



The Battle of Neighbourhoods

African Restaurants in New York City

Introduction and Business Problem

A wealthy African family is planning on relocating to New York City. They desire to setup a grand african restaurant on arrival. They have tasked me with the responsibility of identifying the availability and spread of African restaurants in New York City, and to advise on the best market entry strategy.

It is important to note that the demographics of New York City is one that is particularly and ethnically diverse, culturally rich and generally interesting. As one of the largest cities in the United States, it stands out on the strength of what it offers residents and visitors alike. With a population of just over 8 million people in 2017, it accounts for over 40% of the population of New York State and comes slightly behind the population percentage of the New York metropolitan area, which happens to be home to approximately 23.6 million people. Over the last decade the city has been growing faster than the region. The New York region continues to be by far the leading metropolitan gateway for legal immigrants admitted into the United States.

New York City is also densely populated which as a result, it earned the term "melting pot" - coined to describe the densely populated immigrant neighborhoods on the Lower East Side. As many as 800 languages are spoken in New York, making it the most linguistically diverse city in the world. English remains the most widely spoken language, although there are areas in the outer boroughs in which up to 25% of people speak English as an alternate language, and/or have limited or no English language fluency. English is least spoken in neighborhoods such as Flushing, Sunset Park, and Corona.

It is no brainer that with its diverse culture, comes the yearning for diverse food items and culinary tastes. There are many restaurants in New York City, belonging to different categories of ethnicities not limited to African, Chinese, French, Indian, etc. In addition to the task I mentioned earlier, my goal on this project is to highlight and visualize the neighbourhoods and boroughs in New York City where you can find African restaurants and the go-to-market strategy for entering the restaurant market for my client.

Description of Data

Here is an overview of all the data points for this project:

A dataset of New York City containing the list Boroughs, Neighborhoods along with their latitude and longitude. Data source : https://cocl.us/new_york_dataset Description : This data set contains the required information. And we will use this data set to explore various neighborhoods of new York city.

A dataset leveraging Foursquare API of African restaurants across the various neighborhood of NYC. Data source : Foursquare API Description : This API would provide an up-to-date information on all the restaurants in each neighborhood. A further drill down of the dataset will then provide the venues for African restaurants spread across the various neighbourhoods.

GeoSpace data Data source :

<https://data.cityofnewyork.us/City-Government/Borough-Boundaries/tqmj-j8zm> Description : This will provide the functionality needed to visualize the New York Borough boundaries with the aid of a Choropleth map.

Methodology and Approach

1. Collect the new York city data from https://cocl.us/new_york_dataset
2. Use FourSquare API to find all venues for each neighborhood and corresponding boroughs.
3. Filter out all venues that are African restaurants.
4. Find ratings, tips and like count for each African restaurant using Foursquare API.
5. Sort out the data using the ratings for each restaurant.
6. Visualize the ranking of neighborhoods using the folium library.

Results Discussion and Limitations

From the analysis, out of the 306 neighbourhoods in New York City, only 12 African restaurants are spread across the city. This is surprising considering the sheer number of Africans living in New York City. This paltry number is a far cry from the number of restaurants owned and run by other ethnic nationalities like the Chinese, Indians, etc., Restaurants in Crown heights have the highest number of ratings. While Manhattan takes the lead for the Boroughs. However, it is very important to note that this result is solely based on the data pulled from the Foursquare API..

Observations

For the Boroughs, Manhattan has the highest number of African restaurants. This is closely followed by Bronx and Brooklyn. This makes it just 3 out of the 5 Boroughs housing African restaurants.

Conclusion

The opportunity exists to set up an African restaurant and scale it all the same. The market for African cuisine is available but the supply is below demand. In addition to this, the competition is not not stiff as you would have in other sectors. Thus, starting an African restaurant business is a step in the right direction.

