



## Biography of Executive Chef Jerry Weihbrecht

From my mothers standpoint I started cooking at just a few years old; when I was hungry and couldn't find my mommy, I pulled a chair up to the stove and started to cook eggs. I started in restaurants in the seventh grade washing dishes, prepping and bussing tables at a local restaurant in Wilkes Barre, PA. I then attended Penn State University where I decided I wanted to cook.

Much later after holding many other jobs, mostly construction, swimming pool installation, and garage work, I attended culinary school at Johnson and Wales University in 1997. I graduated Deans List and a member of the Silver Key Society, while also working at an oceanfront restaurant and doing some catering work as well.

I then travelled to Maui, Hawaii to intern for Roy Yamaguchi of Roy's Restaurants fame. After completing my internship, I was asked to stay on and continue working for Roy's - this is where I started to hone my skills as a chef, working from open to close very closely with anyone who would teach me. I was exposed too many different types of Asian and Japanese cuisine as well as Hawaiian regional cuisine. After 2 years, I was asked to move to Denver and become Chef/Partner of Roy's Restaurant in Cherry Creek. I became the Chef/Partner in 2000 and was in charge of a 20+ kitchen staff and 30+ front-of-house staff. I garnered many awards for the restaurant as well as cooking for the Le Chaine de Rotisseries. During my time at Roy's, Denver I also made numerous trips to California to train with chefs that are even more diverse and continued expanding my culinary knowledge.

In 2003, I came to Virginia Beach to become Executive Chef/Partner of Zoës Restaurant where I have won numerous awards, including Virginia Beach's first Four Diamond restaurant. In addition, to Best Rookie Chef, placing twice in Hampton Roads Top Ten Restaurants (the most recent being #3) and winning March of Dimes Star Chefs, four years running, I was asked to cook at the prestigious James Beard House in New York City; the highest honor a Chef can receive.