

MANGO CULTURE STORY

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DID YOU KNOW that mangos are the most popular fruit in the world? India grows and consumes more mangos than any other country in the world! In the U.S., we enjoy mangos from Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua, and locally from Puerto Rico, Florida and Southern California. Hawaii also produces mangos, but the demand for fresh mangos on the island keeps them there. In many mango growing countries, the fruit is beloved and often consumed every day.



TO MEXICANS, MANGOS ARE AS BASIC TO TASTE MEMORIES AS APPLES ARE TO AMERICANS.



Although now hard to find (except in a Mexican grandmother's kitchen, perhaps), **MANGO FORKS** were once ubiquitous. Designed with one purpose in mind, the three-pronged fork spears the mango for easy handling, peeling... and devouring.



"I REMEMBER MANGOS practically from my birth," says Ricardo Muñoz Zurita, chef at the Azul restaurants in Mexico City. "I'm originally from Tabasco and Veracruz, in the southeastern part of Mexico – two of the leading states for growing and eating mangos. I've always been surrounded by mangos, ever since I was a kid, and so the mango is also the first fruit I really remember. During mango season everyone practically forgets whatever else is around and everyone just eats mangos." Perhaps an exaggeration, but that's what passion does, especially when refined by custom and history.



MANGOS ARE A STAPLE fruit in the Puerto Rican diet. While they are commonly found at every community market, grocery store or street-side vendor, mangos are often enjoyed as a "back yard" tree, shared among neighbors and friends.