



< María Alejandra Kano >

Country / Region: Buenos Aires, Argentina

Age: 48

Current post: Owner and chef of Japanese restaurant “Ichisou”
Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador

○Expanding the spread of Japanese food and dietary culture across Argentina

- 2003: Became a chef at “Ichisou” (owner since 2009)
- 2019: Became Vice-president of the Association of Japanese restaurants in Argentina “Gastro Japo”
- 2021: Became President of “Gastro Japo” (until Feb. 2023)
- 2022: Appointed as a Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador

Since 2003, Ms. Kano has been active as a chef at “Ichisou” Japanese restaurant, which her parents established in 1997. She has also served as the owner since 2009. Ichisou is one of a few restaurants that serve authentic Japanese cuisine in Argentina. In addition to Argentine people, people related to Japanese companies and those from Asian communities in the country visit it often.

Having been covered as “SUSHI WOMAN” by various media such as the two major Argentine papers “Clarín” and “La Nación,” Ms. Kano is one of Japanese cuisine chefs known in the country, mainly in Buenos Aires, the capital. Furthermore, in October 2019, she established “Gastro Japo,” a non-profitable organization of people concerned in Japanese restaurants in the locality, and assumed the position of Vice-president. She conducted activities to spread Japanese food as President from September 2021 to February 2023.

In addition, she has organized the “Gastro Japo Food Week,” an event to popularize Japanese food in which more than 50 Japanese restaurants in Argentina participate, in Buenos Aires every year since 2019 in cooperation with the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina’s Ministry of Economy, the city government, and others. This event has contributed significantly to the spread of Japanese food and dietary culture by introducing Japanese food and Japanese culture under the theme set each year, such as street food, Japanese sweets, *bento* lunch boxes, and curry.