

Kat Wisinewski Bio

Kat is proud to be a native Chicago boricua for all of her 45 years! Connecting to her Puerto Rican culture has been a lifelong journey. She is adopted and has a Polish last name and didn't find her Puerto Rican birth family until her 30's when she pulled her paperwork from DCFS and did an Ancestry DNA test! Her ancestry is 3/4 Puerto Rican, and 1/4 German and her father's family is from Ciales and Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico. She now is in touch with most of her entire Puerto Rican extended family (Ayende, Reyes, Pagan), including an *almost* twin sister and brother!

She learned about coquito (and started making Puerto Rican cuisine) in her early 30's and instantly decided to plunge into learning everything she could about how to make it and put her own modern flair into it as an annual way to connect to her PR culture. Kat quickly figured out how to make uniquely flavored and very-popular coquitos such as *coffee*, *banana*, *dark chocolate*, *salted caramel*, *strawberry* and of course traditional flavor. Coffee, traditional and dark chocolate are her bestselling flavors!

The base of all Kat's six (6) distinctive coquito flavors starts by making a fragrant and tasty spiced tea from a traditional recipe using *whole* cinnamon sticks, star anise pods, whole cloves, fresh shaved ginger root and ground nutmeg!

Under the business name, Mezcla Riqueña, seventy-five (75)+ bottles a year of small-batch flavored coquitos is Kat's annual sales goal and she gets close or surpasses it over the 11 years she has been making it.

Every year Kat has an aggressive coquito action plan spreadsheet with timelines and social media marketing plan for her cold weather coquito making business! She takes it very seriously and enjoys making it, not only for the income, but for the pure love of making a deliciously *naughty* holiday beverage that brings families and friends together in happiness over the cold months! Friends, family and co-workers are addicted to Kat's coquito and continue to order every year for the holiday season. Every year starting in October, Kat excitedly promotes coquito making through her TikTok, Instagram and Facebook and her older YouTube Channel where this [video](#) has 65K views!