

COLOMBIAN CHEF LEONOR ESPINOSA WINS THE BASQUE CULINARY WORLD PRIZE 2017

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Leonor Espinosa, one of Colombia's most celebrated chefs and a key figure in its gastronomic renaissance, has nurtured and promoted the value of the country's biodiversity. Through the Funleo foundation, Espinosa has revived the ancestral knowledge and know-how of mainly indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples. She supports rural development based on food sovereignty, and promotes routes to market for small producers as well as spaces for education, nutrition, enterprise and tourism. She helped build support for the establishment of a Comprehensive Gastronomy Centre in Golfo de Tribugá as an alternative framework to drug trafficking, and has campaigned to raise awareness of Colombia's culinary richness. Leonor Espinosa's work has encouraged communities to turn their biological and cultural heritage into tools for socio-economic development. (longer biography in notes to editors)

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