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Cozy With a Chance of Meatballs

When the weather outside is frightful, these insta-classic comfort-food spots are delightful **BY CEMILE KAVOUNTZIS**

The holidays in NYC are a magical time—except, of course, for the chilly weather. These new restaurants provide some soul-warming nourishment, serving up gourmet-worthy comfort-food favorites.

THE MEATBALL SHOP (84 Stanton St./Orchard St., 212.982.8895) Owners Daniel Holzman and Michael Chernow are giving meatballs the five-star treatment at this hip eatery. The menu features five types of meatballs and four kinds of sauces that can be configured into sandwiches, sliders and “smashes” (two balls mashed on a brioche roll with sauce and cheese). For a winter’s day, Chernow calls the chicken meatballs with Parmesan-cream sauce over mashed potatoes “a gift from the gods—the cozy, comfort gods,” while chef Holzman suggests turning up the heat with “spicy pork meatballs with spicy meat sauce over polenta.”