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NEW YORK

July 10, 2010

Real Housewives of NYC, Ramona Singer hosts the opening of **Covet Restaurant & Lounge**

Bravo TV's network reality stars from the hit series, *The Real Housewives of New York City*, Ramona and Mario Singer hosted the opening of Covet Restaurant & Lounge in midtown Manhattan last week. Ramona Singer posed for the photographers and mentioned her new jewelry line. The long line stretched from the velvet ropes down 55th Street and around the corner onto Lexington Avenue, as the well-heeled crowd and media members waited anxiously to enter the heavy wooden doors of Covet, East Midtown's first uber-lounge. Once inside, the mix in ambiance was designed for attracting celebrities, models, politicians, foodies, the financial set and fashionistas. Over 250 people attended the swanky fête and were treated to scrumptious cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.



Covet is owned by the man behind Miami's nightlife resurgence, Eric Milon and entrepreneur Andre Hnatyszak. Eric Milon's previous venues include South Beach's The Strand, Prive, The Living Room and Set, all of which have been favorites of Hollywood's A-list stars including Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez, Justin Timberlake and Britney Spears. This bi-level venue is part restaurant and part nightclub.

"Covet exudes St. Tropez and St. Barth's glamour," says Andre Hnatyszak, Covet's co-owner. The upstairs restaurant can seat approximately 70 patrons and the downstairs nightclub can accommodate close to 300 people until 4am Monday through Saturday. Covet is also the ideal space for private events or parties of any size.

Inspired by the luxe, rustic elegance of the Alpine après ski lodges of St. Moritz , Covet effortlessly blends the best of both worlds: the sophistication and charm of uptown and ultra-sleek vibe of downtown. Covet's main dining room features large Zeppelin chandeliers by designer Marcel Wanders while the walls are adorned with colorful oil paintings by renowned artist Robert Lambert. Downstairs, haute Alpine coziness is combined with all the amenities New York City chic has to offer, and this is done through the harmonious pairing of distressed wood with embossed "croc-skin" paneling, and chrome accents.

Its prime location in New York 's business center is what makes Covet so attractive along with the swanky ambiance, world-class DJs, plush couches and exotic drink specials. Guests' palettes will be stimulated with a menu of eclectic Asian-Mediterranean cuisine, featuring signature dishes such as Hamachi Duo, Lobster Brulee, Marinated Baby Octopus and Wild Boar Tenderloin from Chef John Keller formerly from Bruno Jamais, Nobu and Le Bernadin. Famed mixologist Orson Salicetti formerly from East Village Apothéke has created a menu of concoctions at Covet that incorporates sensual ingredients that embody the venue's sophisticated elegance. Offering excess in a glass, Salicetti is shaking things up with the \$160 cocktail called The Icarus which includes Louis XIII cognac, which retails for \$1,600 a bottle, exclusively at Covet.

Hidden below the main floor, Covet's intimate cocktail lounge stays true to its elegant upscale vibe. The lounge features sounds by resident DJ Evalicious, the famed '90s French-Canadian model discovered by designer Jean-Paul Gaultier. Spinning an eclectic mix of musical genres ranging from electronic pop to indie mashups, her music style stays true to Covet's international influence. For those seeking a little discretion and a retreat from the high-energy crowd, guests can escape into one of the many roped-off enclaves that populate the space.

Covet is located at 137 East 55th Street in New York City. The restaurant serves dinner Monday through Saturday beginning at 5:30 p.m. Prices range from \$11 - \$35 per dish. The full service bar and lounge holds nearly 300 guests and is open until 4 a.m. Please call (212) 223-2829 for dinner reservations. For more information, please visit www.covetlounge.com.