

Famed chef Emeril Lagasse says that it's becoming all but impossible to be a successful restaurateur in America today. The government just gets in the way too much. **Lagasse specifically singled out the current president's policies.**

"It's becoming a very challenging industry to become a very successful average restaurateur," continued Lagasse. "I can't charge \$300 a person in my restaurant or I would not be in business. Am I using any different ingredients? Not really. Am I using any caliber of service staff? I don't think so. I think our service is as good or better than most places."

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"And then you add all the Obama nonsense to what it's become in the last several years. I don't have anything against Mr. Obama. I'm just saying the way that, you know... the government should stay out of things. [...] Pretty soon, they're going to wipe a lot of the middle restaurateurs and restaurant cooks. [...] If it continues, then watch: you're going to have high-end, and you're going to have fast food, and you're going to have chain restaurants."

Lagasse shared his thoughts on TNT's *On the Menu*. He predicts that if the government doesn't start getting out of the way, the American restaurant industry will split and leave entrepreneurs and start-ups behind. American restaurants will consist only of high-end establishments like the ones Lagasse owns, fast food and chain restaurants, because no one else will be able to succeed.