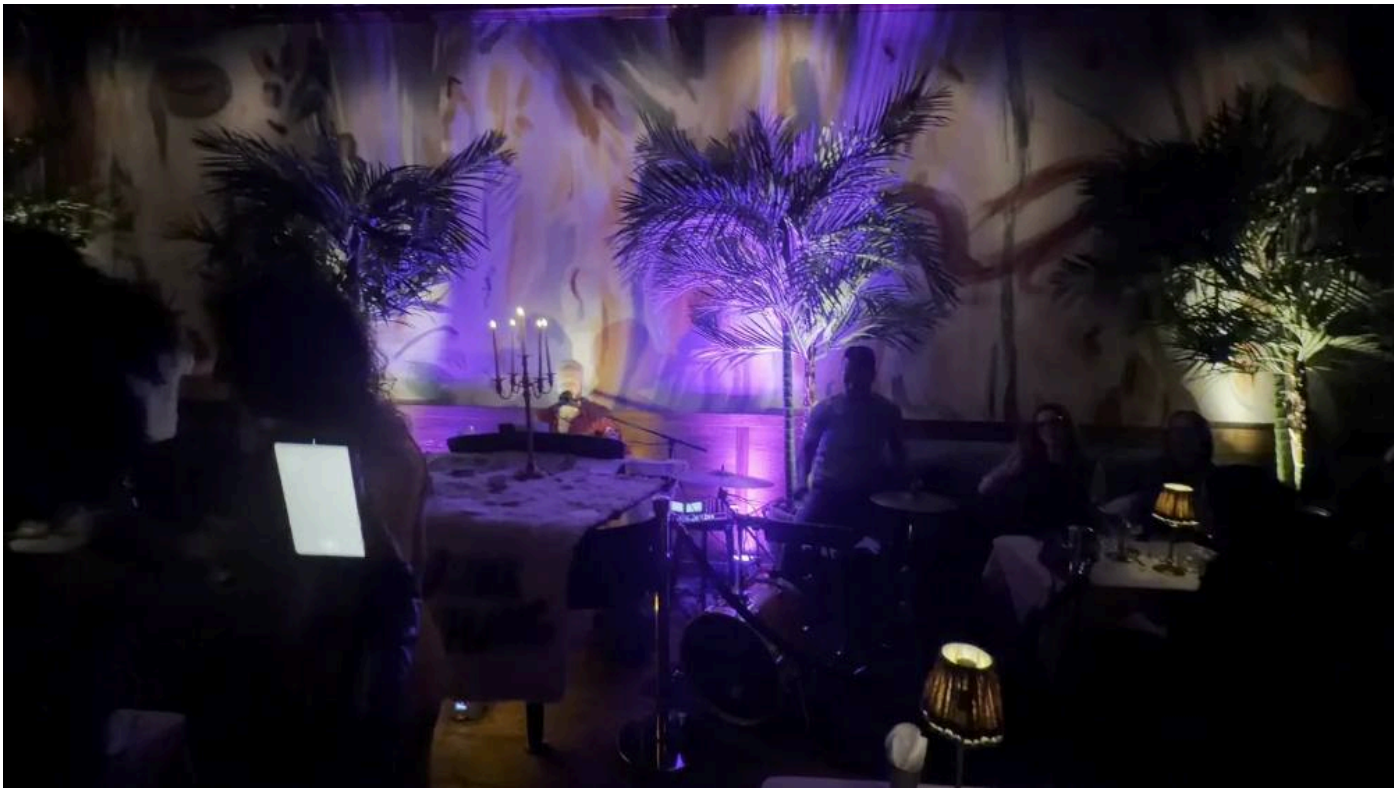
Wednesday Night at Le Bar Penelope: Candles on the Piano, Palms in Violet Light

Le Bar Penelope, 14 East 60th Street, on Wednesday, November 11, 2026: the Avra Group's piano lounge on its live-piano night, from the candlelit set to the crowd after midnight.

BY DAVID SHUSTERMAN · PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 18, 2026



Live piano night at Le Bar Penelope on East 60th Street, November 11, 2026. Still from event footage.

A little before midnight on Wednesday, November 11, the stage end of Le Bar Penelope looked like a painting someone had lit for a concert. Two potted palms rose out of violet uplight against a wall-sized mural of loose, painterly strokes; a tall candelabra of taper candles burned on top of a piano draped in a white fur throw; and behind the pianist, half in shadow, a drummer kept time at a compact kit. The tables nearest the music were full, and the small pleated lamps on each one made islands of gold in the purple.

Wednesday is piano night

Le Bar Penelope, the Avra Group's cocktail lounge at 14 East 60th Street, between Madison and Fifth Avenues, keeps a weekly rhythm. The house describes its room as

a piano lounge “paired with a late-night DJ,” and it gives Wednesday to the piano: on Wednesday evenings, the bar says, the lounge comes alive with live music from its resident pianist, Tim Young. Later in the week the room leans on its late-night DJ. The lounge opens at 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and stays open until 1 a.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 2 a.m. Thursday through Saturday.

The set we heard was a singer’s set. The pianist sang at the microphone over the keys, a guitar propped beside the keyboard, with the drummer laying down the beat behind him. Bills and slips of paper lay scattered across the fur on the piano lid. Guests filled the banquettes and tables facing the piano, and others stood at the edge of the stage with drinks in hand.

After midnight the room changed shape. From the doorway between the dark wood columns, the stage end read as a lit box at the back of the room, the violet light bouncing off the mural and up into an ornate plaster cornice, while the front lounge glowed red behind the crowd. By 12:20 a standing crowd filled the space in front of the palms, with the piano still leading.

The room on East 60th Street

The look is deliberate. Le Bar Penelope calls itself an old-world European salon, with rich wood finishes, velvet drapery, plush furnishings, life-sized hand-painted animal murals and hand-blown Italian glass, under an original Gilded Age stained-glass skylight. The house’s own shorthand is “an evocative menagerie.”

The interiors are the work of Love Lake Studio, the Miami interior architecture and design practice led by Genevieve Love Lake. *The Design Release* documented how demolition uncovered the stained-glass skylight, which was restored and became the anchor of the room. The bar borrows from a Victorian theater ticket office. Guests enter through a velvet-tented lounge meant for close conversation before reaching the main lounge, where the live music and DJ sets play, and a hidden private dining room is lined with velvet wall murals by Arte. Lee Jofa velvet backs the custom sofas, Holly Hunt fabric covers the tableside poufs, and monkeys, tigers and leopards turn up throughout the space.

On a Wednesday night the details that carry are the ones closest to the music: the dark wood columns framing the stage end, the palms, the candle flames on the piano and the soft pleated shades of the table lamps, small enough to keep each table in its own pool of light.

From dinner to the late set

Penelope is built to hold a whole evening. The house describes a night that runs from early evening to the late hours: dinner first, then after-dinner cocktails, then the late-night scene, with the room changing as it goes. Dinner comes from Miss Penelope’s Asian Kitchen and is served Tuesday through Saturday from 7 to 10 p.m., with the final seating at 9.

The dinner menu is made for sharing: dumplings, spicy tuna crispy rice, chili rock shrimp and open hand rolls of Wagyu, spicy tuna or salmon and uni, alongside lobster rolls, Wagyu sliders, Kung Pao cauliflower, miso-glazed Chilean sea bass and steak frites. There is a caviar service of Imperial Osetra with blinis, brioche and potato chips, and a 16-layer chocolate cake for dessert.

The cocktail list leads with the house drink, Le Penelope, made with jasmine-infused Volcan Blanco tequila, Cappelletti, pineapple and calamansi, and runs through Penelope’s Secret, a milk punch of Himbrimi Winterbird gin, green Chartreuse, Luxardo Maraschino, lime and rosemary; a Cafetini of Maestro Dobel Diamante, cold-brew brandy, Licor 43 and espresso; and Fire Before Smoke, made with Creyente mezcal, hibiscus and habanero. The Champagne list reaches from Delamotte and Ruinart to vintage Dom Pérignon and Cristal Rosé.

In a May 2026 profile, *Resident*’s Matthew Kennedy described a room inspired by the music salons of Paris and reinterpreted for New York. “It’s a private club setting,” the Avra Group cofounder Nick Tsoulos told the magazine, “but no membership required.” The evening, he said, should grow livelier as it goes on without becoming “overly loud like a nightclub,” and he measures success by return visits: “I want guests to feel like they can’t wait to come back.” On a Wednesday, the piano is how the room keeps that balance.

Wednesday night at Le Bar Penelope

A photograph and short films from Le Bar Penelope on East 60th Street on the night of Wednesday, November 11, 2026: the piano under the candelabra, the room after midnight and the crowd in front of the palms.



The Wednesday piano set beneath the candelabra at Le Bar Penelope, November 11, 2026.

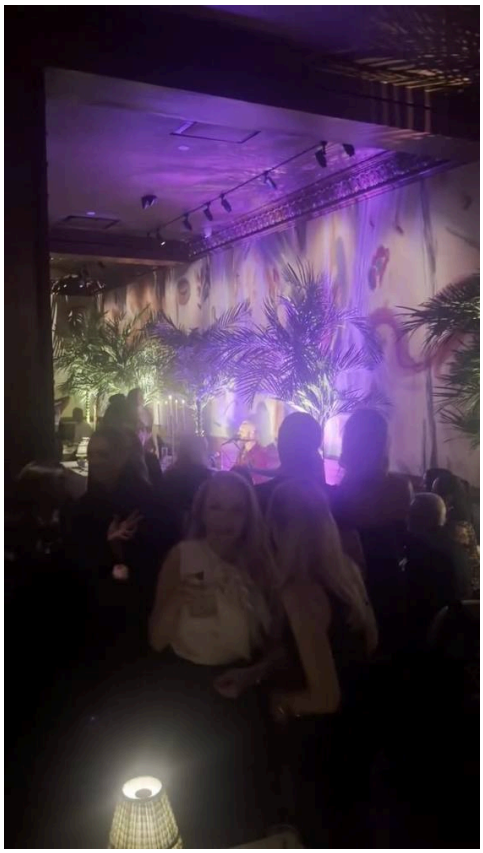
At the piano on November 11



The Wednesday piano set · 15 seconds
From the tables to the piano, candles burning on the lid and a drummer behind, November 11, 2026. With the band's sound. Open video



At the microphone · 15 seconds
The pianist sings at the keys under violet light, past midnight, November 11, 2026. With the band's sound. Open video



The crowd after midnight · 9 seconds
A standing crowd in front of the palms and the mural after midnight, November 11, 2026. With the room's music. Open video



Through the columns · 6 seconds
The stage end of the lounge seen between dark wood columns, the front room glowing red behind, November 11, 2026. With the room's music. Open video

The house behind the bar

The Avra Group traces its story to Nafpaktos, the coastal Greek village where Tsoulos was born and grew up fishing with his father and uncles. After his family

settled in Astoria, Queens, he opened several restaurants, including Trata, a Greek taverna on the Upper East Side, in 1990. The first Avra Estiatorio followed in 2000 on East 48th Street, developed with Marc Packer and Nick Pashalis; sixteen years later a second Avra opened on East 60th Street, the restaurant Le Bar Penelope now adjoins. The group's restaurants now reach from Rockefeller Center and 33rd Street and Ninth Avenue in New York to Beverly Hills, Miami, Dallas and Boston, and Avra marks its 26th anniversary this year.

Le Bar Penelope is the group's detour from Greek dining. When it opened, *East Side Feed*'s Danielle Storm described a cocktail bar and piano lounge adjoining Avra Madison, with lush green banquettes and draperies, animal-print lamps, colorful murals and palm leaves, and quoted the venue's promise to transport guests "to old-world Europe."

Two years on East 60th Street

East Side Feed reported that Le Bar Penelope would hold its private grand opening on September 12, 2024, and open to the public the next day. The house's "Two Years of Penelope" invitation, recorded in our event archive, billed a Mykonos-themed anniversary night for Saturday, September 26, with Vassili and Tsili Christos. Two months later the Wednesday piano night was drawing a full room past midnight.

For larger occasions, the lounge can be reserved exclusively for receptions of up to 150 guests, a section of it for groups of up to 25, and the private dining room for 22 seated or 25 standing.