

Top 10 Essential NYC Restaurants for 2017



By [Cortney Moore](#)

New York City is known for its restaurants, but with over 24,000 to choose from, it can be overwhelming to decide on where to dine. This is especially true if you're looking for a unique [date idea](#). However, with the new year upon us, it's a perfect time to try out some [popular restaurants](#). Take a look at these ten essential restaurants in NYC for your next [date night](#).

Excellent NYC restaurants that are

sure to satisfy your tummy this year!

1. Arabesque: Enjoy a meal inside this lovely, ornamental restaurant. Arabesque features Moor-inspired architecture and decor, along with a delicious North African, Middle Eastern and Mediterranean menu. Visit on a weekend, and you might be treated to live music and belly dance performances.

2. Aquavit: A modern New York hotspot that brings Nordic food to the forefront. Inspired by Swedish culinary traditions, Aquavit will treat you to yummy seafood, meat, and wild fruits and vegetables. Since this restaurant is extremely popular, it might be worth it make a reservation ahead of time.

3. Blue Smoke: Jazzy music and southern cuisine, what else could you ask for? Blue Smoke is a New York staple that offers soulful barbecue classics and fine cocktails. Luckily there are two locations, so you have options while you're traveling through lower Manhattan. If you're a fan of music, then the flatiron location is right for you with it's basement jazz club!

4. Churrascaria Plataforma: Do you know someone who is a carnivore at heart? This all-you-can-eat Brazilian steakhouse is just what they need. If meat isn't your thing, Churrascaria Plataforma also features a gourmet salad bar and, delicious side dishes like fried bananas and polenta. Another perk... dessert is included!

5. Di Fara Pizza: You can't have New York City without pizza. Di Fara Pizza is one of Brooklyn's best pizzerias. It's an old school spot that has been making quality pizza pies since 1965. Pizza legend and owner Domenico De Marco has received acclaim from Zagat, *Serious Eats* and Anthony Bourdain! So you know you're in the right hands when you visit Di Fara.

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6. Duane Park: If you're a fan of burlesque, then Duane Park is the place for you. It's so much more than a burlesque club though, Duane Park features an impressive and luxurious menu, such as Nova Scotia Salmon and Pan-Roasted Organic Chicken. With so much to enjoy, Duane Park might be a great spot to have a fun date night or private party.

7. Enoteca Maria: Grandmas make the best food, right? Well Enoteca Maria agrees with that too. At this Staten Island restaurant, Italian grandmothers cook delicious homemade meals. Most recently, Enoteca has gained popularity for its "Nonnas of The World," which includes famous dishes made by grandmothers from all over the world!

8. Gabriel Kreuther: Started by a world-renowned chef, Gabriel Kreuther offers sophisticated French and Alsatian cuisine. Overlooking Bryant Park, you're sure to enjoy lovely sights along with culinary delights. It's a perfect spot for a variety of occasions: birthdays, anniversaries, dinner parties and more.

9. Ninja New York: Experience adventure while you dine at Ninja New York. Guests are treated to scrumptious Japanese dishes in this ninja-themed restaurant. It's like hibachi, but taken to another level. Don't forget to tip your ninja waiter though, you don't want them coming after you.

10. Yaya Tea Garden: Are you a fan of bubble tea, rice balls and Asian snacks? Yaya Tea Garden has got you covered! From noodles, to green tea KitKats, Yaya's has it all. You can also leave your mark at Yaya's by creating your own tea blend that can be added to their menu.

Are there any NYC restaurants we missed? Share your favorites in the comments below!