- 'The Blind Cook'; MasterChef Season 3 Winner



## Topics

- Leadership
- Motivation

Christine Ha is the first-ever blind contestant and season 3 winner of the competitive amateur cooking television show, "MasterChef" U.S., on FOX with Gordon Ramsay. She defeated over 30,000 home cooks across America to secure the coveted MasterChef title, a $\$ 250,000$ cash prize, and a cookbook deal.
"The lady has an extraordinary palate, a palate of incredible finesse. She picks up hot ingredients, touches them, and she thinks about this image on the plate. She has the most disciplined execution on a plate that we've ever seen. But the palate is where it's just extraordinary. And honestly, I know chefs with Michelin stars that don't have palates like hers." -Chef Gordon Ramsay, MasterChef judge

Christine also has a Master of Fine Arts from University of Houston's nationally acclaimed Creative Writing Program. During her time there, she served as Fiction Editor for Gulf Coast: A Journal of Literature and Fine Arts. She is currently working on her memoir and second cookbook.

Christine's first cookbook, Recipes From My Home Kitchen: Asian and American Comfort Food (Rodale, 2013), was a New York Times best-seller. She has been featured on NPR, the BBC, and CNN International, and travels around the globe to give keynote addresses and TEDx talks. Christine has also served as a culinary envoy on behalf of the American Embassy in cultural diplomacy programs in Jordan, Serbia, Bosnia/Herzegovina, and Croatia. She was a co-host on the Canadian cooking show, Four Senses on AMI, and a judge on "MasterChef" Vietnam on VTV3.

Christine received the 2014 Helen Keller Personal Achievement Award from the American Foundation for the Blind, a recognition formerly bestowed upon Ray Charles, Patty Duke, and Stevie Wonder among others. Christine currently resides in Houston, Texas, with her husband and two dogs.

