

Dr Ping Yin



Ping grew up in Chengdu, the capital city of Sichuan Province in China. In 1987, she went to Sussex in the UK to do her PhD in Chemistry and came to Australia in 1991 after graduation.

Sichuan, regarded as "The Land of Plenty", is renowned for its rich history, cultural heritage, and natural beauty. It has a long history of innovation in salt and natural gas production, rice cultivation, silk production, and food fermentation. It is home to many UNESCO World Heritage Sites and the celebrated works of ancient poets and painters. These include the only ancient irrigation system still functioning today, the archaeological site of Sanxingdui, the Giant Buddha carved into a mountainside, and the spectacular landscapes of Mount Emei, Jiuzhaigou Valley, and Huanglong.

Sichuan is also famous for its diversity of vegetables, the culinary traditions of Sichuan cuisine, and its delicious street food.

Ping's love of food has been lifelong despite its scarcity during her childhood, when everything was rationed. Her love of Chemistry began with her first chemistry class in middle school. Her childhood memories are closely intertwined with a small community of families preparing, preserving, and sharing food. These memories, together with her curiosity, her training as a professional research scientist, and her appreciation of nature's beauty, have become the driving forces in her lifelong journey.

Like everything else in Ping's life, it is about the process, not where she would end up. She simply did everything she enjoyed and embraced every opportunity to meet and learn from like-minded people who shared their time, seeds, cuttings, plants, produce, knowledge, and experience with fun, generosity, and kindness.