

DINING

These 11 Hudson Valley restaurants deserved to make the USA TODAY Restaurants of the Year list



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There are a lot of great restaurants in the Lower Hudson Valley — and one of them, [Augustine's Salumeria](#) in Mamaroneck — was just honored by being included on [USA TODAY's Restaurant of the Year 2025 list](#).

I'm a huge fan of [Augustine's](#) — it was my nomination that placed it on our second annual [USA TODAY Restaurants of the Year list](#) — but truth be told, it was hard to choose. And what I think might be "the best" might not be your cup of tea.

Lucky for those of us who live here, we have great food, talented chefs and an abundance of local ingredients thanks to the vibrant Hudson Valley. That's why I wanted to recognize them, by offering a list of restaurants I wish could have also made the 2025 list.

La Casa Bronxville, Bronxville

Sophisticated Mexican fare in a snazzy setting — the bar alone delights — makes this a crowd-pleaser every time you visit. The restaurant, which opened in June 2021, also got a Michelin Guide nod in 2022. And while I'm certainly impressed with its curated menu of seasonal, sustainably sourced ingredients and artisanal cocktails, what adds to its specialness is the owner's enthusiasm and love for the business.

Spencer Pingel [spent 30 years in the corporate world but had an itch to do something else](#), specifically something where he and his son, Rory, who's on the autism spectrum, could work together. Over the years, Rory has done a wide variety of tasks, everything from polishing silverware, shredding Oaxaca cheese, shoveling snow and setting tables. If you're lucky, you may see him when you go. If not, there's always another time. Good to know: The restaurant recently opened a second location in Purchase. [7 Pondfield Road, 914-222-9016, lacasabronxville.com](#).