

[WHERE INSIDE]
My Charleston



Kelly Franz

[Chef de cuisine at Magnolias, former contestant on "Cutthroat Kitchen"]

Kelly Franz moved to the Lowcountry 13 years ago for culinary school and has been here ever since. From working at Magnolias to competing on Food Network's "Cutthroat Kitchen," she certainly knows a few things about cooking—seafood in particular. Here, she shares her favorite spots around the Holy City and her experience as runnerup on "Cutthroat."

—MARIDANE HEWES

What made you want to become a chef?

I have been very interested in every aspect of food since I was a child. I started waiting tables when I graduated from high school, and it just wasn't the right fit for me. My favorite part of the job was chopping parsley! The manager took a chance on me and let me move into the prep kitchen. I learned a lot very quickly and actually enjoyed going to work every day. I decided to move to Charleston to attend culinary school.

What is it like being on "Cutthroat"?

I learned a lot about television production, and I got to spend a few days

in Hollywood and see the sun set over the Pacific for the first time. I went into it thinking of myself as a contestant on a game show, and that allowed me to just have fun and laugh at the crazy sabotages given to me.

What do you never leave home without?

Chap stick/lip gloss. It's ridiculous. I will stop somewhere on my way if I leave without it.

If you could wake up anywhere tomorrow, where would it be?

My best girlfriend moved to Italy with her husband a few months ago. I can't wait to visit!

KELLY FRANZ FAVES

What Kelly likes to do in Charleston:

1

I am a beach baby. I go to Folly or Beachwalker Park every Monday all day and often at night with my dog, friends or all by myself. There is not much I would rather do.

2

My favorite date nightspots are McCradys, Cypress, Rue de Jean, Fish, Wild Olive.

3

For more casual restaurants to get together with friends, I head to Santi's, Rarebit, Barsa, Basil, and there are so many more places ...

4

On the rare occasions I am not working brunch, I go to the Bear-E-Patch in West Ashley (I am a little obsessed with the raisin toast, and I am not ashamed of that) or Sweetwater Café on James Island for the huevos rancheros. I would go to Magnolias for brunch every week if I could. We have one of my all-time favorite menus right now.

5

Go out on a boat! Tour the harbor, hit Kiawah Island, go fishing and grab a drink at the Crab House off the dock.

6

I think every tourist should experience Middleton Place, Magnolia Gardens, Angel Oak and Boone Hall Plantation. All four places are just gorgeous, awe-inspiring and worth the short trip.

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