



Dine Local

THE RESTAURANT BUSINESS IS a demanding livelihood, virtually a 24/7 commitment that requires a special amalgamation of managerial skills, business savvy, attention to detail, and a gracious interaction with the citizenry of a city. And to deliver an inviting and enjoyable dining experience day in and day out demands a functional harmony of creativity, adaptability, optimism, and allowing oneself to follow their passion.

In the pages that follow you will be introduced to the entrepreneurial histories and backstories of several dozen hardworking and talented Chefs and/or Owners of homegrown Memphis restaurants.

By operating successful local businesses that have graced the city's landscape for years, if not decades, this diverse group of business owners have created countless jobs, generated much needed tax revenue, and supported a wide array of community organizations and activities, all while providing interesting and fun venues where Memphians, and those who visit the Bluff City, can enjoy the company of friends and family while experiencing a broad assortment of creative cuisine.

As I conceptualized this literary project, I intentionally wanted to focus only on the locally owned establishments. Collectively, they represent the most accurate cultural representation of a city, as well as acting as daily ambassadors to those who visit.

My interest in writing the book was to uncover the stories behind some of the iconic establishments in Memphis, as well as those that have more recently expanded its appetizing offerings. I wanted to discover the unique history of each place, and then craft a narrative that was as much about the people behind the food, as the food itself.

And I purposely chose to actively promote the *Dine Local* theme that the residents of every city should loyally support their locally owned eateries.

As a writer, I found their personal journeys fascinating and often inspiring. While each journey has been unique, you will find common themes throughout. I invite you to join me in celebrating all they have brought and continue to bring to the Bluff City, each with their individual and evolving interpretations of what Memphis cooking should be all about.

