

OCEAN *of* FLAVOURS

ONE OCEAN - MANY FLAVOURS

Chef Denzel Sumsum (Solomon Islands/Ni-Vanuatu)



Chef Denzel Sumsum owns and manages Valin Kaba Restaurant in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Growing up in Vanuatu, Chef Denzel recognised food was a central element in bringing communities together and in nurturing relationships. Coupled with his natural curiosity about how certain dishes were made has paved the way for his culinary journey into adulthood.

Inspired by his grandmother “Bubu Lydia”, an avid baker and home cook, nurtured and encouraged Denzel to learn cooking skills early on in life while he admired the way she showed respect and care to those around her through her cooking – something he tries to emulate along his journey.

Calling both Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands home, there is an abundance of knowledge buried in everyday life; passed down traditions within both communities. Denzel hopes to learn from this knowledge to reignite and reimagine traditional flavors to not only showcase to our people what is possible, but to showcase our food to citizens of the world who are open to experiencing it.

Chef Denzel hails from Panama Province, Vanuatu.