

Jeff and Ken's Favorite New York City Restaurants

Angelo's Pizzeria

117 W. 57th Street Bet. 6th and 7th Avenues (212) 333-4333

Great thin crusted pizza. They use their own homemade mozzarella. Jeff saw Geraldo there.

Babbo

110 Waverly Place Bet. MacDougal St. and 6th Ave. (212) 777-0303

Phenomenal modern Italian style cuisine. A definite if you're near the Village. Make reservations before you leave Austin.

Blue Ribbon

97 Sullivan Bet. Prince and Spring Streets (212) 274-0404

A great Southwestern style restaurant in SoHo. Definitely worth a try, but go early because this place is small and gets crowded quickly. These guys have two other restaurants (Blue Ribbon Bakery and Blue Ribbon Sushi). We haven't tried these but Zagats love them.

Blue Water Grill

31 Union Square @ 16th Street (212) 675-9500

Great place for grilled seafood. This restaurant is a converted bank and very cool architecturally. They also have sidewalk dining.

Da Silvano

260 6th Avenue Bet. Bleeker and Houston Streets (212) 982-2343

Great hearty Italian fare. The café style sidewalk seating is a great place to people watch. This is another place that calling ahead would be smart move

Harry Cipriani

781 5th Avenue Bet. 59th and 60th Streets (212) 753-5566

Call ahead, maybe a couple of weeks before you leave town, if you want to enjoy this phenomenal Italian restaurant. The food is great though a little pricey. Matt saw Bill Cosby and Spike Lee here a few years ago.

Il Mulino

86 W. 3rd Street Bet. Sullivan and Thompson Streets (212) 673-3783

As you can guess by now I love Italian food and this place is da' best. Huge portions of traditional Italian food at reasonable (by NYC standards) prices. This is another place that requires a long lead-time for reservations, but it's worth it.

Il Vagabondo

351 East 62nd Street Bet. 1st and 2nd Avenues (212) 832-9221

Down and dirty Italian food like mom use to make (lots of steaming pasta and thick red sauce).

Jean Georges

Trump Intl. Hotel 1 Central Park West Bet. 60th and 61st Streets (212) 299-3900

If you like French food then this is the place for you. Considered one of NYC's best restaurants. This place is very expensive so try going for lunch; you'll save money and still get one of the best meals ever.

Jezebel

630 9th Avenue @ 45th Street (212) 582-1045

Sometimes you just want some good fried chicken and gravy. This is the place, and their biscuits are great.

John's Pizzeria

260 West 44th Street Bet. Broadway and 8th Avenues (212) 391-7560

This is Ken's all time favorite pizza joint. The pizza is thin crusted, laden with cheese and fresh from their brick oven. Don't forget to save room for their Pizza-Rolls and red sauce.

Lombardi's

32 Spring Bet. Mott and Mulberry Streets (212) 941-7994

Rene loves the pizza from this SoHo pizzeria and so do native NYers

Lupa

170 Thompson Street Bet. Bleeker and Houston Street (212) 982-5089

Once again, make reservations weeks before you leave. This is another one of Jeff's many favorite Italian restaurants.

Mangia

50 West 57th Street Bet. 5th and 6th Avenues (212) 582-5554

This is our favorite lunch spot. Lots of gourmet sandwiches, grilled fish, chicken, or beef, cool salad bar and fantastic deserts. My personal favorite is a Turkey sandwich with mozzarella and asparagus along with a Biscotti for desert. Also a spot for an early dinner.

Mangia & Bevie

800 9th Avenue @ 53rd Street (212) 956-3976

Italian food served loud and fun. Singing and dancing wait staff and diners make this a neat place for the "experience".

Po

31 Cornelia Bet. Bleeker and West 4th Streets (212) 645-2189

Small restaurant GREAT food. Yes, yet another great Italian NYC restaurant, must make reservations weeks ahead of time.

Redeye Grill

890 7th Avenue @ 56th Street (212) 541-9000

Seafood the way you want it, fresh and huge portions. They also have great appetizers and desert, so go hungry.

Sambuca

20 West 72nd Street Bet. Columbus Avenue and Ctrl Pk West (212) 787-5656

This family style Italian restaurant has huge portions, comfortable surroundings, and is great for groups. Jeff liked the eggplant and Ken dove into the lasagna.

Union Square Café

21 East 16th Street Bet. 5th Avenue and Union Square West (212) 243-4020

Great Americana food in fun surroundings. This is one of NYC's best non-Italian restaurants.