

CHEF DONALD J. SMITH

Chef Donald was born and raised in New Orleans, the heart and soul of Creole and Cajun culture. He learned the ins and outs of authentic Creole Cuisine at the feet of his mother and uncle. Donald relocated to the Bay Area in 2001, with Aramark Corporation.

To enhance and broaden his knowledge and skills of Creole Cuisine and add a little more professional twist to it, he attended Louisiana Vo-Tech College and obtained a certificate in Culinary Arts. Donald later attended Delgado Community College, where he earned an AOS Degree in Culinary Arts in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Additionally, Chef Donald has traveled the world and interacted with other first-rate chefs from around the globe. He has had the rare opportunity of sharing his expertise and passion for good food with other chefs from countries such as Brazil, Italy, and Spain.

Chef Donald is a member of the American Culinary Federation, Blacks Chefs of American, Chef's Association of the Pacific Coast, Jug's Social and Pleasure Club (New Orleans), 100 Black Men of The Bay Area, Glad Tidings Men of Distinction, Hayward, California, and African-American Chamber of Commerce, Oakland, California.

A member of Glad Tidings Church of God in Christ where he serves as Chef for the Hospitality Ministry, Chef Donald does not hesitate to volunteer his service to the community, which was apparent when he served as a volunteer for the New Orleans Children's Hospital Chef's Charity, And Louisiana Project 21, for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.