



FOOD | By ERIC WILSON | JUNE 24, 2010

Now Opening | The Standard's Stairway to Heaven



Le Bain, the Standard Hotel's new rooftop bar.

Daniel Barry for The New York Times

With rooftop bars popping up across the city skyline with dizzying frequency this summer, none has managed to stir up more getting-on-the-list finagling than Le Bain at the Standard Hotel, where the 18th floor lounge (informally known as the Boom Boom Room) was already considered the ultimate velvet rope to cross even before it had an open-air addition.

The space, which they are calling Le Bain, lives up to the hype. When it opened last night for a preview

party coordinated by “the two Andrés” – as in André Balazs, the Standard’s puppet-master, and André Saraiva, the club roi of Paris – guests entered through a service elevator that opened onto a well-chlorinated pool/bar featuring two topless women cavorting underwater, before climbing up a stairwell cluttered with graffiti, passing a vending machine selling bathing suits (\$75 for board shorts?) until reaching their final destination an oasis of lush fake-grass, pink waterbeds and a commanding view of New Jersey.

The preview crowd was decidedly mixed between fashion gays and art stars, but it portended a certain recipe for future access: Ladies, do your best to look like Taylor Momsen at her most irritated; gents, subscribe to the Pierre et Gilles school of modeling immediately.

Standard Hotel; 444 West 13th Street; standardhotels.com. Rooftop open from noon to midnight daily. Pool room stays open until 4 a.m. daily. André Saraiva will host a party there three nights a week.

