



Virginia Willis is a cook, teacher, author, and culinary television producer. At the present time her main focus is completion of her cookbook and forthcoming companion television series: *Bon Appétit, Y'all! Three Generations of Southern Cooking* (Ten Speed Press, 2008).

A graduate of L'Academie de Cuisine and Ecole de Cuisine LaVarenne, is currently featured in *Atlanta Cooks at Home*, a cookbook of menus from Atlanta's top chefs. Virginia produced Turner South's *Home Plate* with Marvin Woods and the DVD *Shirley Corriher's Kitchen Secrets Revealed!* Previously she honed her attention to detail as the Kitchen Director for Martha Stewart Living Television where she supervised the food segments for the Emmy-award winning television show. With MSLTV, Virginia was also responsible for preparing private meals and events for Martha and her guests - including among others, President Clinton, Aretha Franklin, and Julia Child.

As Executive Producer for *Epicurious* on The Discovery Channel, she traveled the world taping fantastic stories about food - from harvesting capers in the shadow of a smoldering volcano to making authentic mustard in Dijon. With *Epicurious* she was also responsible for directing and producing instructional video as well as developing several impromptu gourmet dinner kits.

A tester and editor for *The All-New Joy of Cooking*, author of *Pasta Dinners 1,2,3*, co-author of *Home Plate Cooking*, featured chef in *Atlanta Cooks at Home*, and weekly writer for *The Atlanta Journal Constitution*, Virginia's wide and varied food career started in Atlanta as an apprentice to Nathalie Dupree. She worked with Dupree on four PBS series and cookbooks, including the James Beard award-winning *Comfortable Entertaining*. She also spent several years as an editorial assistant with culinary authority Anne Willan on various projects including *Cook It Right*, an exhaustive tome that documents the various states of "doneness" (and over- and under-"doneness") of everything from whipped cream to braised pheasant.

She is a recurring guest on *The Lee Bros. Boiled Peanut Hour* on Sirius Radio and *Green and Grow* on 920am WGKA. She has appeared on *Real Simple Television*, *Martha Stewart Living Television*, *Home Plate*, and in commercials for *Duke's Mayonnaise*, *Springer Mountain Farms All-Natural Chicken*, and an internal *Minute Maid* sales video. As a nationally recognized culinary professional her client list includes *The Atlanta Bread Company*, *Cargill/Honeysuckle White*, *Char-Broil*, *Coca Cola*, *Denny's*, *Disney World*, *Duke's Mayonnaise*, *FoodMatch Inc.*, *Fresh Express*, *Logan's Roadhouse*, *LongHorn Steakhouse*, *TGI Friday's*, *Olive Garden*, *Ruby Tuesday*, *Springer Mountain Farms*, *Stone Mountain Park*, *Texas Dairy Queen*, *Texas Roadhouse*, *Waffle House*, *Whole Foods Market*, and *WingZone*.

Virginia is a member of *Les Dames d'Escoffier*, the *Atlanta Community Food Bank Advisory Board*, *Georgia Organics*, the *International Association of Culinary Professionals*, *Southern Foodways Alliance*, the *Whole Foods Market Chefs Panel*, and *Women Chefs and Restaurateurs*.