

## Mark Metzger

Pastry Chef

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From the Yankees cap to the heavy accent, there's no doubt about Mark Metzger's roots. He's a native of the Big Apple, and his culinary background shines from this heritage. He's worked his way through many of Manhattan's finest establishments – Tom Colicchio's Craft Steak NY, Charlie Palmer's Aureole, Jimmy Trabelsi's Alessio Restaurant 426.

A former student of psychology and special education, Mark discovered a knack for baking and decided to explore pastry as a career choice. He graduated from Peter Kump's New York Cooking School in 2000 and

hasn't looked back. In addition to positions with some of the city's famous restaurateurs, he was corporate pastry chef for PreGel USA, traveling extensively to train several master chefs on using the company's pastry products.

Mark credits Richard Biondo, chef of Five Napkin Burger in New York, as one of his most valuable mentors. "Richard is the whole package - A successful businessman, with incredible people skills. He taught me the importance of management and that being a great chef simply isn't enough."

A vacation trip brought Mark to Colorado and he fell in love with the mountains. Thinking this might be a place to settle, he sent out some resumes to test the job climate. An offer from Vail Cascade's new Atwater on Gore Creek was extended and Mark happily moved out of New York City. Baking at 8000 feet has been 'a challenge of trial and error,' he says. "There isn't a set conversion that works as a standard for every recipe."

Mark brought his pastry skills to Larkspur in Summer 2009. He says he loves the 'land connection' that Colorado restaurants have with regional farmers. "It's so much more tangible here than when you live in a city," he says, "I am actually meeting the farmers who make our cheeses."

Outside of the kitchen, Mark enjoys target shooting and archery and looks forward to snowboarding for the first time. He also plays drums in a heavy metal band. Future travels to Europe, Australia and New Zealand are part of his long term plans.