



By ALISHA PSAKASHI



How many times have you found yourself left in charge of choosing a dinner spot for your roommate's birthday, or your best friend from college's engagement party, or your entire extended family's first visit to the big city? In New York, finding a place to fit "eight to 10 people, maybe 12" is no easy task, as evidenced by just about every apartment you've ever been inside of. That's why we've rounded up the best restaurants around NYC that are perfect for big birthday bashes, engagement parties, office shindigs, bachelorette parties, or, you know, just an average Wednesday night dinner.



THE MEATBALL SHOP

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CHELSEA

Other than that one vegetarian friend, you'll be hard-pressed to find anyone opposed to a meatball-centric dinner. Michael Chernow and Daniel Holzman's empire is a comfort-food goldmine. While there are plenty of locations to choose from (LES, UWS, UES, West Village), the Chelsea location houses a private lounge that can seat up to 32 guests at a time. Tucked beneath the restaurant, the space is aptly named Underballs. Each guest gets to choose two balls (beef, spicy pork, chicken veggie), two sauces (classic tomato, spicy meat, mushroom gravy, Parmesan gravy, and pesto), three sides (salad, mashed potatoes, broccoli, polenta, white beans), and two ice cream sandwiches for sharing -- all for just \$25 a head. P.S. If you happen to find yourself in Brooklyn, the Williamsburg outpost houses two communal tables that can accommodate 10 each.

How to reserve: Call 212.257.4363