



Nathan Skid



Table Talk

A blog on all things concerning Detroit's restaurant scene

Meet the Chef: Robert Young

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I was able to steal a few minutes of Chef Robert Young's time during a media day at the Bastone Complex for a brief Q&A.



Young was discovered through an online job posting and was quickly brought to the Bastone Complex to give the multi-unit concept a true European flair.

Proof that talent can be found in the most unexpected of places.

During our conversation we talked about his involvement in the revamping of its diverse menus, how the the iphone is hurting restaurants and why he refuses to watch the *Food Network*.

Did I mention that Young, 34, is from Brecon, a small town in South Wales and speaks with a charismatic English accent?

Brilliant.

Young spent his teenage years working as a dishwasher at the Castle of Brecon Hotel where he would later serve as an apprentice to the head chef after graduating from culinary school at the Cardiff Institute.

From there he set off to "Cook his away around the world."

So how did you get into cooking?

I started cooking really early on. Well, when I was growing up, from about the age of 12 on, it was actually my chore around the house. I would have dinner on the table and ready to eat by 5:30 almost everyday. That's where I learned how to cook with the ingredients I have on hand.

You don't hear too much about the cuisine in England?

Where's Gordon Ramsey from huh?

I grew up in a village of 6,000 people that had four bakeries, multiple charouteries, and a farmers market four times the size of Royal Oak's. Coming here was a little bit different in terms of what ingredients you can get.

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About Me: I'm a multimedia reporter for Crain's Detroit Business. I also cover Southeast Michigan's restaurant industry. My coworkers have labeled me a food snob but I digress. I like to think of myself as... [more »](#)