spaghetti WARS



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Nothing tests your loyalty—or your talent—quite like cooking for the Boss to earn your seat at the table.



Concept Overview

Where Culinary Tradition Meets the Commission

It’s La Cosa Nostra meets high-stakes culinary combat. In Spaghetti Wars, "our thing" is celebrating, defending, and elevating the sacred tradition of Italian family cooking. The ultimate test? Cooking for the Boss to earn your seat at the table.

Tone & Style

Intense cooking competition wrapped in rich, cinematic visuals inspired by iconic Italian cinema and classic mob lore. Two powerhouse genres, seamlessly blended.









How It Works

16 Families | 4 Regions | One Undisputed Champion

A high-octane, bracketed tournament—"Mob Madness"—fuels fierce regional rivalries through a ruthless "win-or-get-whacked" elimination format across three signature challenges every episode: Regional Specialty, Multi-Course Live Event, and Nonna's Sunday Dinner.







The Commission

The kitchen is ruled by *The Commission*—an authentic Italian-American family hierarchy where every member has a role, a turf to protect, and absolute loyalty to the Boss.

The Boss

Gino the Joker



Head of La Famiglia - ***and final word on everything***

The Consigliere

Erika Pasta Mama



Strategic Business Advisor

The Underboss

Spaghetti Pepe



The Key Orchestrator

The Capo

Mark the Fish Monger



The Capo

Ro Da Capo



Food Mentors: Responsible for their crew's performance

Gino D’Acampo

With over 8 million
followers across his social media, Gino is The Boss. Born in Torre del Greco, Naples, Gino is a renowned chef, TV personality, and international restaurateur.

With over 25 years on screen, he stars on his own show Gino’s Italy, and co-leads Gordon, Gino & Fred: Ultimate Road Trip, now on Netflix. Gino has authored 20 bestselling cookbooks, with the latest achieving Sunday Times Best Seller status. He owns a successful UK restaurant empire and is expanding globally, with a flagship site opening in Malta in June 2025.

He has a bestselling retail range, leads food ventures such as Bontà Italia and Gino Pizza Ovens, and voiced a character in Disney’s Luca.



Ereka Vetrini

Expert, Brand Spokesperson, Producer, Food Blogger, Entrepreneur and proud Mom of two. Her Italian-inspired Instagram channel, featuring an Ita-LEAN bent, has 1.1 million followers. Raised in an Italian restaurant family, she brings her vast array of skills and passions to role of the Consigliere.





Pepe Kehm

As the original creator of Spaghetti Wars, Pepe Kehm is an esteemed chef and restaurateur bringing over 40 years of industry experience to the table. As well as his role as Chef, he is the Spaghetti Wars Underboss and he produces music, independent film and world class culinary events, as well. He helms two restaurants in St. Louis, Peno Southern Italian Soul Food and Rose' by Peno, a dining and music venue featuring top local and touring acts in an intimate space.

Rosella Rago

Residing in Brooklyn, New York, Rossella Rago is the creator, producer and host of the immensely popular web series Cooking with Nonna. With 164k followers on Instagram, as well as a highly successful online store, she is a 100% self made Capo. She is also the author of recipe and culture books Cooking with Nonna: Celebrate Food & Family and Cooking with Nonna: A Year of Italian Holidays.





Mark Drabich

From Lebanon, New Jersey,
Mark is the CEO of Metro Seafood and an engaging, electric Internet personality with a passion for making people happy. His moniker is the Funky Fishmonger, and he has built a 56K+ following on Instagram cooking fish and seafood only. With his signature style, cooking skills, sharp wit and raspy voice, Mark is the Capo from Jersey everyone loves

The Stakes

To grow the family business into a true empire, *La Famiglia* brought a 100% Italian Boss straight across the Atlantic. In this house, the bigger the family, the bigger the business—and expansion requires absolute perfection. Livelihoods, personal pride, and lives are on the line. For Gino the Boss, you only get one chance to make your mark in America, and failure is not an option



To earn a place in *La Famiglia*, contenders must prove their composure under extreme pressure, demonstrating total honesty, unyielding character, and culinary craft emotional enough to make The Commission weep. The team that stands tall claims the $100,000 cash grand prize—alongside a permanent legacy as the winner's family recipe is featured across the Boss's global restaurant empire.



Key Show Elements

Breaking Bread

The contestants come before The Commission - the stage is set, expectations are laid down.



Boss Walks

Out of earshot of the crews and capos, the Boss gets to air his feelings with the Underboss and/or Consigliere to make sure all goes according to plan.





Boss's Kitchen

Our bosses love to cook and tell stories; this is where they get to flex their culinary muscle relevant to each episode.



Sit Downs

Issues arise, tensions flare…sometimes you have to sit the parties down to realign the "natural order" of things.

Wine Downs

Moments of reflection, good or bad. Mistakes made, lessons learned, thanks given.



The Producers

Patrick “Pepe” Kehm

Pepe is a lifelong restauranteur, entrepreneur and author in the commercial art and entertainment spaces. His international training and southern Italian and French roots created his passion for Italian Soul Food at his multiple restaurants in St. Louis. He creates large culinary events, manages musical artists, produces independent film and serves as a big idea guy for a circle of friends, investors and constituents. He competes regularly in worldwide cooking competitions and is the heart and soul behind the Spaghetti Wars concept

Barry Mendelson

Barry Mendelson - Spaghetti War’s Executive Producer is a pioneer and prolific producer in all aspects of entertainment, with shows airing in all 50 states and 11 countries. Currently serving as President and CEO of Mendelson Entertainment Group, he oversees all show aspects from conception to completion. Previously, Barry had great success and seminal moments as EVP of Madison Square Garden, EVP of the New Orleans Jazz of the NBA and was responsible for non-football related events in Jerry Jones’ AT&T Stadium in Dallas. His partnership in BEYOND THE GLORY, and its 7-year run on Network TV solidified his spot as a top contributor to sports programming in Hollywood. Another example is in live events, as manager and Executive Producer of Lightwire Theater’s A VERY ELECTRIC CHRISTMAS SHOW, he delivered 300 annual live shows worldwide, including mainland China for continuous and ongoing 8-year run.

King Hollis

King has been a creative executive for 26 of his 32 years in the content creation space. King’s focus has been to take turnkey scripts and produce completed films with innovative broadcast and marketing strategies. With a deep background in all aspects of production, King has developed episodic shows and content for ABC, FOX, CW, Universal, PBS, Playboy Loma Alta, Sony and Vertical Entertainment. He is an industry leader in building out universal content opportunities that enhance project and brand value. King will serve as Head of Production and was Co-Director on the Spaghetti Wars pilot.

Tim Breitbach

Tim is an award winning filmmaker, showrunner, screenwriter and television development executive, winning EMMY-Awards for two series set at Children’s Hospitals, multiple NAACP Awards for Best Reality Series for Welcome to Sweetie Pies, Sundance Award for co-writing/producing the film Dopamine (2003), as well as Audience Awards at multiple festivals for The Final 19 documentary about Vietnam War POW Dan Hefel. The mega-hit Fast n Loud on Discovery was developed and EP’d by Tim and his team. Tim Co-Directed the Spaghetti Wars pilot with a focus on story execution.



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