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Chris Santos: Tattoo Tell-All



Chris Santos

*The plate isn't the only place where a chef can show off his or her personal style. While **Mario Batali's** orange clogs and the faux-hawks of Top Chef certainly make an impression, tattoos seem to be the current favorite method for toques to express themselves. In fact, kitchens around the country are sporting more ink than a cell block at Rikers. Read below for an explanation of the tats belonging to one noted local toque.*

The Chef

Chris Santos, chef-owner at [Stanton Social](#) and new hot spot [Beauty & Essex](#), New York, NY

The tats: "My left arm is a collage of fire and stars. A lot of times people ask me about new trends in cooking, like molecular gastronomy, and I say, 'Just give me some fire and I'll give you some good food.' The star references reaching for the stars. On my

right arm I have orchids and a Portuguese song lyric. On my elbow I have an image from the cookbook of Montreal's [Au Pied de Cochon](#). It's a voluptuous woman who has her head thrown back with a giant glass of wine in her hand. Then on my right bicep is a very old school heart with a scroll where you would put a woman's name. Instead of a woman's name, however, mine says 'bacon.' And the red part of the heart is marbled like a piece of bacon."

Ink insight: "For me, tattoos are a mix of chef culture and music, as I'm also an amateur musician. But I think that in general, our affinity for tattoos relates to the fact that our lifestyles are a little bit counterculture."