

Anthony Bourdain, the renowned chef, author, and world-traveling TV host died on June 8, 2018 at the age of 61. Bourdain redefined storytelling with his fearless approach to life and food.

Born on June 25, 1956, in New York City, Bourdain found his passion for cooking in his teenage years. His attendance at the Culinary Institute of America leveraged his cooking career, as he later worked in various restaurants in New York. He rose through the ranks and became executive chef at Brasserie Les Halles, a French restaurant in Manhattan.

In 2000, Bourdain broke through the culinary world by publishing his bestselling memoir, “Kitchen Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly.” In his book, Bourdain exposed the raw and uncut experience of what it is like to work in professional kitchens. The book became an instant sensation and pushed Bourdain in the spotlight, earning him widespread acclaim.

What really made him a world-wide phenomenon was his career in television. In 2002, he hosted “A Cook’s Tour” on Food Network. Then in 2005, Bourdain joined the travel channel with “No Reservations,” a series that defined his career. Over the course of a decade, Bourdain visited 80 countries and shared the food, people, and experiences along the way. The series encapsulated the diverse perspectives of food that can bring people together. His connection with local cultures and communities set him apart from other chefs and he was quickly favored by many.

In 2013, Bourdain debuted on “Parts Unknown” on CNN. The show ran until his death in 2018. It continued Bourdaun’s global exploration of the food scene, but covered more serious topics: war, poverty, and social injustice. His thoughtful approach to combine his passion for food with crucial topics won him numerous awards.

Off screen, Bourdain was a prolific writer, authoring several books including “Medium raw,” “The Nasty Bits,” and “Appetites,” a cookbook for simple, hearty food. He was a frequent contributor to The New Yorker and published a novel called “Bone in the Throat.”

Bourdain was open about his personal struggles. He used his platform to discuss the importance of mental health and created comfortable conversations about depression. He was willing to shed light on his own darkness to help such a larger audience.

The tragedy of Bourdain's death prompted an outpour of admiration from fans and fellow chefs and writers worldwide. His friend and colleague, chef Eric Ripert, whom Bourdain traveled with frequently, described him as “a great friend, an exceptional human being, and an artist.”

Countless tributes from celebrities, politicians, and travellers overwhelmed the love and appreciation they had for him and his contribution to the world.

Bourdain is survived by his daughter, Ariane, whom he adored, and his former wife, Ottavia Busia. In the wake of his passing, Bourdain’s legacy endures through his work and the millions of people whose lives he touched with his adventurous spirit, his candidness, and his deep love for food and people.