



# Michael Pappas

## Corporate Executive Chef

Chef Pappas received his formal training at Florida State College's Culinary Institute of the South in Jacksonville, FL following service to our country with the U.S. Army for eight years. He laid the foundation for his career at the Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island and Omni Hotels, rising to the rank of Executive Sous Chef. Here, Michael was able to experiment with global flavors and haute cuisine prepared in a 24/7/365 setting from cafes to VIP dinners.

The next stage of Chef's career was entrepreneurial; he opened several restaurants in and around Jacksonville, including *Michael's*, *T&M Deli*, and *T&M Catering*. Simultaneously, Michael gave back to his alma mater as a chef instructor. After seven successful years of restaurant ownership, Michael was given an opportunity that would allow him to operate on a world stage – he was hired as the Executive Chef for Super Bowl XXXIX at Jacksonville's Alltel Stadium.

When upscale regional steak and seafood restaurant chain, Harry's of America, came calling, Chef Pappas knew he would be able to cut his teeth at executive work as the Corporate Chef. Harry's allowed Michael to work directly with specialty suppliers and travel the southeastern United States refining and rebuilding a brand. Harry's still utilizes the menu, recipes, and sources put in place by Chef Pappas during his tenure!

Michael returned to the sports world as Senior Executive Chef with the Atlanta Braves for two seasons. In 2012, Chef was able to culminate his previous posts with International Speedway Corporation as the Corporate Executive Chef for Americrown. Oversight of day-to-day culinary operations at 11 NASCAR-sanctioned tracks, providing strategy to a team of eight full-time chefs, and delivering expertise as part of the Daytona renovation team, Michael has helped elevate experiences to new heights. We are proud to present Chef Michael Pappas as the face of our food as we continue to raise the bar for expectations at sports and entertainment events.