



Travel BROADWAY **CAROLINES** on Broadway REVIEW

— By Mike Cohen



Carolines will assist patrons with special needs to enter and leave the premises.

For years I have walked by **CAROLINES** on **BROADWAY**, promising myself that I would one day check out this world-famous comedy club.
www.carolines.com

I finally did book a dinner and show package on a Saturday evening. I arrived at 5:45 p.m., checked in and was shown to a nice table in the club where veteran server Alfred took my order – some crispy fresh-cut zucchini chips to start and a main course of grilled salmon and roasted potatoes. I sat beside a nice couple from New Jersey. Christina shared her culinary insights with me and before the lights closed, I was following this mom of four on Instagram (Christina.Katers). The menu has a nice variety of choices; appetizers such as calamari, nachos, shrimp cocktail and onion rings to a selection of salads and sandwiches, pastas, chicken and steaks. For dessert you can choose from strawberry shortcake, apple tart and chocolate cake, all served with ice cream. Of course, there is a full liquor and cocktail menu.

Carolines first opened as a small cabaret club in New York's Chelsea neighborhood in 1982. Owner **Caroline Hirsch**, a lifelong comedy fan, soon began booking comedians. The comedy acts – which included now legendary performers like **Jerry Seinfeld**, **Tim Allen**, **Billy Crystal**, **Rosie O'Donnell** and **Jay Leno** – were a tremendous success. As the popularity of stand-up surged

throughout the 1980s, so did the popularity of **Carolines**, which was becoming **THE** place to see live comedy in New York City.

Located in the heart of Times Square, **Carolines** on Broadway presents the very best live comedy entertainment seven nights a week. Just steps from many of Broadway's most well-known theatres, **Carolines** on Broadway provides the same quality entertainment that is customary on New York's legendary Great White Way. On the night I went the headliner was the star of TV and motion pictures **Sinbad**.

For dinner and show packages, food is à la carte. You do receive priority seating in the showroom when you have dinner before the show in the supper lounge. Just arrive at the time of your reservation and you will receive your tickets to the show. If, however, you miss your dinner reservation before the show, they will not be able to hold the reserved seats for you in the showroom. It's first come, first placed.

Carolines on Broadway is a wheelchair accessible venue. Just contact the box office prior to the show at (212) 757-4100 for instructions. They will lead

you to a specific entrance with an elevator and staff will escort you to your seat. It is located at 1626 Broadway, between 49th and 50th Streets in Times Square.

WHERE TO STAY: When planning our trips to New York City, only one place to stay appears on our list and that is the historic **Algonquin Hotel** (www.algonquin-hotel.com). Located on 44th Street near 6th Avenue, it is a mere block and a half from Times Square. In 2020 a series of renovations will commence. There is another reason why I love this hotel. When we travel, we board our cat and miss her every second. The **Algonquin** is home to **Hamlet VIII**, a three-and-a-half year-old orange cat. **Hamlet** has his own Twitter and Instagram accounts, as well as an email account. Based on the timeline of a book written by the hotel's first general manager, the lineage of The **Algonquin Cat** dates back to the early 1920s.

The **Algonquin** first opened its doors in 1902. Today, it is part of the Marriott chain's Autograph Collection, an evolving ensemble of strikingly independent hotels. Each destination has been selected for its quality, bold originality, rich character, and uncommon details. The result is an array of proper-

ties that is nothing less than unique. The **Algonquin Hotel** was the first New York City property to become a part of the collection.

Each of the 181 rooms and 25 suites features a comfortable well-lit work desk, as well as complimentary Wi-Fi. We stayed in a very comfortable one-bedroom Playbill Suite. The layout was ideally suited for us. There is a nice sized entrance, with the master bedroom to the left featuring a nice-sized bathroom. The spacious living room has a pullout couch, a large desk which was perfect for me to write my stories and good drawer and cupboard space. You can get a fridge and a microwave, depending upon availability and on request.

The **Algonquin**, its bar and restaurant, have easy access for wheelchairs from the street. There is valet parking. The hotel has six ADA rooms and one ADA suite. There are two elevators. Staff are very helpful and friendly.

The **Algonquin Hotel** is located at 59 W 44th Street, New York, New York 10036. www.algonquinhotel.com. Info: 212-840-6800.

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