

# Equality Day

## *A Celebration of Women*



*Mrs Amar Patel*



“Hard work, commitment, passion and success are without gender.”

*Mrs Amar Patel*

Indian Rice Factory is Mrs. Amar Patel's discovery en route her culinary journey in Toronto. While having lunch at Four Season's Inn on the Park, Mrs. Patel realized that the Indian buffet the restaurant offered was far from being authentic. She politely discussed the matter with the executive chef, Georges Chaignet. At his request, Mrs. Patel cooked a meal for him which left him stunned. As Jacques Marie, the then sous-chef recalls that "Mrs. Patel showed us what curry is really about. It was a new world to me". Impressed with her talent and innate understanding of Indian food, they promptly hired her to train the team at the restaurant. That was a turning point in the life of Mrs. Patel.

Recognizing her true calling, she followed her heart. After a year of training the staff at Inn on the Park, she worked her magic at Julie's mansion on Jarvis. She hasn't looked back since. From Bombay Bicycle Club, Hyatt Regency to Four Season's at Yorkville, she has worked wonders, giving a distinct identity to Indian cuisine abroad.

Her culinary journey took a new shape when she started Indian Rice Factory in 1970 - A family owned restaurant with a passion for cooking Indian cuisine, the classic way.

Her inimitable way of cooking classic Indian food and passion for cooking make her recipes unique. She frequently consults other leading chefs and food companies of the city to update herself with the changing trends in the restaurant industry.

Today, included in the league of top chefs of the city, she is well-respected amongst her peers. However, Mrs. Patel has not restricted her talent to her restaurant alone. She has appeared on many televised cooking programs and has taught at the renowned Stanford Chef School to make her contribution to Canada's restaurant industry. She is considered one of the top guest lecturers in Canada.

She has been recently inducted by the Ontario Hospitality Institute as a Fellow of the Institute in recognition of her professional achievement and contributions. She is also in the process of setting up an endowment for George Brown College Chef School.



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