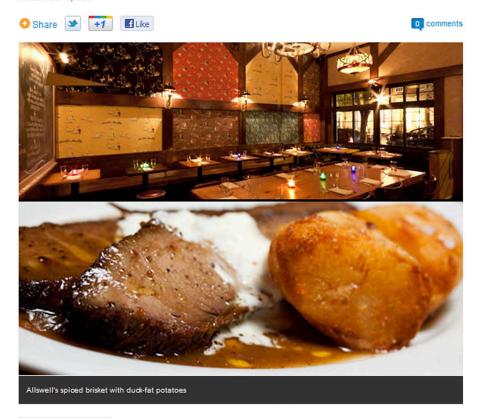


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Hot Plates

The week's new restaurant openings: Meatball Shop, Viktor & Spoils, Slightly Oliver, Grit N Glory, Allswell, Gwynnett Street

By Alexis L. Loinaz Metromix November 9, 2011



Meatball Shop

Are we in the throes of a 'ball-busting smackdown? Lower East Side joint Meatball Shop recently opened an outpost in Williamsburg. Shortly afterward, "Top Chef" alum Dave Martin debuted his new Meatball Factory in the East Village. You're going down, mwhahahaha! Now, The Meatball Shop fires back with a third location of its venerable and booming chainlet. This one's in the West Village, a neighborhood with its fair share of very, very delicious meatballs (Perilla, Little Owl). But Meatball Shop's delectable orbs are certainly up to snuff: Location numero tres replicates the same successful mix-and-match formula at the other two locations, with varieties like spicy pork, beef and chicken, with can be paired with sauces like mushroom gravy, pesto and Parmesan cream. (You can also get them as sliders.) Owing to its family-friendly nabe, the new location will have a stronger kiddie focus, with a late-afternoon kids' menu, as well as family takeout packs comprising meatballs, sauce and a side for \$10 per person. Sure beats hitting KFC for a greasy family chicken bucket! (64 Greenwich Ave. near Perry St., 212-982-7815)