of the burgeoning Queen City skyline, including Romare Bearden Park and Truist Field, home of the Charlotte Knights. The venue accommodates up to 250 for receptions or 100 for seated affairs. Rates vary based on the type of event and season.

#### 2. Beacon Social Drinkery at Luminary Hotel & Co. Fort Myers, Fla.

Newly opened in the fall of 2020, Beacon Social



Drinkery crowns the Luminary (luminaryhotel.com), the area's first hotel in Marriott's Autograph Collection. Nearly 1,600 square feet of 12th-floor rooftop event space overlooking the marina and the Caloosahatchee River hosts receptions only of up to 80 guests. Rates are based upon F&B minimums, plus day and duration of use.

## 3. Tanner's Treehouse at Pasea Hotel & Spa Huntington Beach, Calif.

Everyone loves a treehouse, and Tanner's Treehouse (meritagecollection.com/pasea-hotel) rekindles childhood joy with swinging chairs, cozy cabanas and plush sofas overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Host up to 156 guests at this 2,200-sq.-ft. escape. Full and partial buyout rates range from \$25,000 on weekdays to \$100,000 on weekends, plus F&B minimums. The 250-room Pasea Hotel & Spa has direct beach access and 35,000 square feet of flexible meeting space.

### 4. ION Rooftop Patio and L.A. Live Pool Sundeck at JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. Live Los Angeles

Stunning two-for-one venues at JW Marriott Los Angeles (marriott.com) offer planners multiple California-cool setups accessing 12,000 square feet of space split between the pool sun deck and ION Rooftop Patio. Situated in the downtown core, the property is only steps from the Los Angeles

Convention Center. Seated events accommodate 100 where the hotel's fourth-floor pool deck features spectacular views of downtown, a heated swimming pool, a hot tub and a sun deck with loungers and cabanas. Full and partial buyouts range between \$20,000 and \$40,000, plus F&B minimums.

#### Alto at The MC Hotel Montclair, N.J.

Captivating views of Montclair and the New York City skyline welcome groups from Alto, an all-season rooftop featuring over 3,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor space within The MC Hotel (themchotel.com). Host up to 100 guests (60 outdoors, 40 indoors) for receptions and seated events. Buyouts of 30 or more guests range from \$5,000 to \$10,000, depending on the day of the week and menu selections.

#### 6. Rosie's on the Roof at the Higgins Hotel & Conference Center New Orleans

This Rosie the Riveter-themed rooftop bar and lounge oozes nostalgia in the heart of the New Orleans Arts and Warehouse District, and provides sweeping views of the city's skyline as well as a glimpse of a bygone era. A member of Curio Collection by Hilton, the Higgins Hotel & Conference Center (hilton.com) is styled with original World War II artifacts, such as Gen. George S. Patton's piano and a 48-star American flag, and offers convenient access to some of New

Orleans' top attractions, including The National WWII Museum and the French Quarter. Rosie's accommodates 175 for receptions or 140 seated. Weekday buyouts start at \$4,000.

#### 7. Gansevoort Rooftop at **Gansevoort Meatpacking New York City**

With 360-degree views of Manhattan, including a clear view of the newly developed Little Island at Pier 55, Gansevoort Rooftop at Gansevoort Meatpacking (gansevoorthotelgroup.com) delivers for event planners with distinctive spaces and options including the Loft, North Terrace and the Greenhouse. There's a total of more than 6,200 square feet of space, accommodating up to 240 for receptions or 133 for seated affairs. Buyouts include minimum F&B spends and range from \$55,000 to \$125,000-plus.

### 8. Perch 360 at the Wyvern Hotel Punta Gorda, Fla.

Guests of Perch 360 (perch360.com) enjoy views of the royal palm-lined avenues of Punta Gorda and the impressive yachts moored in Charlotte Harbor at this boutique hotel rooftop haunt. With 2,800 square feet of space, 125 guests can be hosted for both receptions and seated events. Fire pits and cozy nooks make catching Florida's sunsets alongside a tapas-style menu and craft cocktails a simple task. Full and partial buyouts are offered at flexible rates (starting at \$1,500) midweek.

#### 9. The Moon's Daughters at Thompson San Antonio - Riverwalk San Antonio

Newly opened in February, Thompson San Antonio -Riverwalk is home to the Riverwalk's hottest rooftop venue inspired by the Greek moon goddess, Selene. The Moon's Daughters (themoonsdaughters.com) accommodates 200 guests for receptions or 150 guests seated, with 5,000 square feet overlooking downtown San Antonio and the fabled Riverwalk from 20 stories up high. Partial buyouts start at \$20,000, while full buyouts start at \$40,000.

#### 10. Myrtle & Rose Rooftop Garden, Moon Deck at Electric Moon Skytop Lounge at JW Marriott Savannah Plant Riverside District (SPRD) Savannah, Ga.

The newly opened SPRD (plantriverside.com), located in the heart of historic Savannah, hosts a pair of rooftop venues: Moon Deck with 3,156 square feet can host 210 for receptions and 180 seated, while Myrtle & Rose Rooftop Garden hosts 180 for receptions only with 5,191 square feet. Full buyouts begin at \$10,000, plus F&B minimums.

















