

Top **30** Women
in Food
— 2024 —

Presented by Lunchbox

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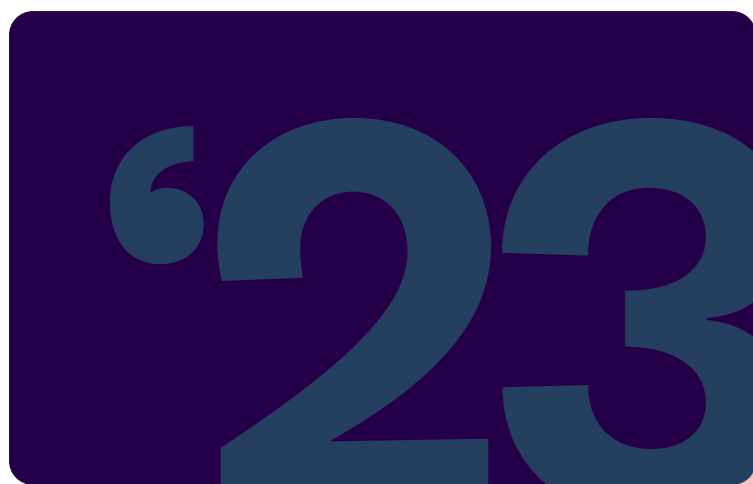
Purpose & Methodology

About the List

The inaugural Top 30 Women in Food list debuted in 2021, built by a small marketing team that wanted to highlight the industry leaders that were too often overlooked across other lists. Since then and onto our fourth list, we've officially titled 120 leaders - spanning across executives, operators, chefs, authors - as a Top 30 Women in Food.

Methodology

Lunchbox opens up nominations annually to source 60 final nominees that enter a voting round for our Top 30 Women in Food industry list. Each round, both nominations and voting, is open for two weeks for public submissions. Once public votes are collected, candidates are evaluated and selected based on public popularity.



2023 Women in Food
[Read the List](#)



2022 Women in Food
[Read the List](#)



2021 Women in Food
[Read the List](#)

Top 30 Women in Food of 2024

Presenting our Top 30 Women in Food of 2024

Lunchbox presents the Top 30 Women in Food of 2024, recognizing 30 of the top women leaders spanning across the restaurant and hospitality industry.

Selected by the restaurant industry itself, these are our Top 30 Women in Food for 2024.



Amanda Hyde

SPB Hospitality

Amanda Hyde, SVP of Operations at SPB Hospitality, tracks nearly two decades of experience in restaurant operations. Her journey from Bob Evans to Logan's Roadhouse and Mimi's Cafe reflects her ability to drive operational efficiency and customer satisfaction across diverse brands.



Angela Lape

Frisch's Restaurants

Angela Lape brings over 20 years of industry experience to her role as Regional Director of Operations at Frisch's Restaurants. Before joining Frisch's, she was a Franchise Operations Business Consultant at Yum! Brands and held managerial positions at Skyline Chili and Buffalo Wild Wings. Angela is also actively involved in mentoring programs, fostering leadership development in the foodservice industry.



Anna Tauzin

Big Chicken

Anna Tauzin, Head of Marketing at Big Chicken, has a robust background in the B2B hospitality sector, leading initiatives at ChowNow and the National Restaurant Association. With extensive experience in marketing, industry relations, and innovation, Anna is currently driving marketing strategies at Big Chicken while also serving as Principal at The Good Kind consultancy, focused on sharing innovative solutions across the B2B Hospitality space.



Brandy Blackwell

Another Broken Egg Cafe

Brandy Blackwell, VP of Marketing at Another Broken Egg Cafe, brings over a decade of marketing expertise to her role. With previous stints at Jimmy John's, Tijuana Flats, and McAlister's Deli, Brandy is recognized for her innovative approach to technology implementation, as highlighted in her [recent feature](#) in FSR Magazine.



Carin Stutz

Hawaiian Bros, Kura Sushi

Carin Stutz, with 50 years in the restaurant industry, has held key positions as Board Member, President, and CEO across various brands, including Hawaiian Bros, Kura Sushi, and Cosi. Notably, she co-founded the GLEAM Network, providing mentorship to underserved individuals in foodservice, and has held executive roles at Native Foods, McAlister's Deli, and Brinker International.



Carissa De Santis

BRIX Holdings

As Chief Technology Officer at BRIX Holdings, Carissa De Santis leads technology and digital efforts across a portfolio of 8 multi-unit restaurant brands. With over a decade of experience in technology roles at enterprise-level restaurant brands, Carissa is a driving force behind digital innovation in the industry.



Catherine Lederer

Chopt

Catherine Lederer, SVP of Food & Beverage at Founders Table, has 15 years of experience spearheading guest satisfaction and operational strategies in foodservice. Her tenure at Chopt Creative Salad Company and role as Director of Sustainability at Le Pain Quotidien demonstrate her commitment to culinary excellence and sustainability practices.



Cherryh Cansler

Network Media Group

With over 8 years of experience as VP of Events at Network Media Group, Cherryh Cansler is a professional in organizing large-scale industry conferences. Her leadership spans 9 online publications and multiple widely-popular industry events.



Chrissy Ouellette

Lunchbox

Chrissy Ouellette, VP of Sales & Partnerships at Lunchbox, joined Lunchbox over a year ago after spending 5 years with SpotOn. Her strategic initiatives propelled SpotOn's expansion from a \$625M to a \$4B company, showcasing her talent in driving success through partnership development and sales strategies. Prior companies include POSDATA Group, CDE, Vanco Payment Solutions, and CPAY.



Cindy Syracuse

BurgerFi

Cindy Syracuse, Chief Marketing Officer at BurgerFi, brings a wealth of marketing experience to her role, with previous stints at Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza and Firehouse Subs. She is currently a partner in the DFW Restaurant Group, operating 20+ locations in the DFW area.



Claudia Lezcano

Fuku

Claudia Lezcano, CEO of Fuku, possesses over 25 years of corporate marketing and leadership experience across multiple industries including hospitality, major league sports, and QSR. Her previous roles within the restaurant industry include leading brands, Burger King and Church's Chicken. She currently holds a Board of Director position at Bluestone Lane and MyVenue.



Courtney Smith

True Food Kitchen

Courtney Smith, currently consulting for True Food Kitchen, has held leading marketing roles at various prominent restaurant chains. Her expertise in field marketing and catering sales programs is reflected in her contributions to brands like Newk's Eatery, La Madeleine, Corner Bakery Cafe, and Firebird Restaurant Group.



Danielle Vona

Bloomin' Brands

Danielle Vona, SVP and Chief Marketing Officer at Bloomin' Brands, is renowned for her strategic leadership in marketing. With a diverse background encompassing roles at Sonic and PepsiCo, Danielle's contributions extend beyond her professional endeavors, as seen in her involvement with [Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay](#).



Denise Pedini

Newk's Eatery

Denise Pedini, Chief Marketing Officer at Newk's Eatery, brings over three decades of marketing expertise to her role. Her previous leadership positions at Pizza Inn and Pizza Hut underscore her proficiency in driving brand awareness and customer engagement strategies.



Elizabeth Baxter

Torchy's Tacos

As Chief People Officer at Torchy's Tacos, Elizabeth Baxter leverages her 4 years of experience to drive culture initiatives and people engagement while also running the brand's Torchy's Family Foundation, which funds disaster and humanitarian relief. Her experience includes notable contributions to organizations like [Make-A-Wish](#) and [Forbes HR Council](#).



Gracie Prasanson

Jason's Deli

Gracie Prasanson, Vice President of Sales at Jason's Deli, leads the sales department in growing B2B sales and off-premise relationships. She facilitates catering sales strategies for over 150 locations across 28 states. With 30 years of experience in the industry, Gracie's has an impressive track record, listing brands like IHOP, Cracker Barrel, and Denny's.



Julie Wade

Taziki's Mediterranean Cafe

Julie Wade, Senior Director of Marketing at Taziki's, brings extensive experience from her 7 year tenure at Yogurt Mountain Franchising. While leading at Tazikis, she also holds an advisory role at Networld Media Group, a leading business-to-business media communications company.



Jennifer Bell

Lettuce Entertain You

Jennifer Bell, Chief Marketing Officer and Partner at Lettuce Entertain You Restaurants, brings over two decades of marketing experience to her role and oversees all marketing initiatives at the brand. Advising as a Board Member at Culinary Care, Jennifer aids the organization in its efforts to bring healthier and happier lives to cancer patients through food.



Jennifer Saunders-Haynes

Subway

Jennifer Saunders-Haynes, with over 15 years in the hospitality industry, currently serves as Director of Global Catering at Subway. Recognized for her role in implementing ezCater at over 13,000 Subway locations, she's credited with capturing substantial incremental revenue for the brand. Jennifer's memberships in ForbesBLK and the Women's Foodservice Forum underscore her commitment to industry advancement and diversity.



Jillian Wheeler

Sweetgreen

Jillian Wheeler, Creative Director at Sweetgreen, brings over a decade of experience in creative direction and design to her role. Her innovative campaigns and diverse background in CPG contribute to Sweetgreen's brand identity and well-renowned customer engagement.



Joanna Bonder

Zaxby's

Claudia Lezcano, CEO of Fuku, possesses over 25 years of corporate marketing and leadership experience across multiple industries including hospitality, major league sports, and QSR. Her previous roles within the restaurant industry include leading brands, Burger King and Church's Chicken. She currently holds a Board of Director position at Bluestone Lane and MyVenue.



Jodie Stetz

Red Robin

Jodie Stetz, Chief People and Culture Officer at Red Robin, has dedicated over two decades to fostering a positive workplace culture. Her leadership has, and continues to be, instrumental in supporting over 2,200 team members across 500 locations.



Katie Walker Rankin

Landry's

Katie Walker Rankin, VP of Off-Premise Operations at Landry's, taps into 16 years of experience in restaurant operations. Responsible for the off-premise operations team that supports 500+ properties, 50 brands, all digital ordering channels, and the brand's virtual portfolio, Katy makes an impactful contribution to the brands growth.



Kelly Cooke

Salsarita's

Kelly Cooke, Chief Marketing Officer at Salsarita's, is recognized for her expertise in digital loyalty programs and marketing strategies. Her accolades, including 9 years with Salsarita's and recognition by QSR Magazine and Nation's Restaurant News, underscore her influence in the industry.



Kim DeCarolis

Craveworthy Brands

Kim DeCarolis, SVP of Strategic Growth at Craveworthy Brands, has a track record of driving sales and growth strategies. With previous roles at FAT Brands, Punchh, and PathSpot, Kim brings over 13 years of expertise in partnerships, revenue growth, and leadership.



Leslie Barr

Chicken Salad Chick

With a decade of experience in growing catering sales at leading brands, Leslie Barr, Director of Company Marketing & Catering at Chicken Salad Chick, oversees the growth of catering operations and engagement initiatives. Her previous roles include leadership positions at Moe's Southwest Grill and The Honey Baked Ham.



Mary Jane Riva

Pizza Factory

Jennifer Bell, Chief Marketing Officer and Partner at Lettuce Entertain You Restaurants, brings over two decades of marketing experience to her role and oversees all marketing initiatives at the brand. Advising as a Board Member at Culinary Care, Jennifer aids the organization in its efforts to bring healthier and happier lives to cancer patients through food.



Melissa Heidman

Noodles & Company

Mary Jane Riva, CEO of Pizza Factory, has dedicated over three decades to the brand's growth and success. Under her leadership, Pizza Factory has received numerous accolades, including Franchise Business Review's "Top Franchises Satisfaction" award six years in a row.



Robin Robison

Modern Restaurant Concepts

Robin Robison, Chief Operating Officer at Modern Restaurant Concepts, brings 5 years of leadership experience to her role. As a member of the Food Tech Council at Lunchbox and an Advisory Council Member at RLC, Robin is dedicated to driving innovation and operational excellence in the restaurant industry.



Tana Davilla

Dutch Bros

Tana Davila, Chief Marketing Officer at Dutch Bro's Coffee, possesses over 20 years of experience in consumer packaged foods, foodservice, and leading brands across both franchise and corporate business models. Her leadership at Dutch Bro's reflects her commitment to driving brand growth and innovation, tapping on her previous experience at CKE and P.F. Changs. Tana also holds a spot on the Advisory Board of Technomic

2023 Alumni

Industry Extraordinaires

Christine Barone

President of Dutch Bros Coffee

Hawa Hassan

Founder & CEO of Basbaas Foods

Kristen Barnett

Founder & CEO of Hungry House

Kat Eckles

Co-Founder & Chief Brand Officer of Clean Juice

Mandy Shaw

Founder & CEO of Blaze Pizza

Nikky Phinyawatana

Founder & CEO of Asian Mint

Renee Erickson

Chef & Co-Owner of The Walrus and the Carpenter

Shelly Harris

Restaurant Category President of Focus Brands

Stephanie Sentell

SCP Restaurant Operations & Innovation at Inspire Brands

Susan Taylor

President & CEO of Juice It Up!

Sydney Webb

Founder & CEO of Toto

Industry Visionaries

Coleen Albritton

Director of Information Technology & Franchise at Bloomin' Brands

Michelle Bythewood

President of Salata

Katherine Cooper

Chief Operations Officer at Little Caesars Pizza

Kelsey Cipriano

Director of Loyalty & E-Commerce at Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux

Stacy Fields

Director of Digital Experience at MOOYAH

Dawn Gillis

Chief Technology Officer at Freebirds World Burrito

Renee Hourigan

Sr. Director, Off-Premise Innovation at Subway

Robin Peters

Executive Director at Firehouse Subs

Rachel Ruggeri

EVP & Chief Finance Officer at Starbucks

Cathy Zafer-Fredericks

Operational Consultant at Coulee Coffee

Industry Innovators

Becky Coulter

Director of Marketing at Alfred Coffee

Debra Chrapaty

Chief Technology Officer at Toast

Ellie Russitano

Head of Operations at PAR Technology

Jill Grogan

VP of Marketing at Papa Gino's & D'Angelo Grilled Sandwiches

Kristin Lynch

Director of Strategy & Analytics at Paytronix

Nithya Das

Chief Operating Officer & Chief Legal Officer at Olo

Tracey-Ann Young

Chief Brand Officer at Cinnabon

Tressie Lieberman

VP of Digital Marketing & Off-Premise at Chiptole

Trish Giordano

Chief Sales & Marketing Officer at Early Enterprises & Co-Founder of VDC

2022 Alumni

Alex Sadhu & Viveka Hulyalkar

Co-Founders of Beam

Allison Page

Founder & CPO at Sevenrooms

Amy Jones-Hom

VP of Operations at Sweetgreen
& Sr. Vice President at Reef

Andrea Hernandez

Founder of Snaxshot

Angela Diffly

Co-Founder of Restaurant
Technology Network

Betsy Chen

Sr. Product Manager at Bentobox

Bettina Makalintal

Journalist at Bon Appetit

Bridget Siegel

COO at &Pizza

Chelsea Kingsbury

Head of People at Lunchbox

Deena McKinley

CMO at Papa Gino's & CMO at
D'Angelo Grilled Sandwiches

Emmanuelle Skala

SVP of Customer Success
at Toast

Jamie Marshall

Co-Founder & COO at SnackPass

Joanna Fantozzi

Senior Editor at Nation's
Restaurant News

Kat Cole

COO & President of Athletic
Greens

Kristen Hawley

Journalist at Expedite

Leslie Leaf

CCO at Revel Systems

Marguerite Zabar Mariscal

CEO at MomoFuku

Meredith Sandland

Author of Delivering the Digital
Restaurant

Michelle Korsmo

President & CEO at National
Restaurant Association

Monica Sauls

CPO at Bojangles

Nancy Luna

Restaurant Correspondent at Insider

Pinky Cole

Founder & CEO at Slutty Vegan

Rebecca Price

Partner at Primary Ventures

Shannon Achillarre

VP of Operations at Sushi Maki

Sheilina Henry

Group VP, Diversity & Inclusion
of Bloomin' Brands

Shelby Dworek

Marketing Systems Manager at
Clean Juice

Stacey Arenson

Marketing Director at Chowly

Tracy Skeans

COO & CPO of Yum Brands

Trinity Mouzon Wofford

Co-Founder of Golde

Wendy Wang & Andrea Xu

Co-Founders of UmamiCart

Zandra Magarino

CPO at ThinkFoodGroup

2021 Alumni

Adrienne Cheatham

Top Chef

Alison Kaizer

Head of Talent at Lunchbox

Allison Page

Founder & Chief Product Officer
at SEVENROOMS

Amanda Goetz

Founder of House of Wise

Amy Jones-Hom

Vp of Operations at Sweetgreen

Angela Diffly

Co-Founder of Restaurant
Technology Network

Ayesha Curry

Entrepreneur

Catherine Tabor

CEO & Founder of Sparkfly

Christina Tosi

Co-Founder of Milk Bar

Drew Barrymore

Actress & Host at The Drew
Barrymore Show

Emmanuelle Skala

SVP of Customer Success at Toast

Helena Hambrecht

Co-Founder of Haus

Jackie Woodward

Chief Brand & Marketing Officer
at Bojangles

Jenn Harris

Journalist at LA Times

Joanna Fantozzi

Senior Editor at Nation's
Restaurant News

Joanna Stern

Journalist at Business Insider

Kat Cole

COO & President of Athletic
Greens

Kayla Giovinazzo

CEO at Eat Clean Bro

Kim & Vanessa Pham

Co-Founders of Omsom

Kristen Hawley

Journalist at Expedite

Krystle Mobayeni

CEO & Co-Founder at BentoBox

Laureen Moyal

Founding Partner & Creative
Director at Paperwhite Studio

Leslie Leaf

Chief Customer Officer at Revel
Systems

Nicole West

VP of Digital Strategy & Product
at Chiptole

Nyasha Arrington

Top Chef

Pinky Cole

Owner & Founder of Slutty Vegan

Rachael Nemeth

CEO & Co-Founder at Opus
Training

Rachel Rozen

Chief Customer Officer at Lunchbox

Rita Patel

Chief Marketing Officer at Buffalo
Wild Wings

Susan Carroll-Boser

VP of Tech at White Castle

Taja Dockendorf

Founder of Pulp + Wire

Viveka Hulyalkar

CEO & Co-Founder at Beam Impact

Wendy Wang & Andrea Xu

Co-Founders of UmamiCart

Congratulations to Our Top 30 Women in Food

Wrapping up the 2024 Top 30 Women in Food List, this year's nominees and winners were nothing short of inspiring. We hope this list ignites ambition and confidence within the women we share this space with to continue to shape the future of the food and restaurant tech industry.

Congratulations to this year's list honorees, and a special shoutout to our Top 30 Women in Food alumni. To learn more about the industry list, [click here](#).