

Chef Olga Valentina  
posing with  
iHeartRadio host  
Jen Tapiero.

# SHE'S NO ICE QUEEN

The only Cold War going on in Russian-born Olga Valentina's Orange County kitchen is a contest between her Tropical Summer Popsicles and her Cherry Vanilla Panna Cotta. Originally from Moscow and transplanted from LA, Valentina, a fashionista, former actress, chef, producer, and shoe maven, is now living amongst us. From her perch in Dana Point, the view of the deep blue ocean is a far cry from the icy frost of Moscow winters. Reveling in our fresh produce, Valentina, a self-taught chef and creator of the show "Cooking with Olga Valentina," left international politics behind in college and now fuels her creative fire with vibrant, passionate plates. Scarce ingredients in Russia led to an appreciation of vegetables that grew in the summer season, and cooking and canning with her mother and

grandmother blossomed into fond memories of the hearth. To Valentina, "fast food" is a summer salad or harvest picnic sandwiches. She posts recipes each week on her blog and delves into her other passions, fashion and decorating.

Collaborating is another one of Valentina's talents. She has hosted the famed "Bikini Chef" Susan Irby and several other local chefs. Her episodes are a plethora of fun, playfulness and up-and-coming fashion. Often styled by her best friend, Marina Monroe of Stylehaus, a members only personal shopping experience that provides complimentary closet purging, preselected clothing curated by members' lifestyle interests or budgets, or drop-in buying binges, Valentina is working with Monroe on a collaboration for StyleHaus that is red hot.

Be warned, Valentina tells us her "Barabaska" or silly Russian house spirit hid in her transcontinental luggage and now lurks around her kitchen in her spoons and ladles, encouraging her to air her dirty laundry. What pretty laundry that must be! Valentina does cook – and she does it in very sexy high heels. -SUZETTE LIPSCOMB

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