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Top Chef: Review Of The Reality TV Show Top Chef

By Edward Charkow

The Season Two premiere of Top Chef airs on Wednesday, October 18 at 11:00 P.M. on Bravo, immediately following the finale of the third season of Project Runway. Top Chef will later move to its permanent 10:00 PM time slot on Wednesday, October 25, 2006.

Top Chef debuted in March of 2006 as a competitive culinary reality television program, and was met with critical and ratings success. The show earned the title of the highest rated food show on cable among Adults 18-49 and 25-54. Katie Lee Joel, the wife of famed musician Billy Joel, served as the host of the first season, but will not be returning for Season Two. She has been replaced by Actress and Award-winning writer Padma Lakshmi, and famed chef Tom Colicchio returns once again to serve as Head Chef, mentor and judge. Gail Simmons of Food and Wine magazine returns as a regular judge. There has not been a reason given for Katie Joel's absence during Season Two.

Bravo will be introducing Top Chef's viewing audience to fifteen of the country's most impressive rising culinary professionals, all who wish to claim the title of Top Chef won last season by Harold Dieterle. Dieterle has made effective use of his win on the reality program, and is now opening his Manhattan restaurant, Perilla, sometime in late 2006, early 2007.

New host Lakshmi, known as the first Indian supermodel, will be introducing the challenges to the contestants and also sitting at the judge's table each week. Lakshmi has culinary credentials in the world of cookbooks, and is currently completing her second cookbook for Miramax Books. She also has hosting experience, serving as the lead role on "Padma's Passport" on The Food Network and also on the documentary series "Planet Food" for the Discovery Channel.

Tom Colicchio will be guiding the judges through the cooking and service challenges, offering advice and critiques to the contestants. Each episode will also feature a guest judge, all well known figures in the food industry. The new season of Top Chef takes place in the city of Los Angeles, and the contestants will be serving up cuisine in some of the city's finest restaurants. As with most competitive reality shows, one contestant will be eliminated each week based upon his or her cooking and service skills (lack thereof) and one will be declared the winner. The finalists will face off in a grand finale and the winning chef will receive 100,000 in seed money to start their culinary career, be featured in Food

and Wine magazine and appear at the Food and Wine Class in Aspen in 2007.

The range of ages for this season's top chef hopefuls is 23–46, and hail from the states of NJ, CA, FL and NY, among others.

Find more out about Top Chef – Bravo and the entire reality t.v. world at

<http://www.realitypeople.info>

Gift ideas for Chefs

By Matthew Seigneur

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Chef gift ideas for every man

Do you know a man that loves to hang out in the kitchen and make wonderful dishes? Then you should look at chef gift ideas for every man. Whether he loves to grill or make those exquisite gourmet meals you will be able to find many gifts that will please him.

An apron embroidered with his name is always a gift that he will use and enjoy. You can find many styles that will be perfect for him no matter what type of chef he is. Find a classic one for the gourmet chef and a fun one for the man that loves to grill. Many have cute sayings on the front or just find one that will have his name. Some chef aprons even come with pockets for holding their cooking utensils close at hand.

The Fresh Shakes Maker is a wonderful chef gift idea. With this cool gift he will be whipping up all kinds of thick milkshakes in just 20 seconds. This will be great for those summer parties. He will be able to make all kinds of new and unique shakes using all types of fresh or frozen fruits. He may even surprise you with flavors you have never tried before.

A personalized cutting board with his name engraved will be an added benefit for when he is making his special omelets. He will have a cutting board that is perfect for chopping, cutting and dicing. The personalized part is just a great way of saying how much you appreciate and enjoy his cooking.

Cooking accessories like waffle makers, blenders, and stove top grills can always be great gifts. This will help him use his imagination to make even more exquisite dishes than before.

Chefs always use all types of different pots and pans, so you could always add to his collection. There are many different types of pans that he could use on a regular basis. Buy ones in many different sizes and styles to help keep him up to date with all the new ones on the market.

The same goes with utensils used while cooking, chef gifts can be spatulas, wooden spoons, whips, and any other item used to stir or flip food while cooking.

If he enjoys baking, be sure to include baking pans and accessories. Items to ice their famous cakes can really be a treasure gift for the chef. And the best part is you will get to enjoy his famous pastry after it is ready.

<http://www.gifts-for-men.org/> Provides gift ideas and unique gifts for men, visit <http://www.gifts-for-men.org/gadgets-uk/?category=Games> for some cool gadgets you can buy for men!



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