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LODGING

NEW HOTELS OPENING IN NEW YORK CITY THIS FALL

It seems odd that New York, where existing hotels are groveling for guests during the down economy, is seeing an upsurge in openings this fall, but here we go:

For the hip customer who wants a real neighborhood, New York's first Indigo just opened in Chelsea at 127 W. 28th St. (between Sixth and Seventh avenues). Indigo is known for its upbeat, colorful rooms with plush bedding and free wireless. (I've stayed in the Dallas one and enjoyed it.) New York Indigo's Blu restaurant (Chef Roberto Bellissimo is formerly of Le Cirque) and rooftop Glass Bar promise to be popular. Rates start at \$224. Call 877-846-3446 or visit www.ichotelsgroup.com.

For the luxury market, the Surrey opens this weekend on the Upper East Side at 20 E. 76th St. The concept is a beaux arts townhouse, but with contemporary elements (like wireless and a good bed). The hotel's filled with art and edgy furniture; it has a rooftop English garden and a spa; and the room service is from Daniel Boulud's fabulous Café Boulud. The opening special, good through March 31, is \$629 per night. Mention the code "intro" at 800-978-7739 or visit www.thesurrey.com.