



### **Natalia Machado**

L'atelier D'argentine  
Executive chef

Raised in Buenos Aires with summers spent in Patagonia and across Latin America, Natalia Machado, 34, has grown up with Latin cuisine embedded in her culture both from the sophisticated cuisine of Buenos Aires and the excellent seafood and wide-open freedom of the coast. Her mother was a wonderful, improvisational chef who never followed recipes.

Natalia took her first restaurant job just two months into culinary school, at Museo Renault, a trendy restaurant in Buenos Aires. Soon she was offered a job by Gato Dumas, director of her culinary school and celebrity chef-owner of several restaurants around South America.

Once Natalia graduated from culinary school, she returned to her old school as a food science instructor. At the same time, she worked as a pastry chef at the restaurant Nectarine, and took evening nutrition classes. Her next move was to Voodoo, another ultra-hip restaurant and lounge in Buenos Aires, where she was offered the position as lead pastry chef. Within two months, the restaurant's chef had quit and Natalia took over in the interim. The "interim" lasted two years. She then moved on to the next big step of her career in New York City.

There, she had the opportunity to work side by side with Maricel Presilla, the culinary historian, cookbook author, and owner of two Hoboken, NJ restaurants, Zafra and Cucharamama, developing Maricel's Latin America cookbook. Natalia eventually became the Chef de Cuisine for Cucharamama.

In 2005, Natalia was engaged by Fernando Trocca, an internationally renowned Argentinean chef, and his business partner Stefano Villa, to take the lead at their NYC restaurant, Industria Argentina for 8 years. This led to many exciting culinary Latin American assignments and TV appearances and ultimately secured her position as a cornerstone in the New York Latin American food landscape.

On top of her accomplishments in the kitchen, Natalia has competed – and won twice! – on the Food Network's Chopped and Sweet genius.

