

Meet the 'Master': Fox's cooking competition returns for a 10th season

By Andrew Warren
TV Media

Has it really been 10 years since "MasterChef" first took America by storm? The cooking competition, which chef Gordon Ramsay ("Hell's Kitchen") likes to proudly remind viewers is one of the biggest in the world, first premiered back in 2010, and with no signs of slowing down, its landmark 10th season arrives Wednesday, May 29, on Fox.

The judging lineup this season should look pretty familiar. It's unchanged from last year's, with chef Ramsay, chef Aarón Sánchez and restaurateur Joe Bastianich all back to offer advice and critiques to the contestants, and each week sending at least one of them home empty-handed.

Unlike many other popular cooking competitions, such as Bravo's "Top Chef" or Food Network's "Chopped," "MasterChef" doesn't feature professional chefs competing. Here, it's only amateurs, home cooks with masterful palates and dreams of making it big in the culinary industry. Being able to cook for someone as internationally acclaimed as chef Ramsay or chef Sánchez is a dream come true for most of them, and even when their dishes are disasters, the judges' criticism is always helpful.

Last season, MasterChef shook things up by having the three judges divide the contestants into teams that they then mentored throughout the competition. Not only did 25-year-old home cook Gerron Hurt take home the cool \$250,000 prize and the coveted "MasterChef"

trophy, but it was also a win for his mentor, Bastianich, who'd encouraged and guided him throughout the competition.

Whether the mentoring system will return this season remains to be seen — a common criticism leveled against it was that we rarely ever saw the mentors actually, well, mentoring — but somehow, 10 seasons in, "MasterChef" continues to feel fresh and exciting with each new season. A big part of that is no doubt the colorful bunch from all walks of life, bound together by their shared love of cooking and desire to turn that love into a career.

With nine seasons behind it, MasterChef is still going strong. Meet a new batch of culinary hopefuls when the 10th season premieres Wednesday, May 29, on Fox.



Gordon Ramsay and Joe Bastianich star in "MasterChef"

cooking this week

WEDNESDAY

- 2:00 p.m.**
FOOD Guy's Grocery Games Four American heroes battle for cash. (CC)
- 3:00 p.m.**
KVEW The Rachael Ray Show (CC)
- FOOD** Guy's Grocery Games The chefs must see who can make the best burger. (CC)
- 4:00 p.m.**
FOOD Guy's Grocery Games Four chefs compete to become a Triple G winner. (CC)
- 5:00 p.m.**
FOOD Guy's Grocery Games The chefs use the clearance carts to make comfort food. (CC)
- 6:00 p.m.**
FOOD Guy's Grocery Games Chefs must use odds and ends from the Clearance Carts. (CC)
- 7:00 p.m.**
FOOD Guy's Grocery Games (N) Four burger masters see how they stack up. (CC)
- 8:00 p.m.**
FOOD Guy's Grocery Games Four GGG winners return for a big burger battle. (CC)

THURSDAY

- 2:00 p.m.**
FOOD Beat Bobby Flay Chopped's Ted Allen competes with Bobby Flay. (CC)
- 2:30 p.m.**
FOOD Beat Bobby Flay A city chef and a farm chef compete. (CC)
- 3:00 p.m.**
KVEW The Rachael Ray Show (CC)
- FOOD** Beat Bobby Flay Linda and Kenny battle to show their worth. (CC)
- 3:30 p.m.**
FOOD Beat Bobby Flay Tre Wilcox hopes his bold flavors will be enough. (CC)
- 4:00 p.m.**
FOOD Beat Bobby Flay Michael Ginor and Alyssa Gorelick prove they have it. (CC)
- 4:30 p.m.**
FOOD Beat Bobby Flay Ian Boden matches up with NYC chef Danielle Duran. (CC)
- 5:00 p.m.**
FOOD Beat Bobby Flay Anne and Jay plot to get Bobby Flay beat. (CC)
- 5:30 p.m.**
FOOD Beat Bobby Flay Alex Reznik brings goes against Colin Smith. (CC)
- 6:00 p.m.**
FOOD Beat Bobby Flay Pastry chefs Josh Johnson and Dana Cree want a victory. (CC)
- 6:30 p.m.**
FOOD Beat Bobby Flay Katie Lee and Jet Tila arrive to take down Bobby Flay. (CC)
- 7:00 p.m.**
FOOD Chopped The chefs make hamburgers for all courses. (CC)
- 8:00 p.m.**
FOOD Chopped The chefs scramble to make delicious pork spare ribs. (CC)

FRIDAY

- 2:00 p.m.**
FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy seeks out authentic barbecue restaurants. (CC)
- 2:30 p.m.**
FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy uncovers the best places for burgers. (CC)

3:00 p.m.

KVEW The Rachael Ray Show (CC)
FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy checks out different varieties of BBQ. (CC)

3:30 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy goes coast to coast to sample different pork. (CC)

4:00 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy visits three joints that do scratch cooking. (CC)

5:30 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy experiences the unusual off the grill. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy samples foods straight off the grill. (CC)

6:30 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy gets into some righteous barbecue in Dallas. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy's signing up for a meat-crazed master class. (CC)

7:30 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy's headed west for barbecue and beyond. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy's getting to the meat with carnivore creations. (CC)

SATURDAY

2:00 p.m.

OPB Annabel Langbein: The Free Range Cook Annabel creates a simple dinner party menu. (CC)

FOOD Worst Cooks in America Boot camp is transformed into a cocktail party. (CC)

2:30 p.m.

OPB Martha Bakes Martha shares nutritious and healthier crusts. (CC)

3:00 p.m.

KTNW America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated Adam Ried reveals his top pick for steamer baskets. (CC)

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy has discovered a variety of grilling greats. (CC)

3:30 p.m.

KTNW A Chef's Life Vivian's cookbook delivery sparks emotions. (CC)

4:00 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives This trip, Guy is hitting up all things pork. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy's all-time favorite barbecue joints. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

OPB The Great British Baking Show The bakers make 24 flatbreads for the Signature bake. (CC)

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy's hitting up classic, real-deal burger joints. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

KTNW The Great British Baking Show The bakers bring old-fashioned suet pudding up to date. (CC)

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy fires up big tie barbecue all over the country. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

FOOD Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives Guy's piling plates with pork from across the nation. (CC)

SUNDAY

2:00 p.m.

FOOD Best Baker in America This challenge is all about molten lava cakes. (CC)

3:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped The chefs give the grill pans a major workout. (CC)

4:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped The chefs must grill something in each round. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped The chefs scramble to make delicious pork spare ribs. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped The baskets are packed with bacon, burgers, and beer. (CC)

6:30 p.m.

KVEW Chance of Wine
7:00 p.m.
FOOD Guy's Grocery Games Chefs make signature and classic noodle dishes. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

FOOD Guy's Grocery Games Teams of chefs represent their restaurants. (CC)

MONDAY

2:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped The chefs get some very rare hot dogs. (CC)

3:00 p.m.

KVEW The Rachael Ray Show (CC)
FOOD Chopped Big flavors meet big personalities. (CC)

4:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Four chefs compete for a spot in the finale. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped A North-Carolina style barbecue battle is happening. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Four passionate Texas grill masters compete. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Four Grill Masters compete in a do-or-die finale. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

FOOD Best Baker in America: Extra Icing (N) This challenge is all about molten lava cakes.

TUESDAY

2:00 p.m.

FOOD Bite Club Three Baltimore chefs compete for bragging rights. (CC)

3:00 p.m.

KVEW The Rachael Ray Show (CC)
FOOD Chopped Junior The appetizer basket stares back at the kids. (CC)

4:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Chopped kicks off a magnificent tournament event. (CC)

5:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Four star athletes battle it out in the kitchen. (CC)

6:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Actors engage in a display of cooking improv. (CC)

7:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Four stars light up the fourth and final competition. (CC)

8:00 p.m.

FOOD Chopped Four celebrity champions return to win \$50,000. (CC)

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