



The San Antonio Herb Society

welcomes



Chef Rene Fernandez

The San Antonio Herb Society is delighted to have Chef Rene Fernandez as the featured speaker at its August meeting. Chef Fernandez discovered he had an exceptional passion for food and the culinary arts as early as eight years of age, when he remembers becoming enamored with the “beautiful and abundant” paella he first sampled in a Spanish restaurant in Mexico City. He studied at the Culinary Institute of America, and took specialty courses in food and beverage at Cornell University. He is also a proud member of Chaine Des Rotisseurs.

Though born and raised in Mexico, Chef Fernandez began his career working as a cook at a country club in Houston. He then joined the Sheraton in Mexico City as their chef Garde Manger, and then on to Manaus, Brazil at the Tropicana Hotel, and again on to the Hyatt Hotel in Acapulco, a 700-room resort where he worked as Sous Chef for three years. Eventually he moved on to Guatemala at the Westin Comino Real where he had finally earned the honorable title and responsibility of executive chef. From there he continued his career as an executive chef working at various exotic locales, from Mexico City and Cancun to Aruba and Puerto Rico. Collectively, Chef Fernandez worked a total of 17 years at Hyatt Hotels alone. In fact, it was

circa 1993 at the Hyatt Regency in Merida, what they call the white city in the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, where Chef first met Pierre Kranzle, his current business partner. It was during his tenure at the Hyatt Hill Country in San Antonio when Chef Rene and Kranzle chose to partner up their individual expertise and creative energies to form their first endeavor – the Nuevo Latino restaurant, *Azuca*.

Fresh herbs and local ingredients have long been a part of Chef Fernandez’s repertoire, and he shares his recipes and tips with Herb Society members in this exciting and inspiring culinary program. Join us and learn how an expert chef uses herbs to contribute to his recipes and everyone’s enjoyment!



The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 11, 2005 (with refreshments served beginning at 6:30) at the San Antonio Garden Center, corner of Funston and N. New Braunfels. The meeting is free and open to the Public.

