Most desired design "gets," coveted reservations, VIP vices and other not-so-humblebrags show how power really operates from the piers to the Potomac to the Pacific.

Quick, where can you get a $150,000 vape? Los Angeles. (Surprised?) What real estate move confers serious financial status in New York? Buying not one, not two, but three townhouses and "Frankenmansion-ing" them together into one mega-compound — hey, it's what all the Russian oligarchs like Roman Abramovich, fashion scions like David Lauren and movie stars like Sarah Jessica Parker are doing! Jay Z appears on two cities' most-wanted guests lists of 2017 (New York and Los Angeles), while Washington, D.C., hosts a secret media dinner that's gone from a girls'-night-in to the biggest power invite in town, attracting multiple senators (but no husbands allowed). To decode the signals of influence in the three American power centers, THR takes you behind the privacy walls of the uber-privileged.

Additional reporting by Jon Alain Guzik, Gary Baum, Alexandra Cheney, Meg Hemphill, Beth Landman, Brian Porreca, Elycia Rubin.

Plastic Surgery Preferences for the Privileged

N.Y.

"In New York, patients want to look like they did 10 years ago, but out west it's more about reinvention," says New York dermatologist Paul Jarrod Frank. "People don't want to look like they once did, they want to look like they never did." The more conservative approach to plastic surgery applies to breast implants: "The average size on the East Coast is at least one-third to one-half smaller," says plastic surgeons Daniel Baker, with plastic surgeon Sharon Giese placing the average size for a New Yorker at a big B or small C, while Angelenos request a big C or small D. The average age of getting a facelift is older in N.Y. at 54, says facial plastic surgeon David Rosenberg. Plastic surgeon Robert Silich notes the difference in attitude: "Surgery is a little more acceptable in L.A., whereas it's still hush-hush here. Surgeons on the West Coast are celebrated, while here I ignore patients if I run into them."
L.A.

"In the past two years, millennials have been asking for the butts and breasts of their favorite social media personalities," says Dr. Gabriel Chiu of Beverly Hills Plastic Surgery. "I get many requests for Emily Ratajkowski's breasts," Dr. Suzanne Trott, Hollywood's "Lipo Queen," says. "Everyone always wants Nicole Kidman's nose." What they don't want, says Trott, is Kim Kardashian's "huge" butt: "I see a backlash against that." Surgeons agree: Popular breast sizes include full B to small C cups. "Overall, the size has been getting more modest over the last three to four years," says Chiu. Face-lifts are on the decline, though they begin earlier than other cities, in the 40s. Trott does see young women in their 20s requesting small amounts of filler and prophyllactic Botox. "I think that most of the TV actresses on young-adult shows like those on The CW probably have some filler in their lips and cheeks — it looks pretty and natural, but if you look back at the shows from the '80s and '90s, all the young beautiful girls did not have such perfect lips and cheekbones."

D.C.

"In D.C., even though we are the Hollywood of the political world, it is extremely conservative, even more so than New York," says Washington, D.C.-based plastic surgeon Paul Ruff. "I trained in San Diego, and the conversation is very open there, but here it is not as open. Everyone rages against looking fake, over-injected or too perfect. We need to create a sense of honesty and integrity, so looking fake is a tremendous liability." As such, implants are smaller, as is filler volume, with less Botox used; the age of the average facelift is later, at 55 to 65. Jokes cosmetic dermatologist Elizabeth Tanzi: "We laugh that in this town even if you are liberal, you are a plastic surgery conservative!" Facial plastic surgeon Steven Hopping concurs: "In Washington, they don't want to bounce quarters off their faces or have a Kardashian butt."