

This Is How Abortion Ends ● **Step by step.**  
By Rebecca Traister

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Isabelle Huppert / Robot Soup / Platt's H<sub>2</sub>O Taste Test / Tom Hardy

January 9-22, 2017



# NEW YORK

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## FOOD

### TAXONOMY

# Year of the Square

Four-sided pizza gains ground on round.

**W**ITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, New York has always been a round-pie, thin-crust town. (They don't call it a "regular" slice for nothing.) Recently, though, the square has stepped into the spotlight, thanks largely to an obscure midwestern interloper called Detroit-style pizza, which arrived in Williamsburg last spring and proceeded to give our hometown Sicilian something of an inferiority complex. Luckily, a local movement was happening at the same time, with talented bakers reinvigorating old forms like the grandma pie and the upside-down Sicilian, and rogue Italian *pizzaioli* rebelling against the Neapolitan orthodoxy with newfangled Roman pizza al taglio and souped-up focaccia. The hottest pies of the moment don't sag or flop or fold. And who can resist pizza dough that's essentially fried to a crisp along the edges and on the bottom in a well-oiled pan? That's the beauty of the square. It's made of sturdier stuff for worrisome times—firmer crusts, deeper doughs, longer bakes, and heartier toppings. Here, a taxonomy of styles and where to find them.

R.R. & R.P.

### THE UNROUNDS

#### GRANDMA

Thin-to-medium-thin pan pizza that references the pies *nonnas* baked at home for their families. It's said that the name, if not the style, made its debut at King Umberto's on Long Island in the '80s. Brooklyn-born pie man Nino Coniglio, whose passion for pizza takes both retro and newfangled forms, has spread the grandma gospel around town at both locations of **Williamsburg Pizza** (265 Union Ave., Williamsburg, and 277 Broome St.) and at **Brooklyn Pizza Crew** (758 Nostrand Ave., Crown Heights).

#### DETROIT

It's twice baked, and the sauce goes on top of the cheese, but Detroit-style pizza is all about the racy, lacy, Friulian-frico-like fence of fromage that forms around the edges. Cooked in special steel pans with tall, angled sides (originally, trays for holding automotive parts), it's not unlike some ethereal cross between Sicilian and Chicago deep dish. Buddy's Rendezvous in Detroit invented it in 1946, and **Emmy Squared** (364 Grand St., Williamsburg) made it a thing in Brooklyn 70 years later. Emmy chef

Matt Hyland shared tips and resources with Dale Talde, who serves it at **Massoni** (11 E. 31st St.), and **Williamsburg Pizza's** Coniglio occasionally offers an off-menu riff he calls "Not Detroit Style," so as not to provoke purists.

#### PIZZA AL TAGLIO

Roman-style bakery pizza, long planks of dough cooked in pans or directly on the oven floor and cut into crisp, thin squares (*al taglio* means "by the slice"). Antico Forno on Rome's Campo dei Fiori is famous for it, and in New York, so is **Sullivan St Bakery** (533 W. 47th St.). At Grand Central's **Prova Pizzabar** (89 E. 42nd St.), Donatella Arpaia makes an impressive (and much more robust) hybrid version from great ingredients more often associated with Naples-style pizza.

#### SICILIAN

Tall, soft, and spongy, the Sicilian square is characterized by a dough that's given ample time to rise. **L&B Spumoni Gardens** in Bensonhurst (2725 86th St.), where they heap the tomato sauce on top of the cheese instead of the other way around, is a mecca for aficionados of this New York style that, oddly enough,

doesn't really exist in Sicily. (See sfinciuni.)

#### SFINCIUNI

This focaccialike Sicilian-bakery pizza garnished with onions, anchovy, and bread crumbs is the precursor to the New York Sicilian style. If you time it right, you can get it at **Prince Street Pizza** in Nolita (27 Prince St.), where it goes under the alias Broadway Breadcrumb, and also at **Brooklyn Pizza Crew**.

#### THIN-CRUST SICILIAN

is a bit of an oxymoron in that the defining characteristic of the New York Sicilian style is its puffy height. Essentially, TCS is what is now more commonly referred to as grandma style. But **Rizzo's** in Astoria (30-13 Steinway St.) has been calling its exceptionally crunchy squares thin-crust Sicilian since 1959.

#### FOCACCIA

Flatbread ancestor to pizza of many permutations. The variously topped version at **Eataly** (200 Fifth Ave. and 101 Liberty St.) is soft and springy with a superrich flavor derived from great olive oil and long fermentation. It makes a good argument for inclusion in a list like this.



Williamsburg  
Pizza's  
"Not Detroit  
Style" pie.





*Messoni's  
Detroit pizza  
with charred  
Brussels  
sprouts.*

*From  
Pizzabar's  
Regina  
margherita  
pizza al taglio.*