

HOME RUN

## 10 Best Homegrown Restaurant Chains in NYC

**Skip McDonald's: For an authentic taste of New York, dine out at one of the city's homegrown chains, which have achieved mouthwatering perfection in everything from juicy meatballs to dark-chocolate donuts**

September 24, 2014, Carey Jones

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New York has plenty of the same chains you'd see in any other American metropolis. But when you're in one of the world's greatest eating cities, why would you grab lunch at Subway? New York has a whole roster of homegrown mini-chains, many of which more than hold their own against the big-name gourmet restaurants.

Interestingly, New York has a long history with restaurant chains: A number of brands have used New York as a jumping-off point, like the beloved burger joint Shake Shack, which now has outposts from Boston to Istanbul. (And, New Yorkers can rejoice — a Shake Shack will be opening in Herald Square in 2015, to add to the half-dozen locations around town.) Some popular mini-chains got their start elsewhere but have also successfully set up shop in NYC: salad spot Sweetgreen from DC, Umami Burger out of California. And other chains were born here but left any New York allegiance behind long ago. Fun fact: TGI Fridays got its start in Manhattan. But though all of these spots have their merits, we focused our list on the New York chains that have stayed true to the city — not only were they founded here, but they've never strayed from here. Here's our delicious roundup of the best.



*The Meatball Shop, West Village (Photo: The Meatball Shop)*

### [The Meatball Shop](#)

High-quality meatballs, from pork to beef to vegetarian; tasty sauce to slather 'em in, from Parmesan cream to spicy meat; and half a dozen ways to eat them, whether on a plate with risotto or rigatoni, or piled onto a baguette. Meatball Shop hit upon a truly winning concept, helped along by their late hours and friendly prices. *6 locations, including Chelsea and the Upper West Side; [themeatballshop.com](http://themeatballshop.com)*