

One-Dish Darlings

These US restaurants do just one thing — but spectacularly so

By Sharon McDonnell



In life, diversity is key. In the kitchen, though, sometimes variety *isn't* the spice of life as long as you execute your specialty to perfection. Case in point: these six American restaurants whose chefs believe doing (basically) one thing well is worth doing over, and over, and over again. And we're not talking about the obvious choices like pizza, ice cream or burgers — think mac 'n' cheese, meatballs, lobster rolls, crepes, paella and grilled cheese. Drum roll, please.

The Meatball Shop

New York City



via Facebook

The humble meatball is so popular in food-crazed New York that this spot has five locations in Manhattan plus one in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. The mix-and-match style lets you pick your meatball — will it be beef, spicy pork, chicken, veggie or special? — your sauce and your preparation: a hero sandwich, a slider or “naked,” aka three, served with Grana Padano cheese and focaccia. Then settle in for juicy, gooey goodness. Monthly specials in different locations mean, for example, pizza meatballs in Brooklyn in August. During summer happy hour, buffalo meatballs served with blue cheese and spicy sauce are just 50 cents each 4-7 p.m. on weekdays.

Various locations. themeatballshop.com