

CHUAO



CHOCOLATIER®

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# ABOUT THE FOUNDERS

Chuo Chocolatier (chew-WOW) opened its first San Diego store in 2002, but the family's love affair with chocolate began a century ago in Venezuela. Chocolate is more than just a job for brothers Michael and Richard Antonorsi- it's a part of their heritage.

In the early 1900s, the Antonorsis' ancestors owned Aguasanta, a legendary small farm and leading force in the criollo cacao plantation industry. The vision for Chuo Chocolatier began when Michael and Richard left successful careers in Venezuela's high tech industry to build upon their family's dream.

Michael wanted to open a unique chocolate boutique that beautifully blended modern-day innovations with his Venezuelan family traditions. He moved his family from Venezuela to Paris and studied at the Ecolé Superieure de Cuisine Francaise Ferrandi in Paris where he gained certification as a French Chef. He also completed specialized training in Pastry and Chocolaterie at the Ecolé Lenotré.

Richard joined Michael as the strategic business partner and the family adventure began. They fell in love with San Diego while completing their MBA program at UCSD, and chose to return to the area to build the chocolate kitchen and cafes. They named the company Chuo Chocolatier in honor of the legendary cacao-growing region of Chuo, Venezuela. The name also reflects the Antonorsi brothers' Venezuelan heritage, and a commitment to responsibly source the best cacao in the world.

*"Our creations at Chuo Chocolatier are different, not only because of our premium Venezuelan chocolate blend or exotic flavor combinations, but because of our heritage and commitment."  
– Chef Michael Antonorsi*



Richard (left) and Michael Antonorsi.

Michael and Richard remain committed to their ancestral roots, striving to sustain and revitalize the cacao industry in Venezuela. The company's Aguasanta Growth Initiative provides needed funding to Venezuelan cacao farmers for plant seedlings as well as training to increase growth of their cacao crops.

Michael's heritage, passion and culinary expertise work together to arouse the senses through unusual, unexpected and delicious chocolate, while Richard's business and marketing skills contribute to the foundation for this perfect partnership.

Together, Michael and Richard Antonorsi are redefining the way consumers experience chocolate and are enjoying their success while they write a new chapter in their family's legacy.