

# 2020 Food XX finalists announced

The 2020 Food XX finalists have been announced. At least 73 phenomenal womxn have been selected as finalists for this year's awards.

The annual event – which celebrates womxn powerhouses in South Africa's hospitality industry – will take place at The Belmond Mount Nelson once a new date has been finalised.

"This event is the culmination of our ethos at Food XX, which is to create a collaborative space where womxn can support and celebrate each other," says, Hannerie Visser, Food XX director and founder of Studio H.



Womxn in Food - FOOD XX: Honouring the game changers and supporting the startups Ruth Cooper 26 Feb 2019



"Our industry is full of hard-working, creative and innovative womxn who push boundaries and break through glass ceilings every day, creating a path for others to follow. The finalists this year are doing prolific work on so many levels and it is humbling to see how our community rallied to nominate them. They inspire us all at Studio H to keep progressing and pushing forward," Visser adds.

According to Visser, their aim is to create a community for womxn where they feel seen, respected and a platform where the work that they do is honoured.

Applications were open to the public to nominate womxn in the food industry and so they received a flood of nominations, highlighting the need to support and shine a spotlight on the amazing womxn in the food and drinks industry.

"In the true spirit of sisters doing it for themselves, we are stronger together and magical things happen when womxn stand up for other womxn," says Visser.



Winners of the women in food FOOD XX Awards announced



This year's awards were judged by the award's inaugural winners, a group of womxn, who are tasked with the difficult decision of selecting someone in each category to pass the baton of Food XX winner to.

## Finalists per category for the second edition of the FOOD XX Awards are:

### **Alcohol**

Cameron-Leigh Henning: bartender at Saint and Marble Catherine Marshall: winemaker at Catherine Marshall Wines

Laurie Cooper: winemaker and sommelier at Abingdon Wine Estate in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands

Leah van Deventer: writer and editor specialising in food, drinks, events and travel

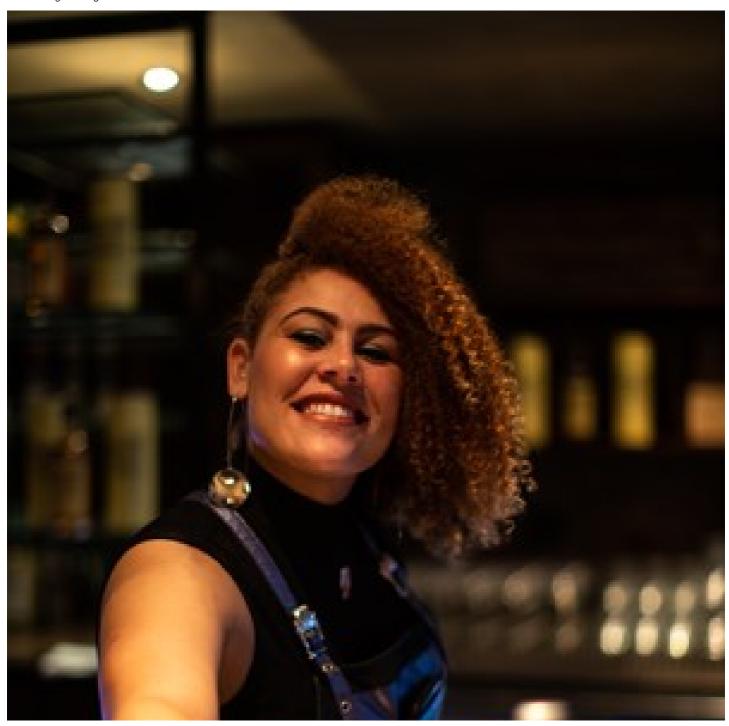
Sabrina Traubner: head bartender at The Athletic Club & Social

Shanna-Rae Wilby: co-founder and head distiller of Time Anchor Distillery





Cameron Leigh Henning





Sabrina Traubner

#### **Bakers**

Anmar Wilding: owner and head baker at CRUMB Cakes

Mahlatse Lentsoane: founder of Tatso Homemade African patisserie

Megan Rodseth: owner of The Gypsy Kitchen vegan bakery

Mo Lewis: owner of The Accidental Baker

Nikki Albertyn: owner and creative director of LionHeart online pâtisserie studio

### **Entrepreneurs**

Che Upton: Taste Creator at Che Gourmet Denise Cowburn-Levy: owner at Ginger & Lime

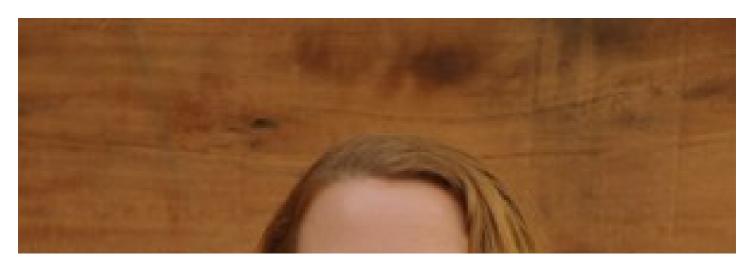
Julia Hattingh: chef and owner at Reverie Social Table Restaurant

Kerry Maher: owner at Farm Table Grocer

Leah Bessa: co-founder of Gourmet Grubb insect ice cream Lyndall Maunder: owner of Clarke's Bar & Dining Room

Nobhongo Gxolo: founder of Third Culture Experiment food club

Sarah Collins: founder and CEO of Wonderbag Shannon Smut: chef and founder of Pure Good Food





Leah Bessa





Sarah Collins

# **Farming**

Iming Lin: farmer and owner of Meuse Farm

Joy Phala: educator, landscape designer and founder of Organic Kitchen Gardens

Umthunzi Farming Community

#### Food educator

Amanda Manyatshe: chef and educator at Beyond Bars Akademia

Loubie Rusch: urban forager, indigenous food activist and founder of Making KOS

Sarah Collins: founder and CEO of Wonderbag

Sepial Shim: chef, owner and educator at Sepial's Kitchen in Cape Town

Dr Tracy Nelwamondo: health coach, food activist and owner of Modern Traditions

### Food icon

Abigail Donnelly: food director at Woolworths TASTE

Cass Abrahams: food historian and author

Nompumelelo Mqwebu: chef, author and founder of the Mzansi International Culinary Festival

Dr Tracy Nelwamondo: health coach, food activist and owner of Modern Traditions





Abigail Donnelly





Nompumelelo Mqw ebu

# Food styling

Amerae Vercueil: chef, recipe developer and food stylist

Georgia East: writer, food stylist and photographer and blogger at East After Noon

Julie Velosa: digital editor and food stylist at Crush Online

Katelyn Williams: author, food stylist, photographer, recipe developer and blogger at The Kate Tin

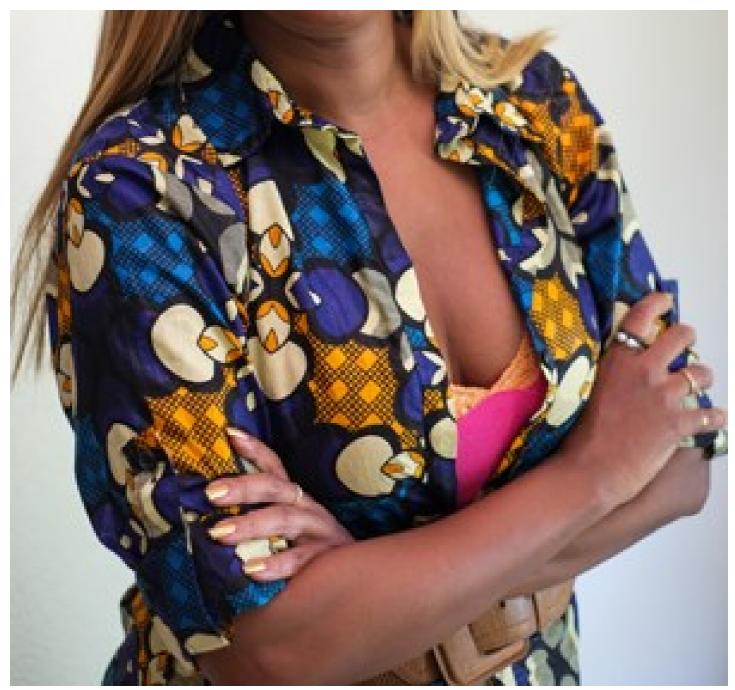
Dr Tracy Nelwamondo: health coach, food activist and owner of Modern Traditions





Melissa Delport





Yolisa Qunta

### Fresh voices

Bathandwa Nkambule: recipe developer and content creator at The Earthy Cook
Ishay Govender-Ypma: food and culture journalist, author and blogger at Food & the Fabulous
Melissa Delport: author, photographer, chef, health coach and blogger at The Truffle Journal
Samantha Linsell: author, food stylist, photographer and blogger at Drizzle and Dip
Yolisa Qunta: author and blogger at Yoli Said

## Front of house

Eloise Windebank: Farro in Johannesburg Jenny Foulis: Tin Roof Cafe in Pretoria

Simnikiwe Mkhize: Rosetta Roastery in Cape Town

### **Future food**

Che Upton: taste creator at Che Gourmet

Leah Bessa: co-founder of Gourmet Grubb insect ice cream

Mokgadi Itsweng: chef, writer, food stylist, activist and co-founder of Lotsha Foods

## Giving back

Amanda Manyatshe: chef and educator at Beyond Bars Akademia

Catherine Barnhoorn: author, health coach, recipe developer and blogger at Mila's Meals

Leah van Deventer: writer and editor specialising in food, drinks, events and travel Stephanie Simbo: hospitality educator and co-founder of Beyond Bars Akademia

Tabisa Mahlathi: project manager at Mhani Gingi Trust



Heritage

Errieda Du Toit: author, food culture commentator and content producer for Kokkedoor and Koekedoor Loubie Rusch: urban forager, indigenous food activist and founder of Making KOS Nompumelelo Mqwebu: chef, author and founder of the Mzansi International Culinary Festival Sepial Shim: chef, owner and educator at Sepial's Kitchen in Cape Town

Dr Tracy Nelwamondo: health coach, food activist and owner of Modern Traditions

Zolitha Magengelele: creator of The Cooks' Table pop-ups



Leah Van Deventer

### In the kitchen

Abigail Mbalo-Mokoena: chef, owner and creative director of 4Roomed eKasi Culture in Khayelitsha, Cape

Town

Carla Milli Schulze Doerr: chef at The Test Kitchen in Cape Town Christi Semczyszyn: head chef at Tjing Tjing in Cape Town

Colette Robert: owner and chef at The General Store in Cape Town

Jade de Waal: chef and founder of Food Jams in Cape Town

Nanda Cardoso: head chef at Chefs Warehouse Bree Street in Cape Town Sepial Shim: chef, owner and educator at Sepial's Kitchen in Cape Town



Secret ingredient

Hayley Morison: online video specialist co-author of Foodies of South Africa

Jan Tomlin: front of house and behind the scenes at Chefs Warehouse Bree Street

Mareli Basson: partner in Bertus Basson's restaurant empire Maria Van Zyl: owner of Cream of the Crop cultured butter

Nicki Russell: product developer and head of innovation at Pick n Pay



Sustainability

Kim Bloch: founder of Umthumzi Farming Community Sarah Collins: founder and CEO of Wonderbag Thekla Teunis: founder and director of Grounded

Zayaan Khan: food activist and seed librarian at Seed Biblioteek

Sepial Shim

#### Grass roots

Andiswa Mqedlana: manager of Brunch at Jackie Cameron's School Outlet in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands Apiwe Nxusani-Mawela: brewmaster and founder of Brewster's Craft

Sarah Niemand: business owner of a collective selling alikreukel and mussels from Buffeljagsbaai in the Western Cape

The Food XX Womxn in Food Awards 2020 will be accompanied by a gala dinner cooked by the womxn of

Overberg

Phatiswa Magazi: cook at The Kitchen in Cape Town

Doreen October: founder of Bredasdorp Nutrition and Development Centre feeding scheme

Shirley Muswema: general manager at Chefs Warehouse Bree Street

the Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel.

Leshoto Thooe: electrical engineer, gardener and recipe developer at @athomewithlesh Khuthala Bokolo: small-scale chemical-free farmer based in Khayelitsha, Cape Town

Nonkululeko Britton-Masekela: agriprenuer, farmer and seller of organic vegetables online at Kula



Andiswa Mqadlana



Shirley Muswema

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