

INSIDEHOOK

The Most Important Food Your Dad Ever Made

I asked 39 chefs about the one dish their father cooked that had the biggest impact

BY AMANDA GABRIELE | June 16, 2026 1:44 pm EDT



What's the one thing your dad cooked that you still think about? It's a question I asked 39 chefs across the country in anticipation of Father's Day this month. I wasn't necessarily looking for recipes, but rather memories, a dish that made an impact on them, even if it was as simple as a slice of buttered toast.

Fried Bread

"Growing up, my dad wasn't much of a cook, but there was one breakfast he absolutely perfected: fried bread. Made with a slice of sandwich bread crisped in a buttered pan, it had the same golden, buttery crunch as the perfect grilled cheese. It was simple, comforting and always felt special." — *Gavin Fine, chef and owner of [The Bistro](#) at [The Cloudveil](#)*