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On the Menu for 2012: The Daily Meal Predicts Food Trends for New Year

Nordic Cuisine, Lesser Known Fish, Food Halls, and Funky Pizzas

New York, NY (December 16, 2011)—With eyes and taste buds always on the ever-changing food world, [The Daily Meal](#)—the site that houses all things food and drink—has unveiled its food predictions for 2012. Foodies can look forward to increasingly popular new cuisines, old classics making comebacks, fast food reinventions and more. Get ahead of the crowd with an advance taste of these up-and-coming food trends:

- **Nordic Cuisine** – Sparked by René Redzepi, whose Copenhagen eatery Noma took the title of "world's best restaurant" from elBulli in 2010, this trend shows no signs of abating; be on the lookout for cured fish, lingonberries, reindeer meat, and aquavit cocktails.
- **Fast Food Reinventions** – From Papa John's and Domino's going artisanal to Wendy's and Taco Bell going back to basics, expect to see more fast food refinement, and more introspection about the basics in 2012.
- **Gluten-Free... and the Backlash** – The gluten-free trend may continue to go mainstream into 2012 but you may see more backlash against it.
- **Alternative Iconic Sandwiches** – It was only with Torrisi's turkey sandwich a few years ago that people started talking about turkey sandwiches again. Among others, expect classics like the French Dip and club sandwich to make comebacks.
- **Food Halls** –Todd English at the Plaza and Eataly began the modern food hall trend in America. Look for Mario Batali and others to expand the genre throughout the country.
- **More Neapolitan and Funky Pizzas** – Grimaldi's came to Manhattan, Forcella brought fried pies to Williamsburg, and the Bowery, and the Neapolitan craze continued to take over the country. Look for more Neapolitan, crazier toppings, and funkier presentations.
- **Jewish Food** – Zahav paved the way for modern Israeli food in Philadelphia a few years ago, but now with Kutsher's and Parm, expect other kinds of Jewish cooking to be given a closer look.
- **Exotic Fish** – As concerns about overfishing continue, you will see lesser-known fish in your local market and on restaurant menus. Fugu and toadfish are contenders.

- **Arancini** – Meatball Madness continues to rage, but we're likely to see the Italian rice balls called arancini start to get some play.
- **Mario for President and Bobby "Brando" Flay** – Everyone knows chefs are the new rockstars. So why not a late entry of a chef into politics too? Hey, why not?

For more information on the food trend predictions of 2012, please visit <http://www.thedailymeal.com/top-food-trend-predictions-2012>.

About The Daily Meal

[The Daily Meal](#) covers all things food and drink, creating a complete epicurean experience for cooks, food lovers, wine, beer and spirit connoisseurs, discerning diners and everyone in-between. Comprised of original content and video from Award winning editors, industry insiders, tastemakers and the user community, features range across the site's multiple channels: Cook, Eat/Dine, Drink, Travel, Entertain, Best Recipes, Holidays, Lists and Community. The Daily Meal also produces much-anticipated annual reports including the 50 Most Powerful People in Food, America's Most Successful Chefs, 101 Best Restaurants in America and 150 Best Bars in America. Additionally, The Daily Meal Shop, an online cookware store, offers over 7,000 kitchenware and specialty foods tailored specifically to The Daily Meal's hungry following of savvy food enthusiasts. Helmed by editorial director Colman Andrews, The Daily Meal is one of the largest food sites on the Web and the first property of Spanfeller Media Group, founded by Jim Spanfeller. Visit The Daily Meal on [Facebook](#); follow us on [Twitter](#).

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Editor's Note: Colman Andrews—The Daily Meal Editorial Director, James Beard Award-winner, and noted culinary authority—is available to comment on the Food Trends of 2012.