

Artichoke Basilles Pizza  
328 East 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10003

### **Maybe the Best Pizza I Have Ever Had – No Choke!**

While New York City has arguably the best pizza in the country, forget everything you have had before. Artichoke Basilles Pizza has a concoction that I think is the best pizza I have ever tasted. Their artichoke spinach pizza is a creamy, savory, hefty delight that is better than any regular cheese slice you will find this side of Little Italy. A slice costs \$4.00 but trust me, one slice of this pie is like two and a half slices of anything from your corner pizzeria.

I was less impressed with their traditional thin crust Margarita pizza. It's the spinach and artichoke you must go for.

The restaurant is located in a tiny storefront on 14<sup>th</sup> Street between First and Second Avenue. There is standing room for maybe three people at the most, so whatever you get here, plan to eat it somewhere else. Artichoke also sells beer if you require something cold and intoxicating to wash your pizza down with.

Almost immediately after opening, word of mouth spread, and most days there is a long line out the door, even in the rain. Cousins Francis Garcia and Sal Basille, who used to work in their family's restaurant on Staten Island, opened Artichoke about a year and a half ago. As customers began talking, the press took notice as well, with articles about the place appearing in such publications as The New York Times and New York Post.

All of the attention is well-deserved. In addition to great food (the menu also includes whole stuffed artichokes and, more recently, crab pizza), the service is more than commendable. One night, I called ahead for a small spinach and artichoke pie. I showed up twenty minutes later and it was not yet ready. After waiting about fifteen minutes, one of the guys said, "A large one is ready – give him the large one but charge him for a small." Now that's great customer service! (And the leftovers refrigerated beautifully!)

While I refuse to wait on line for anything, if you must satisfy your pizza craving, give Artichoke a try.

Click below for more info:

<http://www.artichokepizza.com>

