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*High-res images, show footage, and interviews available upon request.

FOOD NETWORK STAR

Season 8 – Episode Descriptions

Premiering Sunday, May 13th at 9pm ET/PT – SEASON PREMIERE!

“Impossible Beginnings”

In the much-anticipated two-hour season premiere, fifteen hopefuls arrive in the *Food Network Star* kitchens to meet their mentors, **Bobby Flay**, **Alton Brown** and **Giada De Laurentiis**. The mentors gather their teams of five before they face their very first challenge. Special guest **Robert Irvine** (*Restaurant: Impossible*) explains they must create their own pop-up restaurant from the ground up—with an extremely limited budget and very little time. Robert also throws the contestants a curve ball by revealing they must perform a live presentation to drive customers to their restaurant.

Premiering Sunday, May 20th at 9pm ET/PT

“NYC on the Go”

The finalists hit the streets of New York in this 90-minute episode to conduct local food tours aboard a state-of-the-art tour bus, where they are challenged to take a busload of tourists on a culinary tour of an iconic New York neighborhood. They will be judged on how entertaining they are, what landmarks they highlight and how much food knowledge they impart. During the food tours, each finalist must prepare and serve a dish based on their exploration of the neighborhood.

Premiering Sunday, May 27th at 9pm ET/PT

“Dessert Chopping Block”

The pressure is on as the 13 remaining finalists arrive in the *Food Network Star* kitchen to meet *Chopped* judges **Alex Guarnaschelli**, **Scott Conant**, and **Marc Murphy**. In the Star Challenge, each team must use a mysterious basket of ingredients including a Hershey’s sweet treat to create their best concoction in a head-to-head, inter-team battle for the winning dessert – *Chopped* style!

Premiering Sunday, June 3rd at 9pm ET/PT

“Fashion Week Food Makeover”

It’s Fashion Week in New York City, and the finalists learn that as potential Food Network stars, they must think on their feet and be able to give a dish a makeover at any moment. *Chopped* host **Ted Allen** reveals the finalists must give bland plates of food a culinary face-lift to make them *Food Network Star*-worthy dishes. Models then walk each dish down the runway, while the finalists describe how they transformed their plain dishes into dazzling and delicious pieces of art, and the winner of the makeover challenge receives a cash prize courtesy of Discover Card.

Premiering Sunday, June 10th at 9pm ET/PT

“Guy Live”

A *Food Network Star* must be ready at any moment to develop content on the fly, especially if they are asked to participate in an on-air Food Network special. This week, the finalists must create and perform a live, themed television special. *Food Network Star* season two winner, **Guy Fieri** (*Diners, Drive-ins and Dives*, *Guy’s Big Bite*), hosts each special and gives feedback on which team and individuals performed the best.

Premiering Sunday, June 17th at 9pm ET/PT

“Iron Chef Food Court”

Ten finalists remain to compete for the title of *Food Network Star*, and in this week’s challenge, each finalist must elevate food court dishes to culinary masterpieces, while still using ingredients found in a kiosk. The pressure is on when contestants learn they’re cooking not only for 150 hungry shoppers, but also for Iron Chef **Geoffrey Zakarian** (*Iron Chef America*), who will reveal a secret ingredient they must incorporate into their dishes.

Premiering Sunday, June 24th at 9pm ET/PT

“Meet the Press-ure”

Being a *Food Network Star* requires being natural in the face of the media spotlight. Finalists will be more exposed than ever as they film their own promotional video – without the support of their producers. A panel of journalists including Jess Cagle (*Entertainment Weekly*), Jill Bernstein (*Entertainment Weekly*), Christina McLarty (*Entertainment Tonight*) and Ed Levine (*Serious Eats*) grills each of the finalists with questions about their techniques, personal background and the show they want to bring to Food Network. Who can handle the journalists' questions and who will crack under the pressure? The bottom three must face the Boardroom, and one finalist's journey will be cut short.

Premiering Sunday, July 1st at 9pm ET/PT

“Deen Family Beach Party”

The finalists head to Miami for the South Beach Wine and Food Festival where **Paula Deen** (*Paula's Best Dishes*) is hosting a summer beach party for VIP guests. They must provide the food for the beachside occasion, and in addition to creating a dish for the party, they must also create a kid's version to appease the youngsters in attendance. The finalists shop at Target for fun and stylish items to help bring their family beach party to life. The final eight also perform a 30-second "entertaining tip" on-camera which will be watched by the judging table, and whoever wins the challenge receives a \$20,000 Target gift card.

Premiering Sunday, July 8th at 9pm ET/PT

“Deliciously Unpredictable Demos”

The seven remaining finalists are invited guests at a standing-room-only South Beach Food and Wine Festival demo tent with 150 fans, and upon arrival, the tables are turned – they each must take the stage for their very own cooking demonstration in front of the huge crowd! The finalists take the stage for their demos, and unbeknownst to them, each one will face a technical glitch set up by the producers. Tensions are high as each finalist struggles to save themselves from elimination.

Premiering Sunday, July 15th at 9pm ET/PT

“Pilot Greenlights”

The six remaining finalists will star in promos for their own Food Network shows directed by their producers/mentors. Network stars including **Sunny Anderson** (*Cooking For Real*), **Anne Burrell** (*Secrets of a Restaurant Chef*, *Worst Cooks in America*), **Melissa d'Arabian** (*Ten Dollar Dinners*), **Robert Irvine** (*Restaurant: Impossible*), **Jeff Mauro** (*Sandwich King*) and **Aarón Sanchez** (*Chopped*, *Heat Seekers*) give feedback on the promos. The finalists who survive the drastic and dramatic cut will get to make pilots for their show produced by their mentor. The viewing audience will then be able to vote before the finale to determine who will win the ultimate prize.

Premiering Sunday, July 22nd at 9pm ET/PT

“Finale – A Star is Born”

Before the winner is revealed, the finalists are back in the studio with their mentors and judges to tell all and view never-before-seen footage from the season. Then, the results are in as America has voted to determine who will be the next *Food Network Star*. **Bobby, Alton** and **Giada** each share their favorite moments and discuss why they think their finalist should win during an emotional look back at remaining finalists' journey to the finale. Then, suspense rises as the time comes to reveal who will walk away as the newest *Food Network Star*.

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