

DINING OUT

Cool down with 'Top' chefs

BY LUCY COHEN BLATTER
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As the temps soar, thoughts turn to sun, sand and, of course, ice cream. So we asked the judges and NYC-based contestants of "Top Chef D.C." (premiering Wednesday on Bravo) to tell us where they get their ice cream fix in the city.

GAIL SIMMONS
The "Top Chef" judge will soon host "Top Chef: Just Desserts."

People's Pops
Chelsea Market Arcade,
425 W. 15th St.,
peoplespops.com

It began at the Brooklyn Flea and now has a spot in Chelsea Market. "Handmade Popsicles are the accessory of summer as far as I'm concerned," Simmons said.
Fave: Plum, organic yogurt and tarragon; pear, cream and ginger; and straight-up raspberry.

Dessert Club Chikalicious
204 E. 10th St.,
dessertclubchikalicious.com

"For ... a truly satisfying soft-serve I head to this East Village standout," Simmons said.
Fave: "The creamy, airy" vanilla bean soft-serve. Looking for more decadence? Smother it with hot fudge and toasted pistachios.



(BETHANY BANDERA)



ANGELO SOSA

The "Cheftestant" is the chef and owner of Xie Xie in Hell's Kitchen.

Cold Stone Creamery
coldstonecreamery.com

"I like ... adding my own flair even with dessert," he said, referring to the ability to mix and match ingredients at this chain ice cream store.

Fave: He likes lots of different combinations. Most recently, his son mixed mint chocolate ice cream with gummy bears, coconut flakes and rainbow sprinkles.

ED COTTON

The "Cheftestant" is the executive chef at Plein Sud at the Smyth Hotel in TriBeCa.

Il Laboratorio del Gelato
95 Orchard St.,
laboratoriodelgelato.com

With more than 200 gelatos and sorbets, this Orchard Street spot gets creative with its combos.

Fave: Green tea gelato.



(WILLIAM CERIALE)

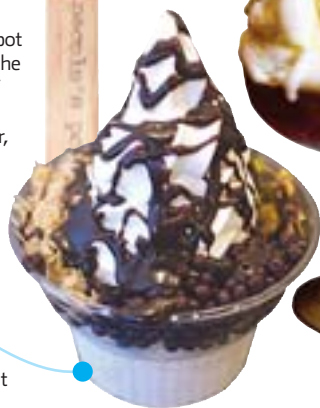
JACQUELINE LOMBARD

This "Cheftestant" lives in Brooklyn and is a private chef, sommelier and event producer.

Otto Enoteca & Pizzeria
1 Fifth Ave., ottopizzeria.com

"Pastry Chef Meredith Kurtzman makes the best artisanal gelato in the city," she said.

Fave: Olive oil gelato with maldon salt and an olive oil drizzle.



(RYAN THATCHER)

MORE FAVORITES

ERIC RIPERT

The chef and owner of Le Bernardin and regular guest judge on "Top Chef D.C."

GelOTTO Cart

Mario Batali's Otto gelato cart in Washington Square Park, set to open in July.

Fave: Pistachio gelato.

ALEX REZNIK

The "cheftestant" and Brooklyn native lives in California but still appreciates Big Apple ice cream.

Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory

1 Water St., Brooklyn,
brooklynicecreamfactory.com

Quality ice cream is served out of a landmark fireboat house on the Fulton Ferry pier.

Fave: Butter pecan ice cream.

Cones

272 Bleecker St.

This Argentinean-style ice cream and sorbet joint is worth the long lines.

Fave: Sabayon.

GAIL ALSO LIKES ...

Gail Simmons recommended **L'Arte del Gelato** (lartedelgelato.com) and the **Greene Ice Cream cart** (greeneicecream.com).

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