



My Corner Table

By Leigh Cort

St. Augustine is a mélange of delicious, culturally evolved food. It couldn't have happened without centuries of people landing here, living, eating, cooking and thriving. They brought their hearts to the table for people they loved and even people they were about to meet.

I've been in love with food and entertaining since I was a child. The family traditions of festive food started with grandparents who cherished having a full dining room table in the center of the bustling kitchen. Even on a simple Sunday, I craved the activity of family in-and-out of grandma's kitchen. Everyone participated in the daily round of kitchen chores from rinsing vegetables to pushing potatoes through the ricer. I shall never forget the magnificent aroma of breads baking and the European-inspired trays of dainty hors d'oeuvres waiting patiently for dinner to begin. They are all still in my mind's eye from MY corner table where children stayed out of the way of our family 'chefs'.

There have been celebrations at great places, glamorous and glittering evenings. I've admired the marvelous food experts who filled pages throughout the years in legendary publications. Within this kaleidoscope of dining, the focus on food has remained constant!

Feasting every day means exploring the world's cuisine for dishes we can adapt to the American kitchen. St. Augustine is one of the most thrilling culinary destinations where we might indulge in moderation while encouraging abundance rather than settling for scarcity. Eating is one of the most sensuous of all human activity. Food is prepared with love and joy(!) and remains a central source

of nourishment for all of our senses. The texture, the color, the feel it's such fun to discover.

What makes a great story? Food is my joie de vivre confessing that I'm an obsessed cookbook collector who is fascinated with life's gaiety. Throughout careers in entertaining, catering, publishing and theater, writing is my greatest pleasure when it's about the colorful, passionate people who dedicate their lives bringing us joy.

Welcome to the mystique of being a food writer. I extend an invitation to journey into the tapestry of the enchantment that's happening in our kitchens where you can relax at My Corner Table.

I'm saving a seat for you!

