



ABOUT US:
biography of James Martin

Like Henry Ford said, "If you think you can or you think you can't, you're probably right." James Martin, who is not your average chef/restaurateur, never thought he couldn't. Because of this he has jam-packed an accomplished career into a short period of time, exceeding expectations and limitations. What drives him is the desire to beat the odds and blow people away by doing so. His career in the restaurant industry has included a diversity of experiences that culminate into who he is today: an eclectic, self-defined individual with a unique artistic stamp on his culinary creations. He, like his restaurant's cuisine, embodies the concept of American Fusion.

James takes pride in the fact that he is completely self-taught and self-motivated. He had his humble beginnings eighteen years ago as the first male employee of the Vanilla Bean Cafe. Thirteen years later, as its manager, he hosted the birth of Vanilla Coke and catered a celebration in Manhattan for 2000 guests. James's resume also includes catering to celebrity clientele, writing restaurant business plans, restaurant consulting, and designing kitchens for numerous establishments.

James also facilitated the swift opening of The Back Eddy, a 250 seat restaurant for acclaimed Boston chef Chris Schlessinger. Here James learned the ins and outs of the culinary world, fine-tuned his business skills, and found his niche. In 2005 James came back to his roots in Pomfret, Connecticut with his wife, Carly and their two children to establish **85 main** in Putnam. The restaurant has been making noise in the "Quiet Corner" ever since. In addition to running his business and balancing his family life, he personally fulfills his "fresh and local" seafood offer as an avid spear fisherman. He is slowly trying to infuse his progressive concepts into a town that is also evolving. His local fan base is hooked—and growing. Ultimately, passion, raw talent, and sheer stubbornness have all worked in his favor.



Photo by Jen Dean Brown