



## LIVE RENT FREE FOR A YEAR

*Following its founder's high-profile Housemate Hunt, SpareRoom now offers to pay one lucky U.S. roommate's rent for an entire year.*

**NEW YORK, May 9, 2017** - Last year [SpareRoom](#) caused a stir in Manhattan with its Housemate Hunt: a search for two lucky roommates to share an \$8M West Village loft with the company's founder Rupert Hunt for just \$1 per month. More than 9,000 people applied. Now, as the housemates prepare to move out of their luxury pad, SpareRoom has announced another exciting opportunity sure to get rent-payers' attention - and this time, it doesn't necessarily involve moving. Instead, SpareRoom will pay a year's rent to the winner of its [Live Rent Free competition](#) anywhere in the U.S.

"The [Housemate Hunt](#) has been an incredible experience, but what I've found even more fulfilling is seeing how my roommates, Jacob and Cyrus, have pursued their dreams free from the burden of paying rent," comments Rupert Hunt, founder and CEO of SpareRoom.

"I know first-hand that not paying rent for a few months can really give you that head start in terms of setting up your business. In 2004, I moved back to my parents' home and had six months without paying rent, which really helped me take SpareRoom to the next level. It's been great to offer Cyrus and Jacob that opportunity and see their businesses develop because of it.

"Living with two other entrepreneurs really has been inspiring; we've helped each other with numerous projects and brainstormed ideas together. Helping to fulfil their dreams has inspired me a great deal - in fact, Jacob and I are getting an office space together!

"Not everyone wants to live in Manhattan, but that doesn't mean that people don't deserve a chance to follow their dreams. That's why, instead of launching another

search for new roommates, I'm going to extend the opportunity across the U.S. in the hope that living rent-free can make someone else's dream come true."



With room rents across the U.S. averaging \$1,081 per month - and the Bay Area leading the country with a whopping average of \$1,322 per month - SpareRoom's Live Rent Free competition could be worth tens of thousands of dollars to the lucky winner. But for SpareRoom, it's not just about giving out money, it's about inspiring people to follow their dreams by easing their financial burden for a year.

"I never thought I'd actually be selected, but living rent free has given me the unbelievable opportunity to experience New York City without the stress of worrying about bills," said Jacob Castaldi, entrepreneur and Housemate Hunt roommate. "Living in this apartment with Rupert and Cyrus has been a terrific experience. It allowed me the opportunity to make some invaluable connections and we've been able to offer one another unique and insightful perspectives on business."

"We've sat around the kitchen table tossing around new ideas or problems to solve late into the night," explained Cyrus Schenck, entrepreneur and second Housemate Hunt roommate. "I'd daresay we've all shifted from being roommates, to being friends. And ideally, that's the whole point of SpareRoom, right? The fact is, this opportunity allowed me to focus on growing my business and network - and regardless of whether or not you have your own company or just a dream worth pursuing, I think this new Live Rent Free contest could be a similarly life changing experience for someone else out there."

## Live Rent Free Competition

The opportunity to Live Rent Free is live on May 8<sup>th</sup> and is open to current and future roommates in the U.S. The award will be a blind draw, so whether entrants want to use the money to fund their business, travel the world, or just save for a year, the contest is open to everyone. To enter, visit [www.spareroom.com/liverentfree/](http://www.spareroom.com/liverentfree/) and earn extra entries by sharing the competition.

To hear more about Rupert, Cyrus, and Jacob's experiences as roommates and additional context around SpareRoom's Live Rent Free, view the [video here](#).



 SpareRoom.com

**LiveRentFree**

To learn more about how you can win a year living rent free  
visit [SpareRoom.com/LiveRentFree](http://SpareRoom.com/LiveRentFree)



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## Notes to Editor:

For the specifics including Terms & Conditions for the Live Rent Free competition, please visit [here](#).

For more information or to interview Rupert Hunt, Cyrus Schenck and Jacob Castaldi on location at the luxury apartment in Manhattan, please contact:

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## About SpareRoom

Launched in the UK in 2004, SpareRoom is the UK's biggest roommate site (and third biggest real estate site overall). SpareRoom already has over 270,000 users in the US. Now, SpareRoom has made its roommate-finding service available across the country, with a particular focus on key cities: Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington DC.

SpareRoom is available via iOS and Android apps as well as online. Every SpareRoom ad is moderated, both by automated systems and real people checking ads. SpareRoom also features video profiles, giving people a better way to meet their new roommates.

SpareRoom runs weekly [Speed Roommating](#) events in Manhattan and Brooklyn, where roommates can meet face to face.