



**August 24, 2009**

## Big in Japan

Monday, August 24, 2009 by Jason Oliver Nixon.

Oh, how the past week was a whirl! Go, go, go and go, and I sort of like it that way. I figure that I can sleep when I am dead, n'est-ce pas?

[Manhattan's Maritime Hotel](#) is one of my favorite summer go-to spots for cocktails al fresco at its La Bottega restaurant (sitting under the bobbing lights beneath the stars is dreamy delicious), and I certainly imbibed a glass (or three!) with my pals from David Yurman. From there it was downstairs to the hotel's super-stylish—but unaffected—[Matsuri restaurant](#). I am crazy for the décor at this swanky spot, from the stunning, oversized lanterns hanging overhead to the slatted ceilings. But it's the cooking that's the real star at Matsuri, and, frankly, the prices cannot be beat. I suggest ordering from the tapas-like "Sakana" menu and sharing fabulous fare, such as the deep-fried sesame chicken with spicy mayo (\$8), the shrimp potstickers (\$10) and baby back ribs (\$13). Where else in Chelsea can you eat so well—and for so little cash?



Glamorous digs and gorgeous eats at Matsuri, my favorite go-to spot for sharing swanky eats in the heart of Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood.