



COOK LIKE A STAR



DEMETRIO ZAVALA

49

MIAMI, FL

HT: FORT CARSON, CO
EXECUTIVE CULINARY DIRECTOR

 @chefzavala

TALENT: MOLECULAR GASTRONOMY



ABOUT

- Demetrio Zavala is a celebrated Mexican-American chef, restaurateur, and author based in Austin, Texas, renowned for his delicious fusion dishes that incorporate local ingredients and flavors from his native country. Beyond the kitchen, Zavala shares his culinary expertise through cooking classes and cookbooks, aiming to bring the flavors and traditions of Mexico to a global audience. With a diverse culinary background spanning fine dining to taquerías, he has garnered recognition through various awards and features in culinary magazines, including winning the Top Chef Texas title in 2018.
- Chef Demetrio Zavala's culinary journey began in Guadalajara, Mexico, where he learned cooking from his mother and later attended culinary school, mentored by renowned chefs and even protégé of Alain Ducasse. Moving to the United States in his twenties, he established himself as a respected chef, featured in publications like The New York Times and appearing on national television shows. Zavala's career showcases his dedication, passion, and mastery of Mexican and international cuisines, earning him acclaim both in the kitchen and beyond.
- Zavala's professional career is highlighted by his expertise in Mexican cuisine, although he has showcased his skills in diverse global culinary settings, from Monterey to the Mediterranean. Alongside running his restaurants, he has received numerous accolades, authored cookbooks, and championed the use of sustainable, locally sourced ingredients. He is the recipient of the prestigious Michelin Star and has been recognized by the James Beard Foundation for Outstanding Chef in 2020 and Best Chef: California in 2016, among other distinctions.
- Outside of the kitchen, Demetrio is a proud father whose son, Chandler, plays football in the NFL for Carolina Panthers.
- Chef Demetrio will showcase his skills by preparing a unique dining experience for our judges. During his act, they will observe him concocting a special sugar and concentrated flavor substance. He will then infuse this mixture into a helium balloon. As the judges inhale the helium, which will naturally give them the trademark Mickey Mouse voice, they will experience a flavor explosion reminiscent of classic apple pie.

Casting Note: He is a 6x Chopped champion and has appeared on Beat Bobby Flay and Guy's Grocery Games.