



**Script - New York Times Video:**

**36 Hours in Central Park, New York**

Central Park is a rare, rare, imaginative creation that works. It's 900 acres of incredible beauty. And even as a New Yorker for so long, I haven't yet scratched the surface of the park.

Central Park is the back yard for all New Yorkers.

It's such a contrast to New York City, and I love that it's in the center of the city. It's just such a great compliment to the urban jungle that we have.

I love being in Central Park and looking up, and feeling like I am so far out of the city and yet I can see the skyscrapers all around me.

I can't think of a better setting in New York than being in the Boathouse for lunch overlooking the lake. It has been described as a Monet painting, idyllic setting; an oasis of calm in the city of New York.

One of my favorite meal periods, actually, is lunch. And Nougatine really caters itself to that. You know, we have a great prefix menu that we offer which allows you to taste a variety of Jean Georges' dishes in a really comfortable format. I see a lot of guest who come to visit Central Park and then they'll come over to have lunch with us, either on the terrace overlooking the park or even here, right in the dining room by the windows.

We're here in our Salon, which is right off the main dining room. It's an area the guests can come in without a reservation and just enjoy a one-plate meal or more. It's really an a la carte menu, where you don't have to commit to a full tasting menu. We feature a highly designed restaurant atop the museum, with beautiful wines, sexy cocktails, delicious cuisine... oh, and a view, a fantastic view looking over Columbus Circle, up Broadway and over Central Park.

The Central Park Zoo is a really unique place. It's something that appeared early in the life of Central Park. The zoo is this green oasis in the middle of the busy

city. You can really lose yourself in the tropics of the tropic building, feel the chill when you're in the penguin exhibit watching Antarctic penguins.

This is a city that's constantly growing and changing. Each of the exhibitions explores the themes that we think define the city: Money, diversity, density, creativity. And creativity is really what defines New York city.

Every time we do come here there's always something new for us. Central Park is a mecca for bird watching because we're on the migratory flyways. There are beautiful birds here in Central Park. You won't see any of these birds even one block away from the park. It's kind of amazing. It's my way of trying to connect with nature in the middle of the big city. I feel much happier.

There's two United Nations. One is the Plaza and one is the United Nations on forty-fourth street. Everybody's here, every-all walks of life come here. People come and visit from Kansas, people from Japan. It's just a beautiful place to sit and have a fantastic cocktail. There's a sense of space and sense of grandeur. I think that, for me, is why it just attracts people.

The view is sort of, you know, your quintessential New York Central Park view. You're really just right above the tree level. Our cocktail offering is really focused on fresh ingredients. Whatever is in season. We love to use fresh mint. All of our juices are fresh pressed.

We have a broad range of Jazz music that plays here at Dizzy's. Straight ahead jazz, swinging jazz music, modern jazz music, there's big band music, there's Latin music, there's music from the Caribbean, and late night sessions we have some dancing too. When jazz artists perform the backdrop is Central Park, which is great. If they're performing a ballad or an up-tempo song, it definitely lends to the atmosphere. I mean it's an amazing park. It's arguably the best in the world, I'd say. I'd say the best in the world, but you know, I'm a New Yorker.