

Where Tennis Champions Like Nadal and Djokovic Eat in New York



Eustacia Huen Contributor

I cover food, luxury, and occasionally tennis (when Nadal is playing).

As a major tennis fan, this is my favorite time of the year as the world's best players gather in New York City for the [US Open](#). Before they put on their game face for 2018's final grand slam between August 27 and September 9, I got to see them having a bit of fun—playing [badminton](#) at the [Lotte New York Palace](#), meeting fans at [ASICS](#), plus cooking and spinning music at [Citi Taste of Tennis](#).

Not surprisingly, many of these athletes enjoy the Manhattan food scene. So I asked them to share their favorite spots. Some went for perfectly healthy choices, others heavier indulgence. And like many of us, Rafael Nadal had trouble picking only one place.



Guess which player likes the Sea Bass (Lavraki) at Milos? ESTIATORIO MILOS

NOVAK DJOKOVIC (13-TIME GRAND SLAM CHAMPION)

“I’m a huge lover of cold pressed juices, and one of the best places for that is [Juice Press](#). I know the owner—he’s a great guy and an ex-athlete. Their green juices give me a lot of power and strength; I love their oatmeal and shots. I visit there every other day, if not every day.

GO-TO ORDER: “Green Juice is a must, and also the E3 smoothie.”

NICK KYRGIOS (WORLD NUMBER 17)

“There’s a burger place called the [Burger Joint](#), which I think is unbelievable. That’s probably where I go every year ever since I went for the first time four years ago. I just like the vibe—it’s very laid-back, very hidden, but kind of old school. And obviously, the food is really, really good.

GO-TO ORDER: “Just a standard cheeseburger.”



The Burger Joint at Parker New York Hotel BURGER JOINT NEW YORK

SIMONA HALEP (WORLD NUMBER ONE AND FRENCH OPEN CHAMPION)

I like the Italian restaurants here since the food is pretty light, and during the tournament I can't eat anything too heavy. I'd pick [Cipriani](#) for the service, the atmosphere, and variety of foods. It's tough to name my favorite dish because I like to taste everything, though I don't usually eat anything fancy because of my stomach.



There are five Cipriani restaurants in the city—Downtown Cipriani, Cipriani Dolci, Cipriani Le Specialità, Cipriani Club 55 and Harry Cipriani (pictured here). While Halep didn't specify her favorite location, each offers simple yet high-quality, traditional Italian food including classics from the original Harry's Bar in Venice. COURTESY OF CIPRIANI

KEVIN ANDERSON (WORLD NUMBER FIVE PLUS 2018 WIMBLEDON AND 2017 US OPEN FINALIST)

"I really like [Roast Kitchen](#). It [could] be all over the place but I've only seen it [in New York City]. I was eating there a lot last year and I had a good year, so that's always a good reason to go back. [Featuring] modern healthy cuisine, it's got some terrific food. I pay close attention to what I eat, so something healthy, tastes good and kind of quick is a winning combination.

GO-TO ORDER: None. "They have a bit of everything."

MISCHA ZVEREV (WORLD NUMBER 43)

“[Benjamin Steakhouse](#). That’s where I went to celebrate my birthday yesterday. It’s one of my favorite steak places in New York and I just really love it there.

GO-TO ORDER: “Normally it’s a porterhouse for two, but I don’t really share; I just eat by myself. I’m not focused on sides. I get the porterhouse with almost no sides, and sparkling water, so the taste doesn’t get ruined.” (*How do you like it cooked?*) “Rare! That’s how you do it—that’s how you eat good steak.”



Porterhouse Steak at Benjamin Steakhouse BENJAMIN RESTAURANT GROUP

ALEXANDER “SASCHA” ZVEREV (WORLD NUMBER FOUR)

Unlike his brother Mischa, Sascha doesn’t eat steak.

“I don’t really eat dark, heavy foods. I like sushi, I like light food, and I like the Asian kitchen a lot—that’s more my type of dining [experience] when I’m in New York. There’s this tiny Japanese sushi place that I go to every year, but I don’t remember the name.

GO-TO ORDER: “I like everything—I eat a lot of salmon, and I like fresh crabmeat and eel as well.”

RAFAEL NADAL (WORLD NUMBER ONE AND 17-TIME GRAND SLAM CHAMPION)

“[It’s] difficult to say one place, because I like Japanese, Greek, and sometimes Italian [cuisines]. Because I’m from an island, I’m used to eating good fish. There are couple restaurants with good seafood, like [Nobu](#) and [Milos](#). For example, Milos brings a lot of [ingredients] from the Mediterranean and I love it. Nobu also has plenty of options.

GO-TO ORDER: Milos: the sea bass and turbot. Nobu: king crab.



King Crab Leg with Shiso Butter at Nobu COURTESY OF NOBU RESTAURANTS