

John Besh

Executive Chef/Founder of Besh Restaurant Group
TV Personality & Cookbook Author
New Orleans Ambassador



Acclaimed chef John Besh grew up in Southern Louisiana, learning at an early age the essentials of Louisiana's rich culinary traditions. Besh has set the benchmark for fine dining in New Orleans - with the six successful restaurants - **Restaurant August, Besh Steak, Lüke, La Provence, Domenica at The Roosevelt Hotel and The American Sector at The National World War II Museum**

His talent and drive have earned Besh continuous kudos from the outset of his career: **James Beard Foundation Award for "Best Chef Southeast"** in 2006, **Food & Wine's "Top 10 Best New Chefs in America"**, **Gourmet's "Guide to America's Best Restaurants,"** and **"America's Top 50 Restaurants"**. In 2007, Besh was featured as a creative visionary whose passion helped transform a culture in the **Sundance Iconoclasts** series, along with Jazz legend Winton Marsalis and New Orleans native.

Besh was runner-up on the Food Network series, *Next Iron Chef* and appeared on Bravo's *Top Chef Masters* to help raise money for and support the **Make It Right Foundation**. His first solo-authored cookbook, *My New Orleans*, will make its way to the stores in fall 2009.

As the father of four sons - Brendan, Jack, Luke and Andrew - Besh takes breaks from some of New Orleans's most popular restaurants to continue a longstanding family tradition: fishing. In an interview, Besh says he wants his sons to understand the origin of local foods and the knowledge of food at its source. "My sons think I'm crazy," he says, laughing, "because I want them to learn how to make a roux and a gumbo."

Besh's appreciation for local ingredients and local cuisine has only increased since Hurricane Katrina as he considers these essential to the survival of the people and cultural heritage of New Orleans. Showing the spirit of New Orleans in the wake of a disaster, Restaurant August was one of the first restaurants to open after Hurricane Katrina. Besh has been actively involved in efforts locally and national to raise funds for hurricane victims.