



Maria “Maca” Guzman, Founder Biography

In May 2012, Maria “Maca” Guzman was a junior at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va. studying interior design and minoring in business, when she received some frightening news from her doctor that she had developed an autoimmune disease. The Guzman family was unsure of what was going to happen to her health and began investigating various treatment options. After much research, Maca and her family decided on a holistic approach to healing, which inspired a larger family passion for health and nutrition that eventually led to the founding of healthy snack company, Artisan Tropic. Maca and her family saw, first-hand, the benefits of a clean diet and decided to help others on their health journeys by developing delicious, nutritious and craveable snacks.



While Artisan Tropic is truly a family-run business, and everyone wears many hats, Maca’s main responsibilities include marketing, sales pitches, production innovation, applying for certifications, packaging design and wholesale fulfillment. Maca is proud to help celebrate and share the Artisan Tropic story and inspire others to better their health.

Maca has a history of helping others. Before Artisan Tropic, she worked for a non-profit in Charlotte, N.C., called Fashion and Compassion, designing jewelry and using those designs to provide marginalized women with employment. Continuing this passion for helping others, one of Maca’s favorite parts of Artisan Tropic, besides working with her family every single day, is that they employ and purchase ingredients straight from Colombian farmers. A dream for Maca includes one day having all Artisan Tropic supplying farms be certified organic.

Maca’s favorite Artisan Tropic product is the original, Naturally Sweet Plantain Strips because they’re sweet *without* any added sugars.

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MEDIA CONTACT: Kendall Gordon | SchroderHaus | 312-720-0089 | kendall@schroderhaus.com



Camilo “Cami” Guzman, Founder Biography

After his daughter received an autoimmune disease diagnosis in May 2012, Camilo “Cami” Guzman and his family began exploring a holistic approach to healing through nutrition. The family knew this was the solution to improving Maca’s health, and to long-term vitality.



At the time, Cami and his wife, Margarita, managed a food distribution company in the Carolinas called, Rikkos, Inc. While attending a trade show in Colombia for importers and exporters to meet with local brands, he was inspired by Maca’s diagnosis to bring a line of cassava and plantain snacks to the United States. From there, the family worked through plans, researched opportunities, and soon thereafter, Artisan Tropic was born.

As President of Artisan Tropic, Cami’s main focus is maintaining the company’s mission and values. He is energized by how important Artisan Tropic products are to consumers like his daughter, but further he is energized by everyone that is positively affected by their brand, from employees in the U.S., to manufacturing plant employees and of course supplying farmers in Colombia.

Cami has always loved spice, so his favorite Artisan Tropic product is the Jalapeño Cassava Strips. They bring the heat with wholesome, clean ingredients, versus artificially flavored spicy chips.

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Margarita Guzman, Founder Biography

Margarita Guzman has always strived to make a difference and give back to the planet. With Artisan Tropic, she now has a larger platform to instill a social purpose into a product families can enjoy. Beyond the Guzman family, Margarita is proud that all of Artisan Tropic's employees and suppliers are aligned in giving back to our planet.



In 2006, Margarita and her husband, Camilo, launched Rikkos, Inc., a company committed to the distribution of quality Latino snacks in markets across the Carolinas and beyond. When her daughter, Maca, was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease in May 2012, Margarita and her family explored holistic approaches to healing with nutrition. Around the same time, Camilo attended a trade show in Colombia for importers and exporters to meet with local brands, and it was then that the family realized a gap in the U.S. market and was inspired to create a line of plantain and cassava snacks that consumers like Maca could enjoy. Enter, Artisan Tropic.

Today, Margarita acts as the Controller of Artisan Tropic, managing the finances, accounting, commercial and human resource decisions by establishing, monitoring, and enforcing policies and procedures.

Margarita's favorite Artisan Tropic product is the Sea Salt Plantain Strips because she can eat them on their own, with dips or as part of a meal. They go with anything!

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