

Readers' Choice: More Nominees for America's Most Powerful People in Food

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Commenters react to our list of America's 50 Most Powerful People in Food, and nominate their own picks.



Jan 25, 2011 @ 11:59 AM
Posted by Colman Andrews, Editor

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When we revealed our ranked listing of "America's 50 Most Powerful People in Food," we invited readers to give us their own nominations — folks we didn't include but possibly should have. We tabulated the results of the many suggestions we received from comments on our own site and several others that ran the story and from our **Twitter** and **Facebook** pages.

It's worth reiterating the guidelines that we set for ourselves while working on this project. One, the members of the list had to be based in the U.S. and major influencers of the American food-scene. That meant no **Ferran Adrià**, Gordon Ramsay, or Hu Jintao. Second, the people had to be living, non-fictional, and their effect on American diets had to highlight food, rather than beverage, thereby excluding Julia Child, Ruth Bourdain, and Howard Schultz, CEO of Starbucks.

Our disclaimer: This is not a roster of people we necessarily like or whose actions we necessarily approve of, i.e., this is not a list of our favorite people. These 50 are powerful in the food world for better or for worse, and for that reason we welcome our readers to examine and question why executives like **Hugh Grant** of Monsanto rank so highly.

Engaging in debate over who controls what we eat is of utmost importance to us, and it's heartening that enough readers care about what's on their plate to deliberate with such passion. With that, we reveal *your* picks for the most powerful people in food.

Readers' Most Nominated Powerful People in Food:

#1 Mark Bittman, Food Writer and Cookbook Author
His "Minimalist" column in *The New York Times'* Dining Section will be **retired this Wednesday** (even more treasured will use the space), but **Bittman's** getting an even more treasured spot, a column in *The Times'* Op-Ed pages. He has published 17 books in his career. He is a regular guest on the *Today Show*. And he has hosted two PBS series about food and travel.

#1 Anthony Bourdain, Food Writer and TV Personality (tie)
Whether as a chef, author, and television personality, Anthony Bourdain is known for his edgy appeal. His show, *Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations* just wrapped up its 6th season.

#2 Jamie Oliver, Chef-Restaurateur and TV Personality
Oliver has used his fame and success as a British chef and television personality to become an activist for the improvement of children's diets. In 2010, he was awarded the TED Prize for his contributions in this arena.

#3 Marion Nestle, Nutritionist and Educator
Nestle is a professor of nutrition, food studies, and public health at New York University. She writes the *Food Matters* column for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and is the author of five books.

#4 Alton Brown, TV Personality
Brown is an award-winning cookbook author, writer, and television producer, who is best known for his encyclopedia-like food knowledge. He can be seen all over Food Network, starring in *Good Eats*, or hosting *Iron Chef America* and *The Next Iron Chef*.

#4 Jacques Pépin, Chef (tie)
Renowned French chef whose work as a best-selling cookbook author and television show host has had a profound influence on the food industry over the past several decades. He currently presides as Dean of Special Programs at the French Culinary Institute and contributes a quarterly column for *Food & Wine* magazine.

More Honorable Mentions:

- Mike Adams
- Lidia Bastianich**
- Rick Bayless
- Bobo Bergstrom
- Frank Bruni**
- Giuliano Bugialli
- Laura Calder
- T. Colin Campbell
- David Chang**
- Bill Clinton
- Doug Coont
- Ann Cooper
- Dana Cowin**
- Giada De Laurentiis
- Tom Douglas
- Geoffrey Drummond
- Judith Evans
- Bobby Flay
- Ina Garten
- Bill Gates
- "Grandma"
- Gael Greene
- Marcella Hazan
- Ferd Hoefner
- Arianna Huffington
- Steve Jenkins
- Farmer Lee Jones**
- Emeril Lagasse
- Padma Lakshmi
- Howard Lyman
- Tony May
- Max McCalman
- Kathleen Merrigan
- Ferdinand Metz
- "Mom"
- Russ Morash
- Eileen Opatut
- Gordon Ramsay
- Eric Ripert
- Joshua Rosenthal
- Michael Ruhlman
- Tim Ryan
- Joel Salatin
- Merrill Shindler
- Reese Schonfeld
- Howard Schultz
- Dr. Barry Sears
- Nancy Silverton
- Michele Simon
- Steven Starr
- Michael Symon
- Gary Taubes
- Gloria Tsang
- S. Irene Virbila
- Dr. Andrew Weil
- Patricia Wells
- Chuck Williams

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Top Rated

- Sesame Chicken Cucumber Hooodle Salad**, by Ming Tsai
- Spaghetti with White Clam Sauce**, by Molly Aronica
- Slow-Cooker Pork Shoulder**, by Valer Murray
- Lobster Fra Diavolo**, by Yasmin Fahr
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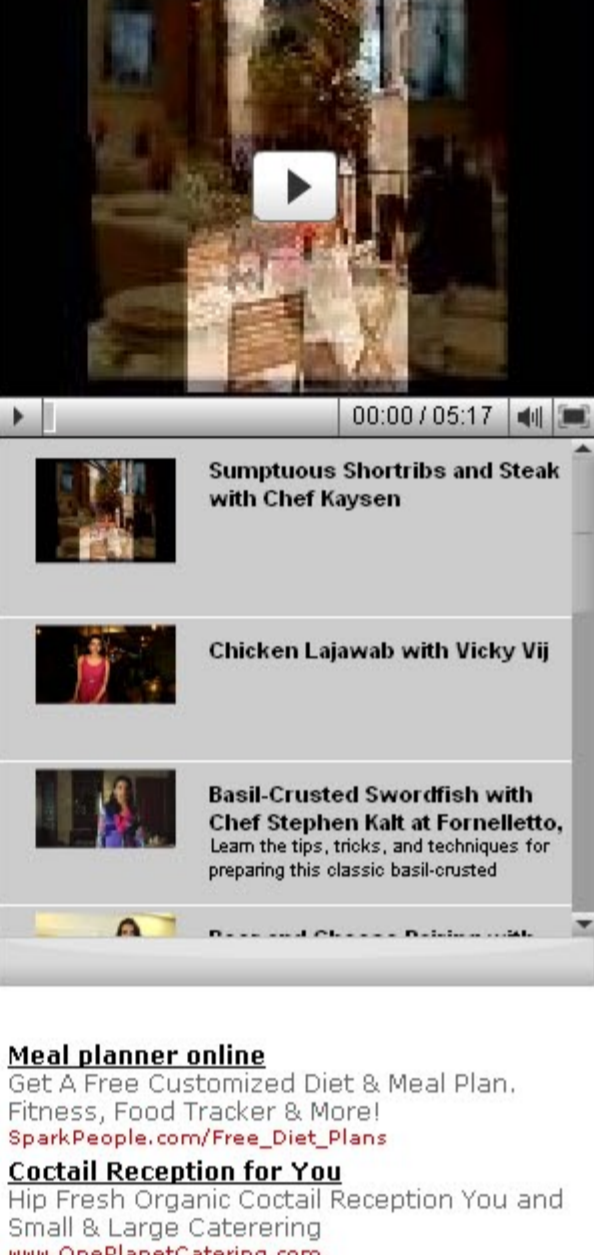
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Comments

by Anonymous, Feb 18, 2011 @ 12:29 PM
What, no mention of Eugene Parkhurst Ramen, inventor of the famous Ramen's Noodles? Those have been feeding college students and those impacted by the economy for years. Now, more than ever, Mr. Ramen's influence is undeniable.

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by Anonymous, Feb 18, 2011 @ 12:11 PM
Every product touted by a hawker hs to come from somewhere, be developed to the end users sensibilities and finally and only finally be marketed to the end user. This winners list is a travesty. I see a lot of great marketers on the list and a lot of visible end users but nothing that would shout about - they are only one little cog in the wheel. Good Luck guys, even Canada and the emerging markets did a better job of understanding the topic than you did.

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by Anonymous, Feb 11, 2011 @ 10:19 PM
Kermit Lynch

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by GhostTown, Feb 03, 2011 @ 3:32 PM
How can you have a website devoted to food that makes no mention of the farmers and ranchers that work every day to grow it for you? 2% of our population is managing to feed the rest of you. Without these people, none of the names mentioned above would have had the chance to gain any notoriety at all. Just saying...

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by Anonymous, Feb 03, 2011 @ 3:29 PM
How about a nod to the 2% of us who work hard every day to feed the rest of you. Your website is dedicated to the food we eat, yet no mention is made of the farmers and ranchers who grow it for you. No farmers= nothing for any of the above listed individuals to be famous for. Just saying...

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by Anonymous, Jan 29, 2011 @ 4:57 PM
Lynne Rosetto-Casper from Minnesota Public Radio's The Splendid Table deserves to be on this list.

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by Anonymous, Jan 26, 2011 @ 10:14 PM
How about Drew Nieporent (I hope that I spelled that correctly!).

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by Anonymous, Jan 26, 2011 @ 1:28 PM
I'm happy to see my name on the Honorable Mentions :-)) Thanks!
Gloria Tsang, RD with HealthCastle.com

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101 Best Restaurants in America
"Best restaurant" lists are tricky. How can any sensible eater compare an iconic pizza parlor or the joint that serves that simply transcendent cheeseburger with the lapidary perfection of a French Laundry or the genre-bending inventiveness...

Death of a Great Catalan Chef
I first ate at El Racó de Can Fabes, in the nondescript town of Sant Celoni, about 30 miles northeast of Barcelona, in 1990. The place looked like a rustic inn of the kind you find all over Italy, France, and Spain — the kind of restaurant...

Report from Madrid Fusión
The event: The ninth annual Madrid Fusión — a "Cumbre Internacional de Gastronomía," or International Summit of Gastronomy, held every January in the Spanish capital. The cast: Many of the most famous names in contemporary Spanish cuisine...

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Fidelanza (Spaghetti Cooked in Tomato Sauce)
It is said that this unusual pasta dish was invented by farmers in the backcountry of western Liguria, who had to cook their own lunch in the fields. Potable water was not always available, and only a limited amount could be carried over long distances,...

Michael Kelly's Sauce
Michael Kelly (1762-1826) was a Cork-born composer, actor, and operatic tenor and onetime friend of Mozart's, who ended his career running a combination sheet-music store and wine shop in London. Somewhere along the line, he invented what he...

Grilled Veal Heart
Heart is probably the most accessible of organ meats. It may be daunting in appearance, but it's meaty and firm and cooked, and tastes very good. It is prepared in this manner in various corners of Lazio, Umbria, and Tuscany. Most butchers will...

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