



The Absolute Best New Restaurants of 2019

Adam Platt | December 11, 2019

<https://www.grubstreet.com/bestofnewyork/the-absolute-best-new-nyc-restaurants-of-2019>

As always in the dining capital of the USA, this end-of-decade year produced the usual mob of diverse, compelling, generally delicious restaurants from which to cull our annual, highly debatable “Absolute Best Restaurants of the Year” list. As usual, we focus on the very newest restaurants (sorry, Gotham Bar and Grill) and the ones that opened this year (sorry, Benno), and, as usual, we have been forced against our will by our click-happy editors to rank our favorites in descending order. Have we missed a few places during the course of our gastronomic rounds? Yes we have! Will we get to them in due course? Yes we will, but in the meantime, here’s Platt’s 2019 list for your merry debating pleasure.

The Absolute Best

4. [Odo](#)

17 W. 20th St., nr. Fifth Ave.; no phone



Photo: Melissa Hom

All of the tropes of the familiar bromakase experience are on display at this discreet Flatiron kaiseki joint, including the hidden entrance (behind a chipped blue door at the back of a bar called Hall), the 14-seat bar made from polished cedar wood inside, and even the bros themselves (“I love you bro,” I actually heard one of them say). But what sets Chef Hiroki Odo’s operation apart from your run-of-the-mill \$300 faux-Tokyo extravaganza is the depth and variety of the cooking, which runs the gamut of the Japanese dining experience, from delicate morsels of washugyu beef and carefully sizzled slices of anago tempura, to first-class bites of pearly shrimp and tuna-belly sushi, to stout beautifully constructed bowls of house-made soba, the latter served, on my last visit, in a bowl of clam broth with a fried egg broken on top.