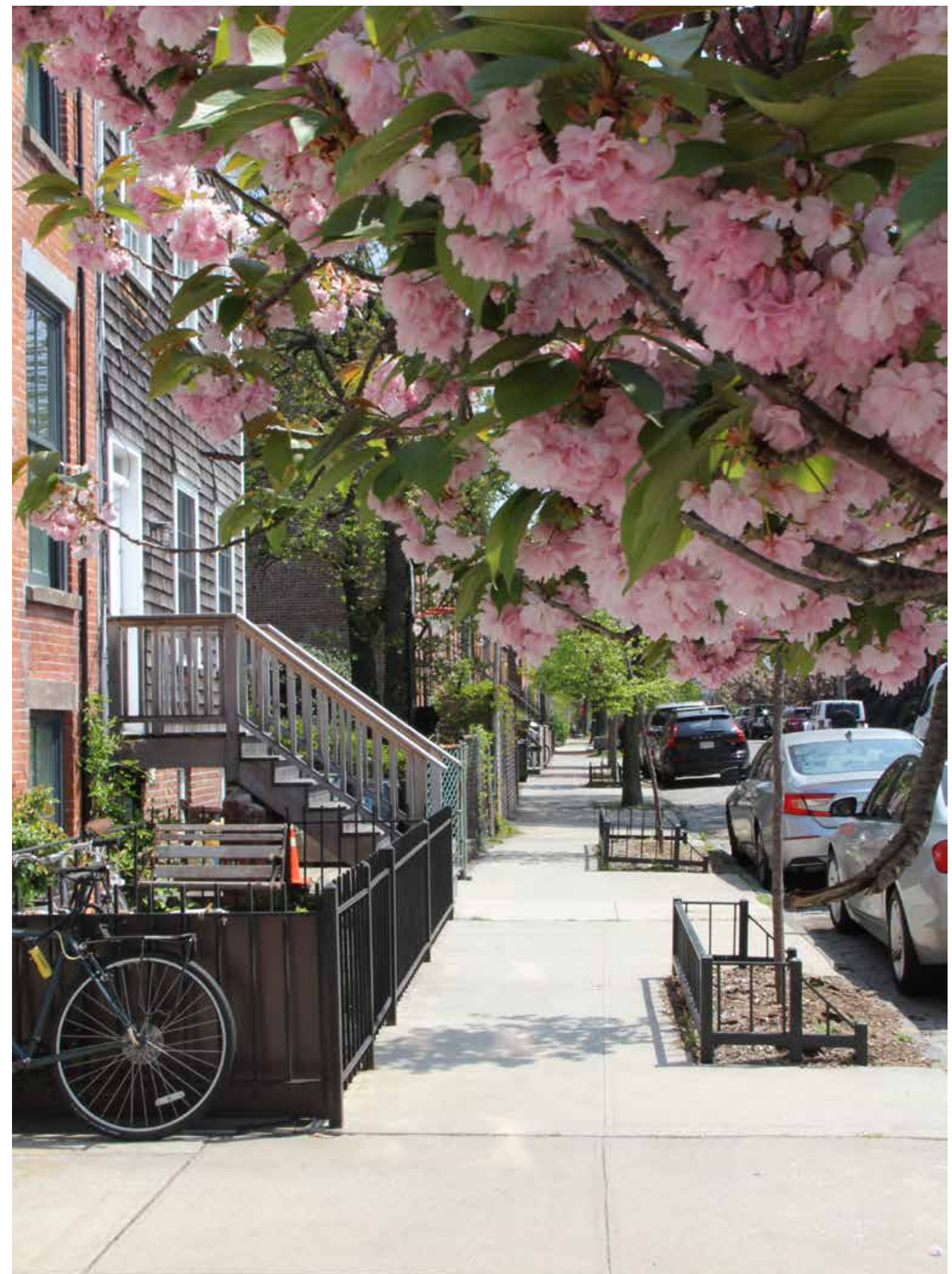


CITY GUIDE | BROOKLYN | RED HOOK | NEW YORK

OFF THE HOOK IN BROOKLYN

Red Hook is the New York neighborhood you didn't know you didn't know about. In a little corner surrounded by water, easiest to reach by ferry from Manhattan, lie a tight-knit couple of blocks which, thanks to their isolation, have become a unique community. Here, you'll find cozy restaurants, passionate entrepreneurs, epic dives and a small-town feel hard to reconcile with the busy Manhattan skyline behind it.

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY CAJSA LANDIN



LI'L BIT OF HISTORY

At one time the busiest freight port in the world, Red Hook has a long history as a town of sailors, longshoremen, and dock workers. Being surrounded by water on the Brooklyn floodplain and separated from the rest of the city as both a peninsula and one of few neighborhoods without subway service, the neighborhood has been home to both low-income populations and creatives looking for cheaper rents. Its isolation has created a tight community and the feeling of being in a small town, not a world metropolis. Now home to a vibrant arts, culture, and small business initiative scene, Red Hook feels like a pot of popcorn, constantly bursting, popping, and making everything around it come alive. Most of the action is on Van Brunt Street, the perfect little street for a day of sauntering and saying *yes* to whatever entices you, but don't be afraid to step off to nearby cobblestone streets – or even the industrial area at Red Hook's very point, where wineries, breweries, piers, and pies all are perfect spots for soaking up the spirit of the neighborhood.





FOUR FAVORITES IN RED HOOK

BONBON

Swedes will instantly recognize the clear containers of black licorice, milk chocolate, and gummies that make up lördagsgodis, pick-and-mix candy. Bobby, Leo and Selim started their first candy shop on the Lower East Side a few years ago and it has become wildly popular with expat Swedes and native New Yorkers alike. This is their warehouse, which they've decided to keep open on weekends. But get there early, there's a line around the corner most days.

BONBONNYC.COM | 66 DEGRAW STREET

360 RECORD SHOP

A place this solid doesn't need a fancy name. A store most locals know only as "Record Shop" is a neighborhood mainstay for classic records, used LPs, and little gems you couldn't find anywhere else. Linger a minute, and you'll see Red Hook culture at its finest: young and old dancing to records, reading books from the little shelf by the bench outside the door, chatting with Robbie and his strange rocks on the sidewalk, or hearing an impromptu from one of the regulars. That they host live music most weekends goes without saying.

360RECORDSHOP.COM | 360 VAN BRUNT STREET

A RED HOOK INSTITUTION

Ask anyone in Red Hook where you have to go, and they'll say Sunny's. An absolute institution a hundred years in the making, this legendary bar has everything you want in a dive – a back room for live music, a garden for summer drinks, weird figurines staring at you from above the bar, revelers spilling onto the cobblestone sidewalk outside – and, of course, a register that only takes cash. Go here, do it.

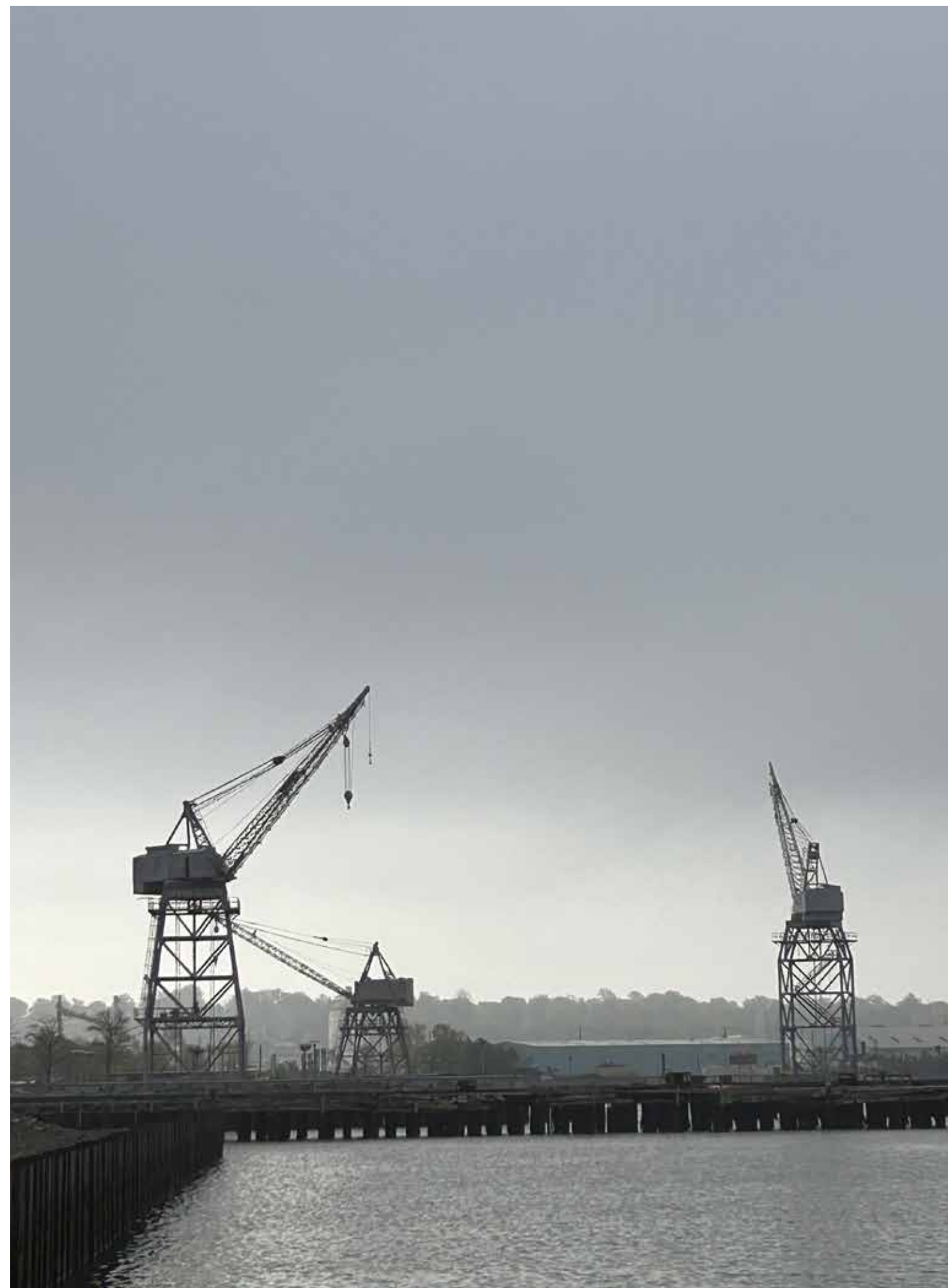
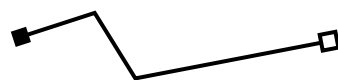
SUNNYSREDHOOK.COM | 253 CONOVER STREET

TREAT ON A STICK

It's tempting to think no one will find a small storefront at the outskirts of an industrial area that sells nothing by key lime pie, but one look at the line on a Saturday afternoon and you know you'd be wrong. These pies are fantastic – pick up a Swingle, chocolate-dipped, frozen key lime pies on a stick in different flavors and enjoy it on the picnic tables or in the nearby park overlooking the Statue of Liberty. But take Steve's own advice and grab extra napkins, you'll need them.

KEYLIME.COM | 185 VAN DYKE STREET

AT ONE TIME THE BUSIEST FREIGHT PORT IN THE WORLD, RED HOOK HAS A LONG HISTORY AS A TOWN OF SAILORS, LONGSHOREMEN, AND DOCK WORKERS. IT'S SURROUNDED BY WATER, AND SEPARATED FROM THE REST OF THE CITY AS BOTH A PENINSULA AND ONE OF FEW NEIGHBORHOODS WITHOUT SUBWAY SERVICE.







MEXICAN DIVE VIBES

The first place you run into coming off the ferry, San Pedro is the kind of place where you could lose a whole afternoon to drinking margaritas and chatting with the bartender, or you could use it as your jumping-off point for a night on the town (aka Van Brunt Street). Grade A nachos, grade A staff, and an energy that perfectly balances between very laid back and very ready for anything. On a sunny Friday evening, get there early to grab the popular corner table out front and watch the world go by.

SANPEDROINN.COM | 320 VAN BRUNT STREET



WIDOW JANE / BOTANICA

Widow Jane distillery has expanded on the fine tradition of brewing and distilling in Brooklyn, making award-winning bourbon from heirloom corn in their old brick factory not far from the old docks. Botanica, their corner cocktail bar, serves up an excellent cocktail (or mocktail, if you are so inclined), and the sidewalk seating is perfect for people watching.

WIDOWJANE.COM | 220 CONOVER STREET



TIBURON 2

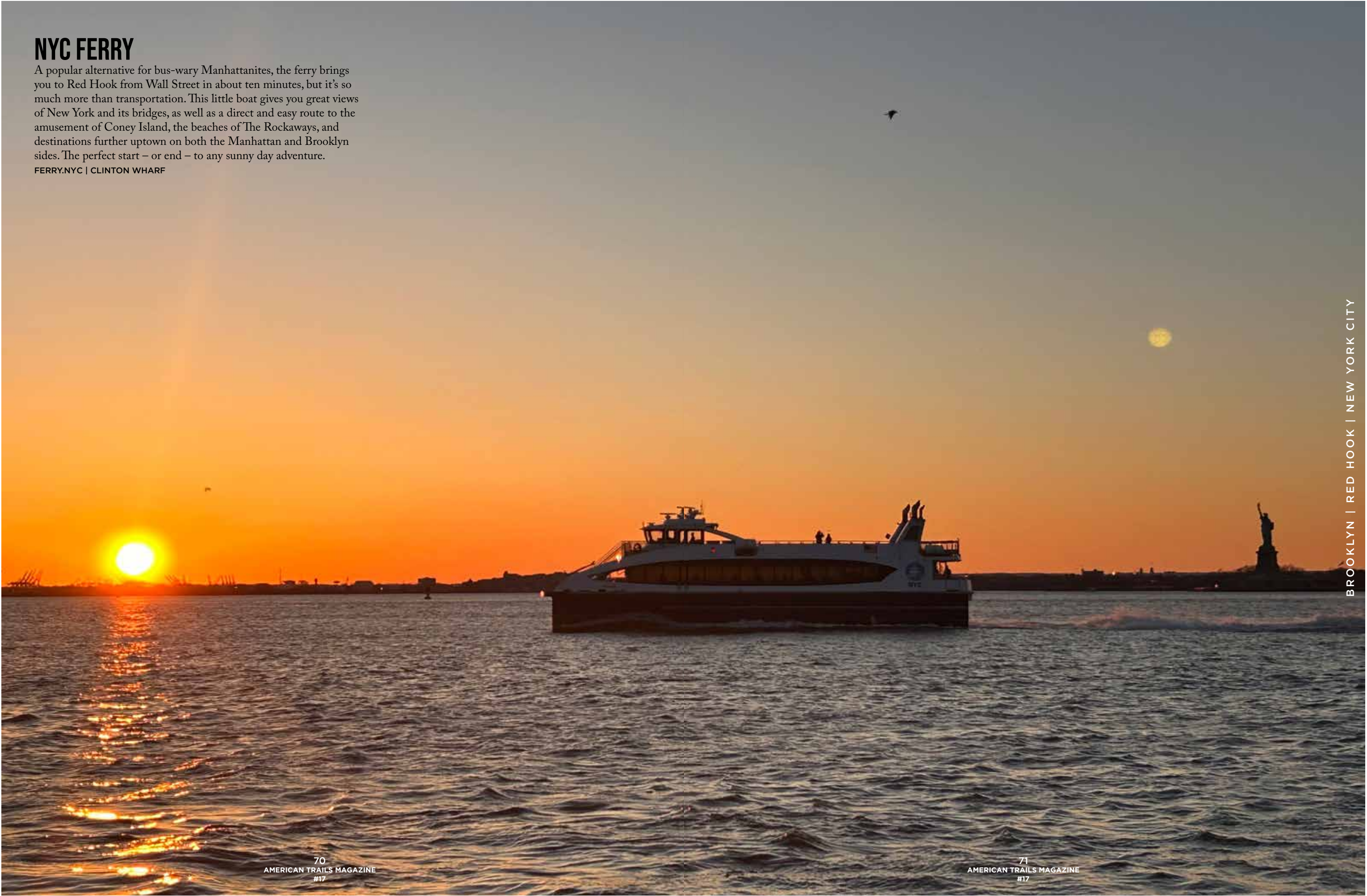
Do you technically need more patches, stickers, cards, ironic sweatshirts, or palo santo sticks that say Trust the fucking process? Define need. Tiburon 2 is the kind of store that draws you in, with its mix of bric-a-brac, vintage clothing, and spare game pieces, and it's the perfect little shop to stop during that pocket of time between brunch and afternoon drinks.

TIBURON2REDHOOK.COM | 361 VAN BRUNT STREET

NYC FERRY

A popular alternative for bus-wary Manhattanites, the ferry brings you to Red Hook from Wall Street in about ten minutes, but it's so much more than transportation. This little boat gives you great views of New York and its bridges, as well as a direct and easy route to the amusement of Coney Island, the beaches of The Rockaways, and destinations further uptown on both the Manhattan and Brooklyn sides. The perfect start – or end – to any sunny day adventure.

FERRY.NYC | CLINTON WHARF



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WATERFRONT MUSEUM AND SHOWBOAT

Stepping onto this old barge is not just a visit at a maritime museum of sorts, it's a whole experience. Most likely, you'll get the chance to run into David, who not only runs the museum but is the one who originally rescued this 100+ year-old barge in the 80s and brought it to Brooklyn – and lives on it with his family. You'll get an insightful history lesson about work on the waterfront and see tools and artifacts from ships of old, but mostly you'll hear delightful stories of New York through the ages. Open Thursdays and Saturdays (it is a family home, after all), free to the public. Keep an eye on the calendar for events and performances.

WATERFRONTMUSEUM.ORG | 290 CONOVER STREET, ON PIER 44

STRONG ROPE BREWERY – BREW WITH A VIEW

Your mother told you not to wander down among the warehouses and delivery trucks, but she was wrong. At the very end of Red Hook, in the middle of the industrial remains, lies Strong Rope Brewery. Yet another popular weekend destination for Manhattanites and sun-worshippers, the Brewery lets you try local brews from a looong list and then enjoy it in their large outdoor yard, great for groups, kids, dogs, and romantics hoping to catch the sunset behind the Statue of Liberty.

STRONGROPEBREWERY.COM | 185 VAN DYKE STREET



POLT ATÖLYE

Leather goods shop in front, workshop in the back. This place is the craft version of farm to table, where you can watch the team create beautiful little leather vases, coasters, cases, and other leather goods, as well as canvas goods and items created by other artisans. Fittingly for such a small outfit, they are open by appointment, or sort of generally if the weather's nice.

POLT.COM | 390 VAN BRUNT STREET