

MASQUE

Aditi Dugar

Founder & Director, Masque & Urban Gourmet India Pvt. Ltd.

Born and raised in Mumbai, Aditi Dugar graduated with a Master of Commerce from Sydenham College, while also finishing level 2 of her CFA degree. She spent the next several years working in private equity at Collins Stewart and UK-based Crest Ventures until the birth of her first child, when she decided to take a break.

Growing up in a family of passionate cooks and with exposure to diverse culinary backgrounds, Aditi quickly developed an inclination towards the industry. By 2012, she launched boutique catering service Sage & Saffron from her home kitchen, while also honing her skills by way of stints at two-Michelin starred Le Gavroche and La Petite Maison, restaurants Zuma and Tsunami, as well as training with a street food vendor in Thailand and staging at Bangkok's Bo.Lan.

Over time, noticing a lack of creativity in Indian fine-dining options, Dugar began building on a vision to highlight the wealth of Indian produce. In September 2016, after nearly two years of R&D spent traveling across the country, setting up supply chains with farmers and local producers, Masque opened doors in the heart of Mumbai - the first restaurant in India to serve a singular chef's tasting menu, using only locally sourced ingredients. Under her leadership, Masque has paved a unique trail through India's culinary landscape, garnering a reputation for constant innovation along the way. In December 2018, Masque was ranked #5 among the country's best restaurants at the Conde Nast Traveller Top Restaurant Awards. In August 2019, Masque was ranked on Food & Wine and Travel + Leisure's collaborative, inaugural list of the World's Best Restaurants. In 2020, the restaurant won the Miele One to Watch Award at Asia's 50 Best Restaurants, landing at #32 in 2021, #21 in 2022, and at #16 in 2023, naming it the Best Restaurant in India for two consecutive years - while also making it the first female-led Indian enterprise on the list.

Aditi acts as founder and director of parent group Urban Gourmet India Pvt. Ltd; alongside Masque and Sage & Saffron, she runs bakery TwentySeven Bakehouse and the kitchen at Seesaw Café (in association with the Reliance group) in Mumbai. She is also an advisor to ARAKU Café, the sustainable coffee chain based out of Bengaluru.