

## ILLYA ROBERTS

**Chef & Author**

**Twelve Months of New Orleans Cooking**

Growing up in New Orleans, the flavors, smells, sights and sounds of the Crescent City permeated every aspect of Illya Roberts' life. A New Orleans native with a family heritage in the dining industry, Illya has "Big Easy Cuisine" in her DNA. She is the published author of ***Twelve Months of New Orleans Cooking***, launched in April, 2010. Her book demonstrates how to create easy Creole favorites with fresh, seasonal ingredients that complement events, holidays and celebrations throughout the year.



Ms. Roberts comes from a long lineage of New Orleans cookery, as her family owned and operated restaurants and catering companies in the Big Easy. In her early years, Illya helped her family prepare meals and cater special events, fueling her zest for cooking and sparking a desire to pursue an interest in culinary arts.

Illya attended Delgado Culinary Institute Chef Apprenticeship Program in New Orleans and completed her externship under various New Orleans executive chefs and professional caterers. While working as a pastry chef by day in Metairie, Louisiana, she worked as a Sous Chef in the evenings at Saia's Restaurant in Kenner, LA. Shortly afterward, she broadened her experience even further at Pichon Catering, where she prepared gourmet, Kosher and specialty foods.

After making the decision to serve her country and her fellow soldiers, Illya enlisted in the U.S. Military. Her enthusiasm for cooking continued as she trained at the U.S. Army Quarter Master School as a Food Service Specialist in Fort Lee, Virginia. She was then sent abroad to Butzbach, Germany where she prepared fulfilling and tasty meals and supervised catering services for over 1,500 military personnel. As the soldiers' bellies grew, so did Illya's reputation.

After leaving the Army, Ms. Roberts moved to Dallas, Texas and pursued a career in the broadcast entertainment industry and obtained an MBA, but has continued to nurture her culinary talents and her love for the flavors of New Orleans. Her passion for cooking and 'good eatin' finally manifested itself on paper with the launch of Illya's book, ***Twelve Months of New Orleans Cooking*** in Spring, 2010.

Illya's new book captured local attention and was recently featured on ***NBC5 Talk Street*** on KXAS-TV in Dallas. A recipe demonstration and book signing at Cork in Uptown Dallas also generated rave reviews and Illya's next stop is a stage cooking demonstration at **Taste of Dallas** in July, 2010.

Combining her culinary expertise with her business acumen, Illya continues to refine her talent and share the legacy of New Orleans-style dishes that are easy to prepare, easy to cook and easy to enjoy!