

CV for Balazs Bertenyi

Balazs started his carrier in cooking at a young age.

At the age of 6 he made his first grilled cheese sandwich. And remember, this was well before the microwave age – a stellar achievement!

At the age of 8 Balazs made a short detour into US American cuisine that culminated in his love for PB&J Sandwiches.

In middle school Balazs discovered the secret of eggs. He made his first plate of scrambled eggs at the age of 11.

Around the same time Balazs' interest turned towards deserts. His go-to desert at this time was vanilla pudding: after a few initial failed attempts (that the neighbors can also unfortunately attest to) he perfected his skills.

His high school career brought outdoor cooking into the picture. Luckily no forests have gotten burned down in the learning process. By the time he graduated we was single handedly able to cook the famous dish of “paprika potatoes” over an open fire.

His outdoor cooking has reached new heights in college during the week-long canoe cruises on the Danube. This was the most pressure he ever felt: the survival of his friends depending on his cooking for a week! Historians will tell you there was only one scary moment: a can of pees exploding in open fire – but no one got hurt.

After getting his master's degree in a culinarily irrelevant profession of telecommunications Balazs joined a small unknown telecoms company that had a weirdly Japanese name despite being founded by Joulupukki. His employer got him a shiny company credit card and kicked him out on the road: this presents a major milestone form the world of goulash into the world of airline food. Traveling around the world his perspective widened: for 100 days a year he had food on his plate he had no clue about.

But all these exotic dietary experiences left very little mark on Balazs' home cooking; He stuck to what he knew best: goulash, wiener schnitzel, potato dumplings. This traditionalist approach was only re-enforced after his kids were born. He widened his repertoire with dishes that gained popularity at home. He exchanged the carrier path of Michelin stars for longevity of family happiness – a move showing wisdom well beyond his age.

Achieving the unparallel honor of getting elected as RAN Chief cook would be a worthy coronation of Balazs' illustrious career.