

The Making of a Chef: Mastering Heat at the Culinary Institute of America

By Michael Ruhlman



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"Well reported and heartfelt, Ruhlman communicates the passion that draws the acolyte to this precise and frantic profession." ?The New York Times Book Review

Just over a decade ago, journalist Michael Ruhlman donned a chef's jacket and houndstooth-check pants to join the students at the Culinary Institute of America, the country's oldest and most influential cooking school. But *The Making of a Chef* is not just about holding a knife or slicing an onion; it's also about the nature and spirit of being a professional cook and the people who enter the profession. As Ruhlman?now an expert on the fundamentals of cooking?recounts his growing mastery of the skills of his adopted profession, he propels himself and his readers through a score of kitchens and classrooms in search of the elusive, unnameable elements of great food.

Incisively reported, with an insider's passion and attention to detail, *The Making of a Chef* remains the most vivid and compelling memoir of a professional culinary education on record.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Journalist Michael Ruhlman talked his way into the CIA: the Culinary Institute of America, the Harvard of cooking schools. It had something to do with potatoes a grand-uncle had eaten deacades earlier, how the man could remember them so well for so long, buried as they had been in the middle of an elegant meal. Ruhlman wanted to learn how to cook potatoes like that--like an art--and the CIA seemed the place to go. The fun part of this book is that we all get to go along for the ride without having to endure the trauma of cooking school.

Ever wonder what goes on in a busy kitchen, why your meal comes late or shows up poorly cooked? The temptation is to blame the waiter, but there are a world of cooks behind those swinging doors, and Ruhlman marches you right into it. It's a world where, when everything is going right, time halts and consciousness expands. And when a few things go wrong, the earth begins to wobble on its axis. Ruhlamn has the writerly skills to make the education of a chef a visceral experience.

From School Library Journal

YAAThe Culinary Institute of America is known as "the Harvard of cooking schools" and many of this country's best-known chefs are graduates. Ruhlman enrolled as a student with the intention of writing this book, which begins as a chronicle of the intense, high-pressure grind of classes and cooking. However, it turns into an engrossing personal account as, his every effort critiqued, the author determines to become a student and not just impersonate one. YAs will enjoy Ruhlman's anecdotes about his instructors and his classmates Ysome of whom are still in their teens. The appendix offers a chart showing the course work for associate degrees. This will appeal to anyone aspiring to a career as a chef as well as to those interested in food preparation, presentation, and the restaurant industry in America. APatricia Noonan, Prince William Public Library, VA

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From Library Journal

Beginning with Skills One, where Chef Pardus guides his charges through the complexities of creating a perfect stock, journalist Ruhlman provides an insider's view of the exacting program that many consider to be the best formal training a chef can partake of in this country. In his condensed tour of duty at the attractive, suberbly equipped upstate New York campus of the CIA, Ruhlman spends six months sampling the arduous 81-week regimen the institute employs to both educate and toughen students for the competitive, frantic environment of cooking in fine restaurants. Discerning character sketches introduce the diverse group as the author explores the passion for fine food that makes them pursue this difficult calling. An examination of the curriculum and its philosophical framework is provided along with profiles of the master chefs who deliver this demanding training. The program ends in the institute's restaurants, where recently acquired skills and knowledge are put to the test as students perform everything from menu planning to serving actual customers. Although Jeff Riggenbach's reading is too pedestrian for the occasional comic moments, this audio is recommended for larger cooking collections.?Linda Bredengerd, Hanley Lib., Univ. of Pittsburgh, Bradford, PA

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Townsend:

This book untitled The Making of a Chef: Mastering Heat at the Culinary Institute of America to be one of several books this best seller in this year, that's because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book shop or you can order it via online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason for you to past this book from your list.

Tracy Painter:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the free time or they will get wide range of stress from both everyday life and work. So, whenever we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not really a robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer may unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is actually The Making of a Chef: Mastering Heat at the Culinary Institute of America.

Jimmy Stone:

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love The Making of a Chef: Mastering Heat at the Culinary Institute of America, it is possible to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout people. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Deborah Fishman:

On this era which is the greater person or who has ability to do something more are more important than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple method to have that. What you are related is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. One of many books in the top record in your reading list will be The Making of a Chef: Mastering Heat at the Culinary Institute of America. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking upwards and review this guide you can get many advantages.

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