



# KNOWS BEST!

TV Chef Gino D'Acampo talks pasta, breaking records and life after the jungle



**When did you first get into cooking?  
What sparked your interest?**

When I was young, I used to help my nonno (grandfather); he was a respected chef and I looked up to him in many ways. Seeing the pleasure that can be brought to so many people by cooking delicious food inspired me to follow that path.

**What is your signature dish?**

I love pasta and can never resist a classic amatriciana. I've put it on the menu at my pasta bar (at Fleet Street and Leadenhall Market in the City of London) and it's definitely one of the most popular dishes.

**Your series Let's Do Lunch airs over the summer holidays. Who has been your favourite celebrity guest on the show to date?**

One of my favourites was Billy Ocean - it was so great to have a real legend with us.

**What do you like to do when you're not working?**

I'm always working! But, of course, spending time with my family is a priority and doesn't really leave time for hobbies. If I ever do get time to myself, I like to go fishing.

**You've won quite a few world records. What has been your most memorable and do you have any plans to break any more?**

I think my most memorable was the 'jumping on custard' record I did on Let's Do Lunch! And yes, I'm hungry for more distinguished world titles.

## 'I'm hungry for more distinguished world titles'

**Your home featured on Through the Keyhole. Does it have any themes / distinguishing décor that particularly reflect your personality and lifestyle?**

Well, it's a family home but, naturally, the kitchen is pretty large. And we like to have friends round, so when we open up all the doors to the garden it's bellissimo.

**After winning I'm a Celebrity and spending time in the jungle, which one aspect of your home did you appreciate most when you got back?**

The bedroom! Of course, the reason is that it was so good to sleep in a proper bed after all that time. And if you believe that...

**What in your opinion makes a house a home?**

For me, it's having a family around you that makes the difference.

**What other projects are you working on at the moment?**

Now that my latest book, Pronto!, is in the shops, I'm spending most of my time developing new locations for my pasta bar. We'll soon have five outlets and it's a really exciting project.

Let's Do Lunch...With Gino & Mel returns on Monday 14th July at 12.30pm on ITV. For My Pasta Bar information please go to [www.facebook.com/mypastabar](http://www.facebook.com/mypastabar)

Image: Steve Meddle/ITV