

Life & Work with Siv Lopez

December 2022

Today we'd like to introduce you to Siv Lopez.

Alright, so thank you so much for sharing your story and insight with our readers. To kick things off, can you tell us a bit about how you got started?

My passion for sweet treats and all things celebratory began when I took my first cake decorating class. I love creating something beautiful from a blank canvas. The design can be simple or elaborate, but the end result is something that brings people together to celebrate and share stories. Bella Flan was created through the love of food, culture, and people.

My husband and I are of two beautiful, blended cultures: he is Cuban-American, and I am of Chinese descent. It was so exciting for me to try new foods and to learn about my adopted Cuban culture. I love being in the kitchen with my mom and aunts as well as my mother-in-law and tias learning to make special dishes. Through the years, I slowly built up a repertoire for Cuban cuisine.

When I decided to open Bella Flan, I wanted to create a space that is joyful and warm. I love the idea of combining both Asian and Cuban flavors-It is a reflection of who we are. My hope is for everyone that walks through the doors at Bella Flan, that they will feel love and know they are family.

Would you say it's been a smooth road, and if not, what are some of the biggest challenges you've faced along the way?

Oh my goodness, I don't think any road is ever smooth. Opening during the pandemic definitely made our journey extra bumpy. Supply chain issues, staffing issues, and the rising costs of goods have made things extra challenging for small businesses. I am grateful to have an incredible team that keeps Bella Flan running every day. We are blessed and thankful for the love and support from my amazing family, friends, community, and team.

Alright, so let's switch gears a bit and talk business. What should we know about your work?

Bella Flan is a specialty bakery. We are a Cuban bakery with a modern twist and Asian influence. We specialize in flans, flan cakes, and Cuban cuisine. Although we add some modern twists to some classic Cuban dishes, we also stay true to the Cuban flavors. We use old-world Cuban recipes that have been passed down for generations. You will also find some Asian flavors in our offerings. I am proud of having a space that not only reflects who my family is, but also this beautifully diverse world we live in.

