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The gastronomy of the end of the world



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Regional food and gastronomy flourish worldwide, driven by unique local foods, the remembrance of culinary traditions, and visitors' desire to taste memorable dishes in environments that evoke history, cultural heritage, and geographic distinctiveness. The sub-Antarctic Magellan region of Chile in Patagonia is the southernmost region on the planet, entry port to Antarctica, and visited by explorers in the 16th century and celebrities such as Charles Darwin. A description of marine and terrestrial local food sources, cooking practices, and biocultural traditions will be presented. Recent gastronomic initiatives at the Cape Horn International Center in Puerto Williams (Chile) will also be described.

Short Bio

Professor José Miguel Aguilera is an Honorary Emeritus Professor of Food Engineering at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC) and a leading figure in food microstructure and food materials science. A former Chair of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering and Vice-Dean of Engineering at PUC, he also served as President of CONICYT (2010–2013), Chile's national science and technology funding agency. Aguilera has authored 220+ peer-reviewed papers and 13 books, advised major global food companies (including Nestlé, Unilever, PepsiCo, Kellogg's and Mars), and is widely recognised for pioneering the microstructure-based engineering approach to food processing and healthy product design. His honours include Chile's National Award for Applied Science and

Technology (2008), election as the first Chilean foreign member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering (2010), the Alexander von Humboldt Research Prize (2002), the IAEF Life Achievement Award (2011), the GCHERA World Agriculture Prize (2019) and the Nicolas Appert Award (IFT, 2020).

Webinar Host

Bruno Moreira Leite, LAQV REQUIMTE, NOVA School of Science and Technology | NOVA FCT