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New NYC Restaurant: Naya

Where: 1057 2nd Ave. [\[map\]](#), New York, NY, United States

October 8, 2008 at 1:00 PM | by [BS](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)



New York has an annoying tendency to take every rustic ethnic cuisine and turn it into a high-end eating experience. Sometimes it's completely unwanted--do we really need **\$1000 paella**?--but sometimes it works.

On the "it works" front: **Naya** a "futuristic" Lebanese restaurant just opened in Midtown East. The shimmering white-and silver design is so nightclub-y that you're forgiven for being skeptical of their food credentials.

But the menu makes it clear that the East Side is ready for Lebanese. Look for pan-seared halloumi cheese seasoned with pomegranate sauce, tomatoes and olives; Lebanese-style steak tartar with bulgur, onion and mint; and Lebanese milk pudding flavored with orange blossom water.

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[Photo: Naya]