



MAISON PREMIERE, NEW YORK

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298 Bedford Ave, Brooklyn, New York, US

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The décor is turn-of-the-19th-century, with cues taken from the ritzy bars, restaurants and hotels of New Orleans, New York and Paris, while the menu has more than a boozy leaning towards these cities' drinking histories. Combined with the French-American seafood menu, this place groans with classical decadence.

For many the attraction is the oysters. Shucked and sucked into oblivion, these slimy morsels are coaxed on their way with fine Old World wines and classic cocktails - but there is also the gamut of straight-up absinthes, rums and American whiskeys to choose from.

The altar of Maison Premiere is the horseshoe-shaped bar under a pink marble slab that supports a considerable absinthe fountain - a nod to the Old Absinthe House in New Orleans.

To the creative conflation of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and the more discerning of New York's celebrity classes, this is the place to be transported back to another time while remaining in the safety of a neighbourhood bar.