



# MERITAGE

DESTA MAREE KLEIN  
GENERAL MANAGER / PROPRIETOR

Desta Maree has been working in the service industry for almost 20 years. Born in Biloxi, on the other end of the Mississippi, her experience has been varied both in size and scope: having worked in both union and corporate surroundings, such as D'Amico, St. Paul Hotel, Champ's Americana, as well as independently owned restaurants, such as W.A. Frost & Co where she met her husband.

In all circumstances she rose to leadership and management positions in relatively short time periods, winning recognition such as being named most valuable, or best recent hire, or by promotions within the companies.

That same tenacity & ambition helped Desta Maree put herself through college, winning "Outstanding Freshman", awards for her field and for research, as well as a full Presidential Scholarship to Hamline University. After completing her undergraduate schooling, Desta took a small hiatus from the restaurant world being recruited by to work in university administration, as Assistant Director of Admission for her alma mater. During her time there she handled large scale event planning, publication design and copy, website design and development, and marketing the university during some of its most successful years. In the end, her experience in higher education augmented her skill set and prepared her for all of the marketing, website design, and brand establishment she is currently responsible for.

A perfect counterpoint to her husband, Chef Russell Klein, Desta has primary responsibilities that reach far beyond the sometimes narrow field of restaurant management. Responsible for the financial management of the company, in addition to the branding and marketing of this now award winning restaurant, Desta also oversees human resources, front of the house training and service standards, as well as event planning. The Klein's take on new and exciting projects to enhance the business and create professional development opportunities themselves and for their staff, both of which are important to the Klein's overall business philosophies.