

FINDING GASTON

a documentary by Patricia Perez

CAN A CHEF CHANGE A NATION?



FROM PERU TO THE WORLD...

FINDING GASTON

...LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN.

A FILM BY PATRICIA PEREZ

CHWAKE FILMS PRESENTS
 "FINDING GASTON" BY PATRICIA PEREZ EDITED BY TALAYEDA
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“A magical journey into the heart and soul of the
Peruvian food revolution following the dreams of Peruvian lead
chef Gaston Acurio, in his mission to bring his culture to the world.”

TIME: 78 MINUTES. FORMAT: HD. GENRE: DOCUMENTARY
LANGUAGE: SPANISH/ENGLISH/QUECHUA/SWEDISH/ITALIAN/PORTUGUESE



SYNOPSIS

There are many great chefs around the world.
Only one is considered to be a National hero.

Meet chef Gaston Acurio and follow him in a journey
to find out the stories, the inspirations and dreams behind the man
that has taken his cuisine outside the kitchen on a mission
to change his country.

Because the people that are passionate enough to believe
they can make a difference, are actually the ones who do.

FINIDING GASTON takes you to the world of Gaston and along
with him into discovering the stories behind Peruvian food, its people,
Its dreams. Are you ready to meet them?

LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN...





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

For two years, we followed chef Gaston Acurio and his team to discover what are the inspirations, dreams and philosophies behind the Peruvian chef. London, Spain, Sweden, USA and many cities in Peru: Lima, Arequipa, Puno, Paracas were all part of this extraordinary journey. It was during this period, that we discovered the magic of Peruvian Cuisine: its storytelling. Behind every one of Gaston's inspirations, behind every ingredient, behind every recipe, there was a story, a story that defines the Peruvian food revolution.

As Gaston says: "It's about how we use the power of food to change people's lives". We met in these two years the most incredible characters, amazing stories and beautiful landscapes that have made the making of this film an incredible and emotional adventure.

FINDING GASTON is not just the story of a chef, FINDING GASTON is the story of a country that is changing because of its cuisine.

Using breathtaking cinematography, with a innovative narrative structure and a soundtrack by the most varied and amazing artists (ranging from Peruvian Novalima's coastal sounds, Jean Pierre Magnet's Andean tunes to Award winning Danny Elfman's compositions) FINDING GASTON takes you into a journey that is a joy to the senses and the soul.

Let's meet Gaston and some of the other protagonists of this film.

- Patricia Perez.



GASTÓN ACURIO

is a chef, entrepreneur, and a leader of Peruvian cuisine. With more than 50 restaurants in 12 countries, many award winning books, and a weekly TV show, Acurio has received worldwide acclaim for starting a gastronomical revolution in Peru.

In the late 1980s, following the advice of his family, Acurio began his studies in law school. But his passion for food was stronger, so he decided to pursue a culinary arts career at Le Cordon Bleu Paris. While abroad, Acurio met his wife Astrid. In 1994, the couple returned to Peru and founded their restaurant, Astrid & Gastón. With their Parisian background, the restaurant had originally a French style, but over time Acurio began to experiment with Peruvian ingredients, and the restaurant became one of the first beacons of Peruvian haute cuisine. Astrid&Gaston has been awarded Number 1 restaurant in South America and is currently in position number 18 in the San Pellegrino's 50 best world restaurants.

Aside from his restaurant's success, Gaston is a true inspiration for Peruvians, a chef with a philosophy that food and cooks play an important role in promoting nation's identity and that it can reunite the country and help to make people's life better. He is a man who puts ethics and justice above personal interests and uses his money, international recognition and culinary skills as tools to help his country.

I AM PROUD TO BE PART OF A REVOLUTION.

A REVOLUTION OF HEARTS.

BENJAMINA & NATIVIDAD

Natividad and Benjamina are part of a group of 20 women producers of quinoa. They live in the community of Batalla, located at 3850 meters above sea level, in Puno-Peru. They, on their own, plant, care and harvest quinoa to feed their families. They are part of AMPRAE (Association of artisan and ecologic farmers Inmaculada Concepcion) and the FAO / INIA Project “Andean Seeds”

It is thanks to the almost anonymous work they do that Peruvians can enjoy this delicious grain. They are guardians of our biodiversity, who work hard day to day to care and protect these ancestral grains which are part of our Peruvian history.

For more information on Benjamina and Natividad, you can contact our production offices (patriciaproduct@mac.com) or Rember Pinedo (FAO): rember.pinedo@fao.org

Did you know Peru has more than 4,000 varieties of potatoes? Check them out:



WE ARE 12 WOMEN.

WE GROW MORE THAN 35 QUINOA VARIETIES.

“HOW DO YOU DO ALL THE WORK? IF YOU ARE ALL WOMEN” PEOPLE ASK US.

JUAN RAMON & “CHAMBA”

Juan Ramon and Chamba are artisan fishermen from PARACAS, a National Reserve preserved by the Peruvian Government. These artisan fishermen use a method called “cordel” to fish everyday. Instead of using a net, they fish the animals one by one. They are proud of this tradition because they know by doing this, they can control the size of the fish they catch, returning the small ones to the sea and that way preserving the species.

The work of fishermen such as Juan Ramon and Chamba is the basis of our Peruvian sea sustainability. Not only do they practice artisan fishing but also, in coordination with the National Reserve authorities, they take shifts at night to guard the coast and prevent any big ships from using dangerous devices like dynamite.

Juan Ramon and Chamba are part of the Artisan Fishermen Association from Paracas, a group consisting of about thirty members.

For more information on the Paracas National Reserve you can contact: Blgo. Stive Marthans Castillo.
Jefe de la Reserva Nacional de Paracas at: smarthans@sernanp.gob.pe

Check out some images of Paracas, Juan Ramon and Chamba in this gorgeous
“Behind the scenes”



THE SEA IS OUR LIFE.

WE FISH THE SPECIES ONE BY ONE.

THAT WAY WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OCEAN.



I WANTED TO GO TO COOKING SCHOOL SINCE I WAS 12.

BUT MY FAMILY COULD NOT AFFORD IT.

Photo Credit: Ines Menacho



Check out Patricia's new documentary:
"Pachacutec. Follow your dreams" based
on the stories of Pachacutec cooking school.

ELBA VELARDE

Elba Velarde made her dream of becoming a chef come true thanks to PACHACUTEC COOKING SCHOOL.

An school located in the desert of Ventanilla, Pachacutec holds the dreams of dozens of students who want to succeed and have a career.

Created with the idea of helping students with low resources, Pachacutec has become an oasis for hope, quality of education and success

For any information about Pachacutec please contact: patriciaproduction@mac.com



FINDING GASTON

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Check out our
trailer here:

