

Chef Massimo Bottura at UCLA 'Science and Food' Lecture

Kayla Pantano (May 01, 2017)



The world-renowned chef, Massimo Bottura, recently joined a panel discussion on food waste, hunger, and the environment, joined by UCLA's Jennifer Jay, Burbank Recycle Center's Amy Hammes, and moderator Evan Kleiman of KCRW-FM.

Italy native, [Chef Massimo Bottura](#) [2], author of [Never Trust a Skinny Italian Chef](#) [3], graced UCLA's fifth annual [Science and Food](#) [4] lecture on May 2 as a panelist.

Aspiring Lawyer Turned Restaurateur

Like many Italian chefs, Bottura fancied cooking at a young age after watching his mother, grandmother and aunt in the kitchen preparing family meals. Despite pursuing a law degree, he followed his heart (and palate) and jumped on the opportunity to purchase a roadside trattoria for sale on the outskirts of his hometown of [Modena](#) [4], Italy. After leaving school and renovating the building, he opened his first restaurant, Trattoria del Campazzo.



Bottura then apprenticed himself to chef Georges Coigny to build his culinary foundation—a combination of regional Italian cooking and classical French training. He went on to develop his love of food with stages for [Alain Ducasse](#) [5] at Louis XV in Monte Carlo and Ferran Adriá at [ElBulli](#) [6].

Osteria Francescana: Twelve Tables in the Heart of Modena

In 1995, Bottura returned to Modena and opened [Osteria Francescana](#) [7], which quickly grew to be a three-Michelin-star restaurant. In fact, it's regarded as one of the best restaurants globally with the [World's 50 Best Restaurants](#) [8] survey naming it among its top three eateries for the past five years, including a No. 1 ranking in 2016 for which Bottura received an award at Cipriani Wall Street. Rooted in the Italian culinary traditions seen from a half mile away, the site reads, "Our kitchen is not a list of ingredients or demonstration of technical abilities. It is a narration of the Italian landscape and our passions. Cooking is a collision of ideas, techniques, and cultures. It is not mathematical. It is emotional."

Guests can splurge on a 12-course tasting menu, but there's also an ample amount of first and second course options, like tagliatelle with hand cut meat ragù and sole with white asparagus and hollandaise sauce. And don't forget desserts from tiramisu to lemon tart.

Cooking is a Call to Act

For over 30 years, Bottura has followed his passions to find his voice, but he recently decided to help those who aren't of the same fate. Around the world, we waste one third of the food we produce. So in 2016, he founded the non-profit association [Food for Soul](#) [9] to empower communities to fight against food waste in the interest of social inclusion and individual wellbeing.

His organization creates and sustains community kitchens globally by bringing together both public and private organizations, as well as professionals from diverse fields including chefs, artisans, food suppliers, artists, and designers. The team sources quality and in-date ingredients that are perfectly edible but would otherwise go to waste, then transforms them into delicious and nutritious multi-course meals that both employed staff and volunteers help serve.

Food Waste: Solutions Informed by Science (and what to do with your leftovers)

On Tuesday, May 2, in the [Freud Playhouse](#) [10] at UCLA's Macgowan Hall, Bottura; UCLA professor of environmental engineering, [Jenny Jay](#) [11]; and [Amy Hammes](#) [12], a recycling specialist at the [Burbank Recycle Center](#) [13], participated in a panel discussion moderated by [Evan Kleiman](#) [14], host of KCRW-FM's "[Good Food](#) [15]." The discussion focused on measuring the environmental effects of food waste, how policy influences food waste, and its relationship to hunger and the environment. Following the event, Bottura signed copies of his book, which were available for sale.

Also, in LA, on May 5th, Bottura spoke with Chef Mario Batali, Roy Choi, Dominique Crenn, and Mary Sue Milliken at the Los Angeles Times [Food Bowl](#) [16]. The [Food for Soul Forum](#) [17] presented by S. Pellegrino and followed by an exclusive screening of [Theater of Life](#) [18]. This film explores the story behind the [Refettorio Ambrosiano](#) [19], a soup kitchen conceived by Bottura for the [Milan 2015 World's Fair](#) [20] to turn food waste into meals for those in need.

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Links

[1] <http://newsite.iitaly.org/files/massimobotturaclauniversityjpg>

[2] <http://www.osteriafrancescana.it/massimo-bottura/>

[3] <https://www.amazon.com/Massimo-Bottura-Never-Skinny-Italian/dp/0714867144>



- [4] <https://www.scienceandfood.org/public-lecture-2017/>
- [5] <http://www.alain-ducasse.com/en/restaurant/le-louis-xv---alain-ducasse>
- [6] <http://elbulli.com>
- [7] <http://www.osteriafrancescana.it>
- [8] <http://www.theworlds50best.com/>
- [9] <http://www.foodforsoul.it>
- [10] <http://www.tft.ucla.edu/facilities/freud-playhouse/>
- [11] <https://www.ioes.ucla.edu/person/jennifer-jay/>
- [12] <https://www.linkedin.com/in/amy-hammes-49a5277>
- [13] <http://www.burbankca.gov/departments/meet-the-recycle-center>
- [14] <https://www.kcrw.com/people/evan-kleiman>
- [15] <https://www.kcrw.com/news-culture/shows/good-food>
- [16] <https://lafoodbowl.com>
- [17] <http://lafoodbowl.com/program/event/>
- [18] <http://www.theateroflifemovie.com/en/refettorio-ambrosiano>
- [19] <http://www.foodforsoul.it/projects/refettorio-ambrosiano-milan/>
- [20] <http://www.milanworldsfair.com>