

Rival of famed Brooklyn pizza shop named best in US

By Natalie Musumeci

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Patsy Grimaldi's Dumbo pizza joint, Juliana's. Photo: Paul Martinka

Pizza legend Patsy Grimaldi has earned his DUMBO pie joint Juliana's the TripAdvisor ranking of best pizza in the country, beating out nearby rivalry tourist hot spot Grimaldi's Pizzeria – the eatery he founded and made famous before selling off his interest.

Juliana's Pizza, which the 83-year-old Grimaldi opened in 2012 in his old Grimaldi's storefront on Old Fulton Street near the Brooklyn Bridge after more than a decade in retirement, was ranked the No. 1 pizza joint in the nation in a Top 10 list compiled by the travel site.



"It feels terrific," said Grimaldi's partner and Juliana's co-founder Matt Grogan, adding that he's a bit shocked that iconic pizza institution Grimaldi's didn't even make the list.

"I'm a little surprised," said Grogan. "They still make great pizza and we're certainly rivals and we try to be friendly rivals."

The TripAdvisor ranked is based on the "quality and quantity of reviews and opinions from millions of travelers," the company said.

"It is a customer ranking, which is fantastic," said Grogan. "Our guests put us there."

Despite the ranking, Grimaldi's Pizzeria – just down the block on Front Street – often sees lines that snake out of the door. Grogan says Juliana's lines are "comparable."

"Grimaldi's has certainly faced a few challenges as being the incumbent. It's tough to stay on top," said Grogan, giving much of the credit of Juliana's success to Grimaldi and his late wife Carol.

"At the end of the day Patsy sets the tone – he's a perfectionist," he said. "There's no bad pizza at Juliana's."

Grimaldi and Frank Ciolli, Grimaldi's successor who purchased the Grimaldi's Pizza name in 1998 and is the current owner of the business, have had a long-running feud with Ciolli having sued Grimaldi in 2012 charging that Juliana's violated a non-compete clause.

Keste, on Bleecker Street in Greenwich Village came in at No. 4 on the TripAdvisor list. John Pizzeria, also on Bleecker Street, was ranked at No. 10.