



## Gail Simmons Named Reality TV's #1 Judge

### *Simmons Dethrones Simon Cowell on NY Post's Best Judges List*

Gail Simmons is a trained culinary expert, food writer and dynamic television personality who was recently ranked as the #1 Judge on TV, dethroning "American Idol" judge, Simon Cowell. The NY Post states that Gail is "Attractive, knowledgeable and down-to-earth, 'Food & Wine's' Gail Simmons personifies everything a reality-TV judge should be."

Since the show's inception in 2006, she has lent her extensive expertise as a permanent judge on BRAVO's Emmy- winning hit series *Top Chef*. Now entering its seventh successful season, *Top Chef* is rated the #1 Food Show on cable television. Most recently, Gail has been named host of *Top Chef: Just Desserts*, Bravo's pastry- focused spin-off of the *Top Chef* franchise. Gail is also a regular-judge on *Top Chef Masters*, the second season of which premiered in April 2010.

Gail joined FOOD & WINE in 2004 and handles special projects for the magazine, acting as liaison between the marketing and editorial teams on magazine events and chef-related initiatives, working closely with the country's top culinary talent. During her tenure, she has been responsible for overseeing the annual FOOD & WINE Classic in Aspen, America's premier culinary event. Prior to joining FOOD & WINE, Gail was the special events manager for Chef Daniel Boulud's restaurant empire.

Gail was born in Toronto, Canada and moved to New York City in 1999 to attend culinary school at what is now the Institute of Culinary Education. She then trained in the kitchens of legendary Le Cirque 2000 and groundbreaking Vong restaurants, and worked for esteemed food critic Jeffrey Steingarten at *Vogue*. Throughout her career, Gail has contributed to several cookbooks, including *It Must've Been Something I Ate* by Jeffrey Steingarten, *Chef Daniel Boulud: Cooking in New York City* and *The New American Chef*, by Andrew Dornenburg and Karen Page.

Gail makes frequent television appearances on *The Today Show*, *The CBS Early Show* and *Fox & Friends*, among others. She has been featured in *New York Magazine*, *Travel + Leisure*, *GQ*, *People Magazine*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *The New York Post*. She also has appeared at the nation's foremost culinary festivals including the South Beach Wine & Food Festival, New York City Wine & Food Festival, Pebble Beach Food & Wine, Kohler Food & Wine Experience, the Cayman Cookout, and the FOOD & WINE Classic in Aspen.

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