

Chef Michael Solomonov

2017 Outstanding Chef by James Beard Foundation, Entrepreneur and Humanitarian

Chef Michael Solomonov is the executive chef/co-owner at **Zahav**, a modern Israeli restaurant that brings the authentic flavors of Israel's culture to Philadelphia. He is known for his extraordinary skill at transforming simple foods into artful culinary masterpieces and is widely regarded as one of the country's top chefs and entrepreneurs. In addition to his duties at Zahav, Chef Solomonov is a partner in Federal Donuts, Dizengoff, and Abe Fisher – all in Philadelphia – as well as the newly opened Dizengoff New York City inside Chelsea Market.

In 2017, Solomonov and his partners opened Rooster Soup Company, a crowdfunded restaurant where 100% of the profits go to Broad Street Hospitality Collaborative, which amongst other services provides over 80,000 meals for the needy in Philadelphia.



Some of Solomonov's accolades include:

- 2017 James Beard Foundation Award winner for "Outstanding Chef"
- 2011 James Beard Foundation Award winner for "Best Chef, Mid-Atlantic"
- 2012, *Food & Wine* magazine named him among the country's top "Empire Builders," admiring his devotion "to reinventing overlooked cuisines"
- 2014 *Eater* National Chef of the Year
- James Beard Foundation Award winner for "Best International Cookbook" and "Book of the Year" for *Zahav: A World of Israeli Cooking*
- 2016 James Beard Award nominee, Outstanding Chef

He has been widely featured and recognized for his many accomplishments, on television and in print, including:

The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Today Show, Nightline, Good Morning America, ABC's The Chew, Toronto Star, LA Times, Bon Appétit, Food & Wine, Esquire, Condé Nast Traveler, Travel + Leisure, and Men's Health

Restaurant Awards/Lists:

- In 2017, Zahav was named to the "The National Eater 38" as one of America's "38 Essential Restaurants" for the 4th year in a row
- Rooster Soup Company was named one of the "Restaurants of the Year" for 2017 by Food & Wine
- Rooster Soup Company was named one of the "Top 10 New Restaurants in America for 2017" by GQ Magazine
- Both Abe Fisher and Dizengoff were featured as two of Travel + Leisure's "50 Best New Restaurants, 2014"
- Craig LaBan at the Philadelphia Inquirer rated both Abe Fisher and Dizengoff "Three Bells" and Zahav holds a coveted "Four Bells"
- In August of 2016, Ligaya Mishan in her column "Hungry City" awarded Dizengoff NYC a New York Times Critics' Pick
- Bloomberg News called Dizengoff NYC one of the 26 most exciting restaurant openings in the world for 2016
- Zahav voted one of Philadelphia Magazine's Top 10 Restaurants of 2017

Before opening Zahav, Chef Solomonov was the executive chef at Marigold Kitchen which he and business partner Steven Cook co-owned until 2009. Born in Israel and raised in Pittsburgh, Solomonov frequently travels back to Israel. He is also an avid snowboarder, surfer, and overall fitness fanatic.



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A Rising Chef's Rules for the Road

How Michael Solomonov of Philadelphia's Zahav, Dizengoff and Federal Donuts preps for



Michael Solomonov stands inside Zahav, his Israeli-inspired restaurant in Philadelphia. PHOTO: SCOTT LEVINS FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

"An utter and total revelation"- **Bon Appétit**

"Zahav defines Israeli cooking in America"- **Eater**

"With his ability to embrace high and low and still make dining fun and delicious, his energetic and idiosyncratic enthusiasm for both ends of the spectrum, Solomonov may have whipped up his own secret sauce for success" – **Philadelphia Magazine**

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