



**James Mulcahy**

*New York at Night*

## HAPPY HOUR BECOMES FREE FOOD HOUR

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In these lean times, don't you want to get fat on free appetizers at happy hour? I know I do, especially because it leaves more money to stretch out on the drink specials. The recently opened [Indigo Hotel](#) knows that you don't have the big bucks to spend, and they won't make you decide between the two staples of life (food and cocktails).



During their Italian style happy hour, the Hotel's restaurant Blu is supplying the food for free. Snacks like buttermilk crispy chicken, rice balls with cheese, and sliced Serrano ham with homemade flat breads will line the bar so you can stop worrying about your wallet and get your drink on in peace.

And don't worry, this isn't the "free buffet" of stale tortilla chips and an empty salsa can that you'd find at your local Mexican restaurant. Blu's Chef is Roberto Bellissimo, formerly of Le Cirque 2000. The little secret behind this happy hour deal? The food is so good that you wouldn't mind paying for it.

And, what would happy hour be without some drink deals (mediocre hour, at best)? A few of Blu's cocktails will run half price. Their libations are also inspired by Italy. You can get a Limoncello Martini (Limoncello and Skyy Berry) or Grappa Prosecco (bubbly with a sugar cube soaked in grappa) for only \$6.

The deal runs from 5 – 7 PM on Monday – Friday, so it's a great way to either end your day of gallery going or start your night out at the Chelsea clubs. The Indigo Hotel is located at 127 West 28th Street. Isn't it nice to be able to save your money for the important things, like more drinks?