

Local Faves: Our L.E.S Restaurant Guide

9. The Meatball Shop

The Meatball Shop serves up a healthy dose of "what you see is what you get," and the name says it all. Plus, they've got some daily market salads and killer ice-cream sandwiches. But you can't come here without getting beef, pork, chicken, or vegetarian (!!) meatballs. This tucked-away little gem has all the usual makings of a hip L.E.S. restaurant—two plaid-wearing, photo-ready owners; a white-tiled bar; tongue-in-cheek dish names ("Naked Balls," "Family Jewels" come to mind)—but it's been so successful that it now has a branch in 'Billyburg.

The Meatball Shop, 84 Stanton Street (between Allen and Orchard streets); 212-982-8895.