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## **Tanya Holland**

CELEBRITY CHEF, 15TH SEASON OF *TOP CHEF*  
OWNER & AUTHOR, BROWN SUGAR KITCHEN

Tanya Holland is the chef/owner of the Brown Sugar Kitchen restaurants and author of *Brown Sugar Kitchen* and *New Soul Cooking* cookbooks. She contributes to the James Beard Foundation as a writer and chef. Her Oakland-based restaurant has received multiple Michelin Bib Gourmand awards. She is an in-demand public speaker who frequently leads the conversation on inclusion and equity in the hospitality industry. Holland holds a bachelor of arts in Russian language and literature from the University of Virginia, and a Grande Diplôme from La Varenne École de Cuisine in Burgundy, France.

Holland competed on the 15th season of *Top Chef* on Bravo; was the host/soul food expert on Food Network's *Melting Pot* and has appeared on *The Today Show*, *The Talk*, *CBS This Morning*, *Hallmark Channel's Home & Family*, *VH1's Soul Cities*, *Sara Moulton's Cooking Live*, *The Wayne Brady Show*, TV One's *My Momma Throws Down*, and PBS' *The Great American Chef's Tour*. Holland has served as co-president of the prestigious Les Dames d'Escoffier Bay Area chapter, and was honored by the City of Oakland when June 5, 2012 was declared "Tanya Holland Day." A year later, she was awarded the Key to The City.

Internationally, she served as a Culinary Diplomat for the US State Department in Kazakhstan and Mexico; taught classes in France for gastronomic travelers; published the *Brown Sugar Kitchen Cookbook* in Japanese; and in March 2020, she will host a tour in Tanzania.