

Chef Pierre Thiam is on a mission to teach New Yorkers about African cuisine.

He opened his Senegalese restaurant Le Grand Dakar in Brooklyn, New York, four years ago and such has been its popularity that he has diversified into catering events, teaching cookery classes and appearing on television shows such as Iron Chef America.

Thiam has also written a cookbook, "Yolele," which was nominated for the coveted Julia Child Awards. He says it is the first Senegalese cookbook in English. Yolele, a Fulani word that translates as "let the good times roll," is the first Senegalese cookbook in English, Thiam said.

