



**2017
INDUCTEE**



MELISSA COOKSTON

Pitmaster, Restaurateur, Author, Chef

Known as the Winningest Woman in Barbecue, Melissa Cookston is a 7-time world barbecue champion; owner of restaurants Steak by Melissa in Southaven, Mississippi and Memphis BBQ Company, a successful barbecue restaurant with locations in Horn Lake, Mississippi; Fayetteville, North Carolina; and Dunwoody, Georgia; an author of two cookbooks, *Smokin in the Boy's Room* and *Smokin' Hot in the South*; and a celebrated southern Delta chef who is an Ambassador for Smithfield.

Recognized nationally from many appearances on national news and talk shows as well as cooking shows and Food Network, Cookston served as a judge on season 4 of *Destination America's "BBQ Pitmasters,"* and was named one of America's most influential BBQ Pitmasters and personalities by Fox News in 2015.