



Meet Your Food Blogger: Cathy Danh of Gastronomy

BY ERICA ZORA WRIGHTSON

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Cathy Danh's Los Angeles-based food blog, [Gastronomy](#), straddles science and language, table and stove. Danh likes to cook, eat and write. Her fiancé (and frequent dining partner) Vernon Chaplin, aka [The Astronomer](#), is a physicist who also enjoys eating, particularly with Danh. To manage the impact of their culinary interests on their waistlines, they [jog](#), as portrayed in a recent post on their dumpling marathon.



When she isn't behind her desk at Pasadena City College, Danh is out scouring the city for a good meal with her trusty sidekick, or digging up an old family recipe to share on the blog. Danh's posts are personal and historical, her blog a vibrant scrapbook, laced with family recipes, mentions of her table company, a catalogue of local cupcake bakeries, and exotic street food. Scrolling through [Gastronomy](#), you will find recipes for vegetarian *pho* and chocolate chips cookies, photos of [The Astronomer](#) and [The](#) [Ennau](#) [to](#) [ask](#) [a](#) [few](#) [questions](#) [about](#) [her](#) [fóóá](#) [óóóóóóóóóóóóóóóóóóóó](#) and her favorite local eats.



The Gastronomer at Dean Sin World

Laurie Hartzell Moore

Squid Ink: How long have you been blogging about food?

Cathy Danh: I started [Gastronomy](#) in 2006 while living in Philadelphia.

SI: What's your real job?

CD: I am a writer and editor in the public relations office at Pasadena City College.

SI: What's your favorite little-known food blog?

CD: [Ravenous Couple](#), a thoughtful and beautiful site full of homey Vietnamese recipes. There are also a smattering of L.A. restaurant reviews. Another favorite is [Eating Asia](#), a South East Asian food and travel blog written and photographed by two American expats. I can't decide which moves me more, the words or the images. Both are seriously amazing.

SI: Do you cook?

CD: Yes! Eating at home offers the perfect balance to dining out. I try to have a baked good in the house at all times, which means I'm constantly baking up a storm. I also like to recreate family recipes that I grew up eating. I'm currently loving with my grandma's [Thit Kho](#) (braised pork with eggs).

SI: What do you consider unique about food blogging in Los Angeles?

CD: Bloggers in LA are obsessed with being the first to dine at a new establishment. I'm the type of eater that prefers to wait for the good reviews to roll in before slapping down my credit card for a taste. I really appreciate the extreme lengths that LA bloggers go to sample a new restaurant's entire menu on the very first night of business. Another unique aspect of food blogging in LA is the tight-knit community. I never once met a fellow food blogger while writing in Philly or Vietnam. In LA, we seem to meet up at least once a week for an epic feast. The quest for dining excellence is much more fun with like-minded friends.

SI: What's your favorite food truck, if you have one?

CD: Cool Haus. I've got a penchant for sweets and a soft spot for smart, entrepreneurial-minded women.

SI: Are you from LA? If not, where?

CD: From age zero to 18, I lived in San Diego. I lived in Philly for seven years for college and work. I lived in Vietnam for a year. I've been calling LA home for a year.

SI: What's restaurant do you most frequent in LA?

CD: Living in Pasadena, I find myself trolling for Chinese fare in Alhambra, Monterey Park, and San Gabriel quite a bit. My favorite joint is [Dean Sin World](#) because it reminds me of living in Asia -- great food, great prices, smiling ladies.

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