



Q&A: ROGER MOOKING

AFTER MAKING A NAME FOR HIMSELF ON *EVERYDAY EXOTIC*, THE STAR CHEF LIKES IT HOT ON HIS NEW SHOW, *HEAT SEEKERS*

BY VERONICA BOODHAN

Tell me about your new television series, *Heat Seekers*.

We are travelling all around [the U.S.] — myself and Aaron Sanchez, who you may know from *Chefs vs. City* or *Chopped*. We seek out hot and spicy food, and along the way we learn about different cultures and cuisines. Mostly, we are out there having fun and just making fun of each other (laughs).

With the success you have had with *Everyday Exotic*, what made you want to do this show?

I grew up eating hot and spicy food. For me, it was just right down my lane. But also, it gave me an outlet to learn and observe. Instead of being the instructor, I can let the chefs of the restaurants and the owners teach me what they do.

How does the show help encourage people to try spicier food?

It's a mix of things. Some people will never go there, for whatever reason. But the show is still fun, interesting and engaging... We investigate all of the different cuisines of the world. We do maki rolls with habanero peppers. We do spicy Szechuan style. We even do doughnuts with Sriracha sauce. We really investigate the range of possibilities. If there's something that you don't see that you may be interested in, I'm sure there is something else that will jump out at you.

Heat Seekers airs on Food Network Canada on Thursdays at 10:30 p.m. EST

& To read more from *Lifestyler's* interview with Roger Mooking, including why he decided to leave the restaurant industry, go to lifestylermag.com

