

# Gossip and the city

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“Gossip Girl” is finally back, reuniting eager fans with the love-hate antics of best frenemies Serena and Blair. Want to get a taste of the “Gossip Girl” life? Head to one of these featured NYC spots, where you can relive the lies, the drama and the drinking.

(Cristina Velocci)



## Barrio Chino

**Spotted:** One-time wild child Serena (along with Blair) stumbling out of Barrio Chino on Thanksgiving Day in a flashback, presumably after imbibing one too many habañero, blood-orange or grapefruit margaritas made with fresh-squeezed juice and served with sugared rims.

The intimate LES favorite borrows elements from both its cultural influences, blending Latin food and drinks with Chinese decor and boasts over 50 types of tequila stocked behind the bar.

Between the house-made red sangria, three varieties of caipirinhas, and shots of infused tequila followed by fiery sangrita chasers, you begin to understand how easy it is to narrowly avoid being hit by a cab like a drunken Serena. **253 Broome St. between Orchard and Ludlow sts. 212-228-6710**



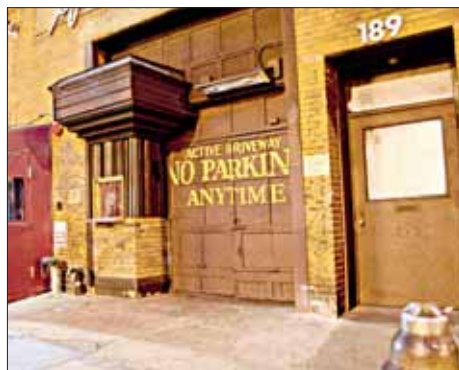
## Marquee

**Spotted:** Blair, her cronies and Jenny Humphrey at west Chelsea’s Marquee, where the annual Waldorf sleepover — and a vicious game of Truth or Dare — has ended up.

Though it’s a tad far-fetched that the whole slew of privileged high schoolers made their way past the velvet ropes, the hedge-funder hitting on Blair is entirely plausible, seeing as they’re never in short supply and can usually be found buying bottles at the banquettes surrounding the dance floor on weekend nights.

Don’t expect to be able to carry on a phone conversation under the dramatic, color-changing, glass-beaded chandelier in the main room like J did, let alone hear yourself think over the music’s blare.

**289 10th Ave. between 26th and 27th sts. 646-473-0202**



## The Box

**Spotted:** Reserved Blair taking the stage and performing a striptease for Chuck at his burlesque club “Victrola,” which is actually LES’ The Box.

The vaudeville-style cabaret shows that go down in this 1935 two-story brick building and former sign factory, can be racier than the revelation of Ms. Waldorf’s silky chemise would suggest, but it is network TV.

Decked to perfection with balustrades shielded by velvet curtains, Prohibition-era bottles and jewel-encrusted chandeliers, the super-selective joint has some serious showbiz pedigree and is an homage to the days when glamorous dinner theater, circus acts and exceptional performances ruled and patrons dined and drank in style.

And in true fashion, style doesn’t come cheap: Expect to throw down a decent amount of bank for guaranteed entrance.

**189 Chrystie St. at Rivington Street. 212-982-9301**



## Butai

**Spotted:** Chuck swilling whiskey solo at the front bar of modest Japanese restaurant Butai, when a beleaguered Blair sits down next to him, waving a white flag and looking for consolation. Too bad she’s about to be as grilled and skewered (like many small plates found on the menu), as Chuck deadpans, “You held a certain fascination when you were beautiful, delicate and untouched, but now you’re like one of the Arabians my father used to own: rode hard and put away wet.” Oh snap.

Blair leaves wordlessly, though she probably could’ve used a carafe of the restaurant’s outstanding ginger-cucumber sangria after that one.

**115 E. 18th St. between Park Ave. S. and Irving Pl. 212-387-8885**

## Is ‘Gossip Girl’ a remade ‘O.C.’?

 By Molly Lambert  
 Metromix.com

When “The O.C.” was canceled after four seasons, it created a void in the teen soap universe that even “Veronica Mars” couldn’t fill. Luckily, “O.C.” creator Josh Schwartz got hooked up with adapting dirty teen lit super-series “Gossip Girl,” and apparently the transition from one nouveau-riche milieu to another proved so smooth Schwartz barely bothered coming up with new characters. Don’t believe us? See for yourself.

### Blair Waldorf = Summer Roberts

Rich, popular and totally bitchy, Blair, right, and Summer are the head Heathers of their respective coastal cliques. Because they’re evil, they have shiny brunette hair. And because the actresses playing them (Leighton Meister and Rachel Bilson) are way more adorable and charming and interesting than the good girl characters, somehow Blair and Summer end up being infinitely more sympathetic than they ought to be.



### Serena van der Woodsen = Marissa Cooper

Serena van der Woodsen, bad-girl-gone-good, has more in common with “The O.C.’s” Marissa Cooper than dirty blonde hair and a penchant for odd line readings. Serena (Blake Lively) and Marissa (Mischa Barton) both play virginal ice queens with a seriously slutty streak. So far Serena’s hooked up with her supposed BFF Blair’s boyfriend Nate, while Marissa cut a swatch through Orange Country that engulfed water polo Adonis Luke, Chino bad boy Ryan and lesbian hottie Alex.

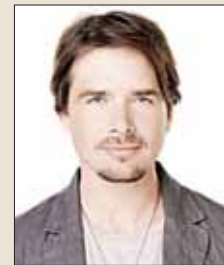
### Dan Humphrey = Seth Cohen, with a dash of Ryan Atwood

Dan Humphrey is the Upper East Side’s resident outsider, taking on the dual aspects of “The O.C.’s” anima and animus: Seth Cohen and Ryan Atwood. Dan lives in Brooklyn, the “Gossip Girl” equivalent of Ryan Atwood’s humble Chino origins. And like Ryan, Dan interlopes into the upper class via a well-heeled dirty blonde girlfriend.

### Chuck Bass = Oliver Trask

Chuck Bass (Ed Westwick) is the kind of comically evil villain who becomes an instant fan favorite because, let’s face it, bad guys get all the best lines. Not so well-loved was Oliver Trask (Taylor Handley), who totally infuriated viewers and quickly became the most hated character in the “O.C.” universe. Was it because he brought so many arbitrary plot devices? Or because nobody cared about his crush Marissa Cooper’s storylines?

### Rufus Humphrey = Sandy Cohen



Sandy Cohen was “The O.C.’s” resident “cool dad” and a fount of wisdom for the younger generation. “Gossip” dad Rufus Humphrey (Matthew Settle), left, is considerably less folksy and warm, perhaps because while Sandy had a career in law to fall back on, former alt-rocker Rufus is less glamorously employed. Also, Rufus struggles to raise his two kids while he courts old flame Lily van der Woodsen, the mother of his son Dan’s current girlfriend Serena (ick!). Damning accessory: Rufus rocks a leather choker necklace, which we assume is a shout-out to Ryan Atwood’s similar choice of man-jewelry on “The O.C.”