



Banu Özden is a graduate of The Koc School in Istanbul (1996) and Clark University in Worcester, MA (2001). Upon graduating from university, she started her career at Bertucci's Brick Oven Ristorante in Boston, MA where she worked as kitchen manager. She returned to Turkey in 2007 and started working at Istanbul Culinary Institute (IstCI) as Director of Educational Programs. At IstCI, she established the curriculum for the professional and amateur culinary programs. She also represented Turkey in Belgium during the "Week of Taste – Turkey" event, where she demonstrated various Turkish recipes. Currently she is the Project Executive of the Culinary Arts Center. Culinary Arts Center was established to conduct research on Turkish culinary culture, past and present record foods and food-related traditions. Ms. Özden recently participated in Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery and Roger Smith Conference on Food Technology. She toured in a few cities around the U.S. giving lectures on history of Turkish cuisine. Her articles were also published in local Turkish food magazines.