

Derek Ventuolo

Executive Chef Partner at The Capital Grille Fort Worth

Derek Ventuolo graduated in 1999 from Western Culinary Institute in Portland, Oregon, was recognized on the President's list, and earned an award for perfect attendance. Upon graduation, he went to work at Bar 71 in downtown Portland. Within the same year, he moved to Long Beach, California and began working for Christy Bono (daughter of Sonny Bono) at her signature restaurant, Christy's. Starting in the pantry, he worked his way to Executive Pastry Chef within just four short months. In 2000, Christy's won best dessert in LA County with their local favorite, Chocolate Banana Bread pudding. Derek's position soon expanded to take on the responsibility for dessert production at Christy's new concept, Nico's, located in the Naples area of Long Beach. After training under Executive Chef Matt Hewitt, Derek was entrusted with the responsibility of opening Christy's 3rd concept, Bono's, in the Belmont Shores area of Long Beach. He was promoted to Sous Chef in the Spring of 2003 and by Fall had been offered and accepted the position of Executive Chef where he remained until Mid-2006. After that, Derek transitioned to Kings Seafood Company based out of Southern California as the Executive Sous Chef for one of their signature concepts, The 555 East American Steakhouse. He worked and trained under Executive Chef Shelly Bojorquez until 2007 when he took over the role of Executive Chef and remained until 2010.

That is when Derek joined Darden as the Executive Chef Partner at The Capital Grille Costa Mesa, assisting with opening both locations in Southern California. In 2013, Derek transferred locations to his current home, The Capital Grille Fort Worth. The year 2019 has found him celebrating 9 years with The Capital Grille family.

Since joining the team in Fort Worth Derek has been recognized for several local awards such as Top Chef and gained much recognition as one of Fort Worth's finest restaurants. Currently, he lives in Fort Worth with his wife Kristin, son Grayson, daughter Arabella, and English Bulldog, Bailey Rose. When he is not cooking you can find him enjoying time with his family and friends, exercising, and playing music.

