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**TV. Premiere**



▶ Johnny Iuzzini is the head judge on "Top Chef: Just Desserts," premiering tonight.

**'Top Chef' hits the sweet spot**

Johnny Iuzzini — executive pastry chef at Jean Georges, all-around culinary rock star — isn't going easy on cheftestants in the third course-focused "Top Chef: Just Desserts." "I can be brutally honest," he says. Are those tears we spy in that souffle? {page 12}

**Bloomberg: Poll trouble is 'a royal screwup'**

▶ Scattered chaos where new vote scanners broken or missing ▶ Mayor reads Board of Elections the riot act over reports of Primary Day confusion {page 05}

**News**

**Corn syrup tired of bad rep**

▶ High fructose corn syrup wants to be known as 'corn sugar' {page 09}

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# When dessert becomes the main course

► 'Top Chef' focuses on pastry chefs for new spin-off ► There's more to it than brownies, says one of the best in the industry, judge Johnny Iuzzini



## Before the cult of the TV chef

"TV chef" was never an aspiration for the young Iuzzini — mostly because the culture of "TV chefs" didn't exist when he was a kid.

"There was no Food Network when I started," he says. "I started to cook because I loved to cook; it was a passion. I used to watch Julia Child, then I'd watch Bob Ross painting happy little clouds right afterward, then 'Dukes of Hazzard.' That's what I remember watching on TV, those three shows every day after school."

There isn't much in his profession that Johnny Iuzzini hasn't conquered with sugar-fueled energy and aplomb. The charismatic, tattooed executive pastry chef at Jean Georges — one of only four Manhattan restaurants to receive three Michelin stars this year — was named Outstanding Pastry Chef of the Year by the James Beard Foundation in 2006, and he earned a number of "best of," "top" and even "sexiest" titles throughout his career.

Tonight, Iuzzini has the honor of participating in what he considers a first in his industry — a televised insider's look detailing the job of a pastry chef — when he debuts as head judge on Bravo's new "Top Chef: Just Desserts" reality competition.

"When I tell people I'm a pastry chef, they're like, 'Oh, you make pasta?' Or, 'You make cookies? You make brownies?'" says Iuzzini, who has served as

### Quoted

**"I said, 'If ["Just Desserts"] is really going to come to light, I want to be a part of it because I want to make sure it's done right.' So I've had the chance to be part of the show's creative [process], too."**

JEAN-GEORGES EXECUTIVE PASTRY CHEF JOHNNY IUZZINI, PROTECTIVE OF THE IMAGE OF HIS PROFESSION

a guest judge on the original "Top Chef," the format of which this series follows. "People have no idea what a true craft it is, how much technique is involved. This is the first time America's really going to see what a pastry chef is."

**AMBER RAY**  
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► Johnny Iuzzini is head judge on "Top Chef: Just Desserts," premiering tonight at 11 on Bravo. Read the full interview, including his take on bloggers who take their criticism beyond the plate, at [www.metro.us](http://www.metro.us).

## Dessert hits the dance floor

"Top Chef: Just Desserts" held a tasting for TV critics at a press event over the summer, and cheftestant Zac Young, executive pastry chef at Flex Mussels on the Upper East Side, stole the show with his Lemon Meringue Pie in a Glass with Disco Blueberries. So what exactly

makes a blueberry disco-dazzle? Edible glitter, available at [www.chefrubber.com](http://www.chefrubber.com).

To create your own lemon meringue dance party, visit [www.metro.us](http://www.metro.us) for Young's yummy recipe.

● METRO/AR

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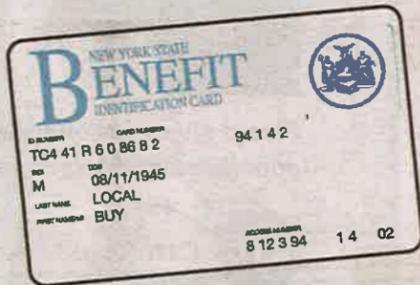
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► Zac Young and his glittery creations

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