Some of my earliest memories are of being in the kitchen with my mother and Mamita Amada, my grandmother, who came to visit us in Chicago from Ecuador for a month at a time. Preparing empanadas and other traditional dishes by her side, I saw, even then, how food literally brought people together around a table, and it stayed with me. After High School I enrolled in Kendall College and I haven't looked back since."



JOSE GARCES

Chef/Chairman, *Garces Group* PHILADELPHIA, PA

