

A banner image showing the lower legs and feet of three people standing in a row. The text 'Date Night, Simplified: Tips From 3 Of Our Favorite Spots In NYC' is overlaid in white on a dark background.

Date Night, Simplified: Tips From 3 Of Our Favorite Spots In NYC

The Meatball Shop

WHERE: Lower East Side, West Village, Chelsea, Williamsburg, Upper West Side, and Upper East Side

WHAT DOES A DATE LOOK LIKE AT THE MEATBALL SHOP?

Chef and Co-Owner of The Meatball Shop Dan Holzman: Dinner dates are definitely the way to go at TMS. We have a lively bar scene, but there's nothing like sharing an intimate dinner in a cozy environment where you zone the world out and spend time together.

WHAT IS TYPICAL DATE NIGHT ATTIRE AT THE MEATBALL SHOP?

It can change a little from restaurant to restaurant, but people are generally casual at the shop. White shirts and dresses are often casualties of tomato sauce...

HOW IS DATE NIGHT "DONE RIGHT" AT THE MEATBALL SHOP?

There's usually a short wait, so grab a cocktail at the bar and maybe share an order of Mini Buffalo Balls to warm things up. Sharing a meal with someone can be a very intimate experience, and The Meatball Shop is all about building meals that can be shared.

DESCRIBE YOUR IDEAL DATE.

Personally, I'm not a super fancy guy. I love eating a nice meal. I love grabbing a drink at a local, not-so-fancy bar. Movies at the movies are incredible, but movies on my laptop are the next step.

DO YOU HAVE ANY DATING ADVICE OR TIPS TO OFFER, EITHER RECEIVED FROM OTHERS, LEARNED WHILE WATCHING OTHERS ON DATES, OR FROM FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE?

Be yourself! If they don't like you for who you are then you're gonna be screwed sooner or later, so you might as well relax, have a great time, and whatever happens, happens.

THERE'S A LOT THAT CAN GO WRONG ON A DATE. LET'S SAY YOU'RE AT A RESTAURANT AND SERVICE IS HORRIBLE, FOOD IS TAKING FOREVER, AND YOUR DATE IS GETTING CRANKY. WHAT CAN DO YOU DO TO LIGHTEN THE MOOD OR REMEDY THE SITUATION?

In my case I could get in the kitchen and do some cooking or kick the waiter into high gear. Realistically, you never want to point out the negative on a date. Stay positive and have a good time, and remember that laughter is contagious.