

Special  
**TNA**  
Section!

# A Brief History of **The Barefoot Contessa**

This month marks 20 years since Ina Garten made her Food Network debut. Here's a look back at her adventures!

BY MONICA MICHAEL WILLIS

**1948**

## A Star Is Born

On February 2, Brooklyn surgeon Charles Rosenberg and his wife Florence welcome their second child, Ina.



**1968**

## Wedding Bells

Ina marries Jeffrey Garten at her parents' house in Stamford, CT. The two met years before when Ina visited her brother at Dartmouth College. One of their first dates: a \$1.29 steak dinner at Tad's Steaks in New York City.



**1971**

## Bonjour, Paris

Ina and Jeffrey visit their dream city and camp outside of town to save money. She cooks beef bourguignon and other meals on a little propane stove.



**1990**

## The First Book

Ina releases *The Barefoot Contessa Cookbook*, filled with now iconic recipes like Pan-Fried Onion Dip and Outrageous Brownies. It's an instant hit.

**2002**

## The Show Goes On

Food Network execs convince a reluctant Ina to host a cooking show. *The Barefoot Contessa* premieres on November 30. It goes on to become the network's longest-running program and win seven Daytime Emmys.



**1978**

## Open for Business

With Jeffrey's encouragement, Ina buys a tiny gourmet grocery store in Westhampton Beach, NY, called The Barefoot Contessa. The spot becomes a Hamptons favorite, and she expands to catering.

ILLUSTRATIONS: TOM NICK COCOTOS



**2011**

### A 30 Rock Cameo

In the fifth season finale of *30 Rock*, Tina Fey's character, Liz Lemon, dreams of renting a Hamptons house to get closer to her idol. Ina appears in Liz's dream with bruschetta in hand and invites Liz over to her place.



**2014**

### Ina Joins Insta

An assistant urges Ina to start an Instagram account, and she kicks things off with a shot of a roast turkey and this caption: "Testing a turkey for my next cookbook... Guess what's for lunch!?"

**2014**

### A Visit from Taylor

Taylor Swift joins Ina at her barn to make pavlova for an issue of *Food Network Magazine*. Taylor posts a selfie, and her fans go wild.



**2016**

### Tea with the First Lady

Ina films a special "Barefoot in Washington" episode at the White House with Michelle Obama. "You've inspired girls all over the world, including me," Ina tells her.



**2020**

### Ina Breaks the Internet

On April Fools' Day, Ina posts a video of herself making a gigantic cosmopolitan and the web explodes. "During a crisis, cocktail hour can be almost any hour," she says.

**2022**

### New Show, New Book!

Ina kicks off *Be My Guest* on discovery+, inviting celebrity friends to stop by for food, drinks and a chat. She also releases *Go-To Dinners*, her 13th cookbook! (See page 37.)