



Maria Eugenia Armando
General Manager



Born in the vibrant and beautiful country of Argentina, barbacco General Manager Maria Eugenia Armando came to Northern California at age twenty four. With a can-do attitude that has afforded her an exponential development of skills, she immediately immersed herself in the food industry and developed an enthusiasm for hospitality and a thirst for restaurant experience that continues to build momentum.

Even in her first job at a neighborhood café, Maria was constantly looking for ways to make the operation as efficient as possible. The café's owners saw her potential and encouraged her to further her education in the field. Maria enrolled in a dual program at City College of San Francisco, simultaneously earning degrees in both Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts in 2005. While still in school, and in order to broaden her background

and develop her culinary skills, Maria took a job at Mecca, under the leadership of Stephen Barber.

Though Maria was inspired by the atmosphere in restaurant kitchens, being a people person she yearned for interaction with the guest. While finishing a three month internship in Philippe Gardelle's kitchen at Chapeau, Maria found her way to the front of the house. After a couple of successful interviews, Umberto Gibin immediately recognized the spark in Maria and offered her a position at Poggio in Sausalito. There, and under the tutelage of her now longtime mentor, Maria gained her expertise as Maitre d'hotel.

Proving her natural grace for hospitality and her operational skills, Maria was introduced as the dining room manager at Perbacco when co-owners Umberto Gibin and Chef Staffan Terje opened the restaurant in 2006. Two years later, Maria moved to New York and joined Mario Batali's group as the dining room manager at Esca, a restaurant that specializes in pristine seafood.

After one year in New York and missing San Francisco, Maria accepted Gibin's offer to return and take the lead at their new baby, barbacco, and rejoin the "family". Her vision for the restaurant is to celebrate the convivial experience, where people feast and drink in good company.

When not at barbacco, Maria enjoys being outdoors, preferably playing volleyball with friends.

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