

Michael Salmon

"Just Feed Me!"

What did you do before FlyBird?

After graduating the CIA, I had a stint as the saucier at the "21 Club", where I was taught proper seasoning techniques by Chef Geoffrey Zakarian. I then became Chef de Cuisine at the posh eatery "Arcadia" in New York. "Arcadia" was a pioneer of *farm to table*, before the expression even existed, and this approach to simple and seasonal food is the foundation of my cooking style.

I had a great run as a chef in New York, this included being the personal chef to Mayor Ed Koch for three years, where I cooked for Jackie O and many other A-listers. I continued as executive chef at Mickey Mantles, which was a favorite hang-out for sports legends. Mickey himself was a huge fan of my cooking, and I shared many memorable moments with him.

Tell us about being a finalist on the Next Food Network Star!

Being invited to participate in The Next Food Network Star was the icing on the cake. I am an entertainer at heart, and cooking on a national stage was a lot of fun. I was later invited back to participate on the 24 Hour Restaurant Challenge with my daughter Geri, and it was a fantastic experience to share with her. Both my daughter and wife are involved in every aspect of FlyBird, and being able to be on this culinary adventure with family is a dream come true for me.

What is your food philosophy?

My mission is for you to taste the freshness of the food and escape mediocrity. I have distilled all my knowledge into creating the best chicken possible. My custom built wood and charcoal grill creates a wonderful flavor that is truly unique. Our food is prepared like fine dining, but the menu is everyday food you can eat guilt-free, in an unpretentious chicken joint.

What does "Just Feed Me" mean?

I have cooked for my friends since I was in high school. When I asked them what they were hungry for, they always said "We love everything you make, just feed us". So to this day I tell anyone coming to FlyBird to say "**Just Feed Me**", and we will take care of the rest.

FlyBird Chargrilled Chicken

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