



Chef Alan Wong

In the world of gourmet cooking, critically-acclaimed Chef Alan Wong is well-known for his unique creative flair. A renowned master of Hawaii Regional Cuisine, Chef Wong has made a highly successful career out of marrying elements of different ethnic cooking styles using the finest Island-grown ingredients. As his Asian roots combine with his French culinary background, east and west cuisines do not merely meet -- they meld.

Completing his apprenticeship at The Greenbrier Hotel, Chef Wong worked at Lutece in New York City. It was there that his mentor, Chef Andre Soltner, emphasized the importance of being a “skilled craftsman” and “cooking with two feet on the ground”. These words remain with Chef Wong in all aspects of his work as he guides and nurtures his staff.

In 1989, he opened The Canoe House Restaurant at the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and Bungalows and subsequently participated in every “Cuisines of the Sun” event held there for twelve years. 1991 witnessed the birth of Hawaii Regional Cuisine when he and eleven other chefs organized a group determined to work with local farmers, fishermen, and ranchers. The creation of HRC helped to establish Hawaii as a sought-after destination to experience a unique blend of ethnic-inspired cuisines made with fresh, local products.

In 1994, Chef Wong was named one of 13 Rising Star Chefs in America by the Robert Mondavi Winery for his culinary excellence. He is a James Beard Award winner for Best Chef, Pacific Northwest 1996. *Sante Magazine for Wine and Spirits* named him Chef of the Year 2001, and the Inaugural 2001 Wedgewood Awards nominated him as one of 10 U.S. chefs for the title of World Master of Culinary Arts. In 2003, *Bon Appetit Magazine* recognized Chef Wong among its culinary legends as the ‘Master of Hawaii Regional Cuisine’. *StarChefs* awarded Chef Wong with the Mentor Chef award in 2012 in their first-ever Hawaii revue.

Alan Wong’s Restaurant opened in April of 1995 and in 1996 it received a James Beard Foundation nomination for the nation’s ‘Best New Restaurant’. It was honored in *Gourmet Magazine*’s October 2001 issue, ranking #6 of ‘America’s Best 50 Restaurants’ and in 2002 was inducted into *Nation’s Restaurant News Magazine*’s Hall of Fame. In its May 2006 issue, *Food and Wine Magazine* included the restaurant among its ‘The Go List of 376 Hottest Restaurants in the World’ and in that same year was again the only Hawaii restaurant to be ranked among ‘America’s Best 50 Restaurants’ (#8) by *Gourmet Magazine*. It has been recognized as the island’s Best Restaurant in Honolulu Magazine’s *Hale Aina* Awards 18 times. Voted by the Ilima Awards as Hawaii’s ‘Best Restaurant’ for a decade, Alan Wong’s Restaurant was inducted into its inaugural ‘Star Circle’ established for ten-time winners in 2008. Today, the restaurant continues to receive top ratings in *Zagat* and *Wine Spectator*.

In September 1999, The Pineapple Room by Alan Wong opened at then Liberty House (now Macy’s) in the Ala Moana Shopping Center, serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner; offering banquet facilities and catering services. The Pineapple Room was opened as Wong’s first expansion project, investing in his

people, allowing his young chefs and managers to develop the confidence in running their own restaurants. In its 18 years, The Pineapple Room was recognized for its business lunches and won awards for “Best Burger” and “Best Loco Moco” by various local and international publications before closing in July of 2017.

Chef Wong is the author of two cookbooks, “*Alan Wong’s New Wave Luau*” (Ten Speed Press, 1999) and cookbook “*The Blue Tomato - The Inspirations Behind the Cuisine of Alan Wong*” (Watermark Publishing, 2010), which was recognized in 2011 with the Ka Palapala Po’okela Book Awards for the Excellence in Cookbooks category and in 2012 with the International Association of Culinary Professionals (IACP) Cookbook Award in the Chefs and Restaurants category.

Chef Wong believes in giving back to the community and the profession. He serves on the boards for Leeward Community College and the Culinary Institute of the Pacific’s food service programs, as well as the Hawaii Agriculture Foundation. He was honored in 2001 by Kapiolani Community College and in 2002 by the University of Hawaii as its Distinguished Alumnus and for his contributions to the State of Hawaii. In 2012 Chef Wong was selected to be a part of the Diplomatic Culinary Partnership Initiative, started by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Chef Alan Wong was inducted to the American Academy of Chefs (AAC) Culinary Hall of Fame as its Celebrated Chef in July 2013 at the American Culinary Federation (ACF) National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. Chef Wong is the first chef from Hawaii to be recognized with this honor. The prestigious Celebrated Chef category recognizes individuals “for their outstanding achievements in the culinary industry”.

Using fresh, local products whenever possible, pairing them with local flavors, Chef Wong defines his style of Hawaii Regional Cuisine as the contemporary style of cooking that borrows from all of the ethnic influences found in Hawaii today. Creating innovative dishes with a contemporary twist, his goal is to have his guests “Taste Hawaii”. His restaurants express a casual yet elegant ambience and welcome their guests with Hawaiian-style hospitality and the ‘*Aloha Spirit*’.

In 2015, Chef Wong and his two Honolulu restaurants were inducted into the Hawaii Restaurant Association’s Hall of Fame. He was honored to have been recognized for his dedication to the growth, quality, and image of Hawaii’s restaurant and food service industry.

Chef Wong’s latest collaboration is with popular Kaka’ako fine dining restaurant, 53 By The Sea, in Honolulu.

Former Alan Wong’s Restaurant Concepts:

Hawaii Regional Cuisine Marketplace (Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii)

The Pineapple Room by Alan Wong (Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii)

Aloha Airlines Trans-Pacific In-Flight Meal Service

Alan Wong’s Hawaii (Maihama, Japan)

The Hualalai Grille by Alan Wong (Kaupulehu, Big Island, Hawaii)

Honu Kai Lani, A Watabe Wedding Chapel (Ko’olina, Oahu, Hawaii)

Alan Wong’s Amasia (Wailea, Maui, Hawaii)

Alan Wong’s Shanghai (Shanghai, China)