

Feedback

Tyra Banks

THIS MODEL-TURNED-TV-PERSONALITY IS ALSO ONE SERIOUS FOODIE. WHEN SHE'S NOT DINING OUT, SHE HOSTS THE SYNDICATED TYRA BANKS SHOW AND PRODUCES AND STARS IN AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL.

You've got a busy schedule. How do you find time to eat?

I love food, so I make time. I just got back from a weekend trip to Napa, actually. I'm always checking out restaurant guides to find places I haven't tried. You really start feeling like a collector as you try to eat at all the great restaurants.

What's your favorite place?

I usually make a pilgrimage to The French Laundry three times a year. The food is amazing, plus the waiters are hot! One time, I joked, "Do you have Kool-Aid?" The sommelier laughed, but later he brought a drink made with fruit, not powder mix, and it tasted exactly like the real thing.

Anything you don't like to eat?

I don't eat game, so don't put a rabbit in front of me. Or an elk. But when I go out, I will definitely eat. I went out with a guy recently and during dinner I realized I was eating a lot, so I slowed down and pulled back before he noticed. But then, after a few dates, he told me, "Man, you sure were pulling food down on that first date!"

Do you like to cook?

I'm always reading cookbooks, and I'm trying to start cooking again. Right now, I'll experiment and get ambitious with ingredients, but the last thing I made with strawberries came out bitter. I'm still working on my skills.

Any memorable Thanksgiving meals?

One year, we were in Thailand filming *America's Next Top Model*, and we avoided eating poultry because it was during the bird flu epidemic. Our Thai hosts knew how much the holiday meant to Americans, so they brought out two turkeys and prepared them in a hut in the middle of the jungle. Even though we were advised against it, we just loved having a Thanksgiving dinner. ■

