

## Henrietta Hots

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*Garbage Plates Example Menu*

The garbage plate is the heart and soul of Rochester, New York. It's known for being a quick and easy dish that captures the Western New York charm. It's a plate composed of either home fries or French fries, a choice of macaroni salad or baked beans, and a choice of meat: cheeseburger, hamburgers, Italian sausage, steak, chicken, white hots, or red hots. The plate is topped with onions, mustard, and the signature meat sauce. Recently I had the great fortune of trying Rochester's famous garbage plates at Henrietta Hots located on West Henrietta Road, about eight minutes from campus—a popular location for RIT students to frequent.

I arrived early on Sunday morning at Henrietta Hots just before restaurant officially opened and was immediately greeted by amazing staff, despite the earliness, I explained to them that my colleague and I were filming for the undergraduate admissions marketing team at RIT and asked for more information on a Garbage plate and what to try. The kind cashier gave me a breakdown, showing me four pictures of the different styles. I ordered a smaller size plate called a JV Garbage plate with Macaroni Salad, Italian sausage, home fries, and their signature meat sauce.

As the food was being prepared, I looked around the restaurant, it was set up in the style of a small diner. The front of the house is the first thing you see when you enter with the Christmas lights lining the words, "Welcome to Henrietta Hots". Above the desk are the menus displaying all the variety of options you could get with the pass-through window that leads to the kitchen. On either side of the restaurants, sunlight poured through the windows into the booths, lining the walls giving the small space a welcoming and throwback 2000s atmosphere. Merchandise lined the walls consisting of shirts to hoodies. Against the opposite walls, they had a Slushy machine perfect for a hot day, next to condiments and drinks bar.



*(Kayla) posing in front of Merchandise Wall*

After asking the staff some questions about Henrietta Hots. I came to learn it was a very popular spot for RIT students to go mainly because the diner is open late and close to the campus. It's the perfect place to grab a bite with your friends or catch the latest Buffalo Bills football games.

After a short wait, the Garbage plate was finally ready. I was ecstatic but I couldn't eat before taking a picture with the amazing staff to commemorate the moment.

I sat in the booth closest to the window and after recording a few shots for the vlog, it was finally time to try it. The plate was fresh off the grill, and I could smell the hot fries, meat sauce, sausage, and macaroni meshing into a tasteful aroma.



*Picture taken with the Henrietta Hots Staff*

I hurriedly took my first bite. I was hit with various flavors that to my surprise didn't clash. The sausage and meat sauce added that little spice and hearty taste that went well with the fries. The macaroni salad, however, tied the whole thing together. The coolness of the Macaroni contrasted with the warmth of the other parts of the plate. It was rich and creamy which upped the level of the dish.



*Photo of JV Garbage Plate*

Prior to trying the Garbage plate, it was recommended to try it with Mustard or Ketchup, to be honest I was apprehensive about trying it that way. Nonetheless, I figured I'd give it a try, to get the full authentic taste. Topping the plate with mustard I generously took a bite, again to my surprise it leveled up my Garbage plate experience. The tanginess of the mustard added a new level of flavor and emphasized each individual part of the plate, especially the fries and meat sauce.

I left a satisfied customer and full beyond belief, as an RIT student I understand why everyone calls it a must have when you visit Rochester, New York. I encourage you to stop by with friends or family and give it a try yourself. You won't regret it.