

Aldo Zilli

BIOGRAPHY



Aldo Zilli is an award-winning celebrity chef and restaurateur who specialises in Italian, vegetarian and seafood cuisine. One of nine children, he was born in the small seaside town of Alba Adriatica in the central Italian region of Abruzzo and first learnt Italian home cooking from his mother, then catering college.

He was the founder and chef-patron of some of London's most exciting and innovative restaurants, *Signor Zilli*, *Zilli Green*, *Zilli Café* and *Zilli Bar*. His Italian seafood restaurant, *Zilli Fish*, was a Soho institution and had been open for over 15 years until March 2012 when **Aldo** decided to hang up the chef's whites and embark on other ventures.

Aldo is currently executive consultant chef to San Carlo Group, providing advice and expertise alongside devising new seasonal menus for their numerous restaurants, particularly *Cicchetti* in Manchester, London's Piccadilly, and Covent Garden, and newly opened *Fumo* on St Martin's Lane.

Aldo has written 10 books including two autobiographies, *Being Zilli* and *My Italian Country Childhood*, as well as various cookery books. '*Fresh & Green: over 100 new exciting vegetarian recipes*' was featured in the Telegraph's *Top Ten Cookery Books 2012*. He has also written for many publications including *The Sun*, and currently writes a weekly column for the *Daily Express Saturday* magazine and presents a weekly show on *Soho Radio*.

Great food and **Aldo's** exuberant personality means he appears regularly on television and radio both as presenter and chef. His extensive credits include being a judge on *Celebrity Masterchef* in 2014 and 2015, *Who's Doing The Dishes?*, *The Alan Titchmarsh Show*, *This Morning*, *Lorraine*, and *Daybreak* for ITV, *Put Your Menu Where Your Mouth Is*, and *Country Show Cook Off* for BBC2, *The One Show*, BBC3's *The Real Hustle*, and his own primetime ITV documentary *Home Is Where The Heart Is*. He appeared as part of a line-up of celebrated restaurateurs in *MasterChef* series 12, and stars in series 6 of *Celebrity Antiques Road Trip* in 2016.

Aldo and fellow chef Enzo Oliveri embarked on a culinary journey across Sicily for the Good Food Channel. They have recently completed a second series of *Sicily with Aldo and Enzo*, for broadcast in 2016.

He captivated the nation with his performances on ITV's *Celebrity X Factor*, making it through to the later stages of the competition, and also gained a huge following on *Celebrity Fit Club*, where he showcased his dynamic personality and led his team to victory, gaining a new slender figure in the process and sparking a passion for health and fitness, which he still has today.

Aldo has worked with many brands, including *Thomson Airways* and *Philadelphia*, and had a hugely successful TV ad campaign with *Kellogg's Optivita*. His consultancy work includes that with Italian restaurant chain *Prezzo* in 2011, where his award winning *VIPizza* proved extremely successful and led him to collaborate with *M Kitchen* at *Morrisons* supermarket nationwide. More recently he has designed a meal for Italian takeaway chain *Firezza* in 2015-2016, and in 2016 he became the brand ambassador for *CocoPacific* raw virgin coconut oil.

Aldo has been a strong supporter of a number of charities over the years and is currently Patron for the charity Bowel Cancer UK.

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