

[Maggie Hennessy](#)

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The former restaurant & bar critic for *Time Out Chicago*, I've been a full-time freelance food & drink journalist since 2014. In that time, I've developed a knack for unusual food-based storytelling—whether observing the morning rush at Dunkin' Donuts, tracing our perennial fascination with food sculptures or reviewing my own home cooking. You'll regularly find my work in such publications as *Food & Wine*, *Salon*, *Bon Appetit*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Epicurious*, *Food52*, *Taste*, and *Plate*.

[Please see my portfolio.](#)

Or, see a few of my proudest pieces below.

Bon Appetit: [The great restaurant name vibe shift](#)

Food & Wine: [The secret lives of restaurant furnishings](#)

Epicurious: [Is it crispy or is it crunchy?](#)

Salon: [What's going out to eat for, anyway?](#)

Other notable work:

- In 2020, I created a [meat-focused recipe zine](#) with Chicago chef John Manion, who owns El Che steakhouse. Since then, I was recruited to co-author two more: One dedicated to [cassoulet](#) with editor and cookbook author Chandra Ram, and another on [sadya](#) with Margaret Pak and Vinod Kalathil, co-owners of Thattu, a 2020 James Beard Award semifinalist for Best New Restaurant.) In 2018, I co-created a podcast called [Overserved](#), featuring deep-dive interviews with local and national food and drink professionals.
- I'm a founding advisory board member for the [Abundance Setting](#), a nonprofit launched by Chicago chef Beverly Kim to support working mothers in the culinary industry.

Professional history in a macadamia nutshell:

- Before I became a freelance writer, I spent six years as a magazine editor and reporter covering the business side of food—from fine dining to retail baking and pastry for Penton Media to packaged food and beverages for William Reed's breathless, online daily-news site, *FoodNavigator*. I began my journalism career in 2006 as a financial journalist and editorial assistant for *Reuters*.

Education

- BA in journalism and mass communication from the University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Certificate in professional cookery from Kendall College in Chicago in 2009

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