

Good Food Ireland driving Food Tourism honours members at Awards Ceremony

The Good Food Ireland Awards Dinner took place in the Shelbourne Hotel Dublin on Monday night 29th September and provided a showcase of the best of local and artisan food produce. Good Food Ireland is a unique not-for-profit all island network of members who are diligently working to drive Ireland forward as a food tourism destination. Over 300 key representatives from the food and tourism sectors including chefs, restaurateurs, hoteliers, farmers, fishermen and food producers from the four corners of Ireland attended. **Guest of Honour Martin Cullen, T.D.**, Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism and **Good Food Ireland Chairman, Redmond O' Donoghue** presented the awards.

"The key objectives of these awards were to honour those members who epitomise the philosophy of Good Food Ireland and to raise standards within the food and hospitality industry," says **Margaret Jeffares, Managing Director, Good Food Ireland**. Awards like the Good Food Ireland Environmental Energy Efficiency Award won by **The Park Hotel, Kenmare**, Most Innovative Use of IT Award won by **James Whelan Butchers**, Best Sustainable Local Fish won by **Fishy Fishy Café**, Kinsale, International Dietary Award won by **Itsa4**, Dublin Next Generation Award won by **Tim McCarthy** of Jack McCarthy Butchers, Kanturk and Top Overall Member Award won by **Ballymaloe House and Ballymaloe Cookery School** highlight the commitment of the members to raise standards, promote local produce to consumers and drive Ireland forward as a worthy Food Tourism destination. Members were independently assessed by an expert judging panel and the public also sent nominations over the Good Food Ireland website.

Good Food Ireland promotes the link between the food producer and the hospitality sector so as to steer the 9 million visitors to this country to places that are committed to using local food. Cuisine and food produce satisfies new traveller demands for hands-on, interactive experiences. Good Food Ireland promotes the people behind the food from the chef to the cheese maker and highlights the cultural relationship between a country, its people and its food.

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SEE BELOW FOR LIST OF AWARDS AND MEMBERS OF STEERING GROUP LIST OF AWARDS AND SPONSORS

1. Good Food Ireland Best Local Breakfast Award - sponsored by Failte Ireland

This award clearly maximises the use of local produce, home baking and sourcing and embraces signature and regional dishes. It also takes into account how the breakfast is presented and served.

Winner – Coolanowle Country House & Organic Farm, Ballickmoyler, Co Carlow

2. Good Food Ireland Best Next Generation Award - sponsored by Lily O' Briens

There are a number of next generation operators within the industry, striving to follow or exceed in the footsteps of parents or young chefs/people growing and developing in the industry. This award honours and promotes their efforts in maintaining and raising standards and in highlighting innovation.

Winner – Tim McCarthy, Jack McCarthy Butchers, Kanturk, Co Cork

3. Good Food Ireland Wine Person of the Year Award - sponsored by Classic Drinks

Not necessarily a sommelier, this award goes to somebody who is passionate about their subject, able to interact with customers and explain and work with their wine list in detail.

This award also provides the winner with a fabulous prize of a four-day trip to visit the ALVARO PALACIS vineyards and winery in RIOJA, all expenses paid compliments of Classic Drinks, Good Food Ireland's wine partner.

Winner – Damian Corr, The Merrion Hotel, Dublin

4. Good Food Ireland Environmental Energy Efficiency Award – sponsored by A&L Goodbody

This award honours the member that has done something significant to improve their energy efficiency and identify the kind of savings being made either in terms of cost or energy use.

Winner – The Park Hotel, Kenmare, Co Kerry

5. Good Food Ireland Most Innovative Use of IT Award sponsored by Biznet

This award will be judged on how member's best use IT to promote their business. The judges will look for innovate use of IT rather than simply using the electronic medium for delivery. Promoting the philosophy of prioritising farmers, fishermen and local and artisan food producers will be taken into account.

Winner – James Whelan Butchers, Clonmel, Co Tipperary

6. Good Food Ireland Best use of Sustainable Local Fish Award – sponsored by Hertz

This award highlights those who use/catch and promote sustainable fishing and locally caught fish from Irish coastal waters. It is to single out a member who is instrumental in ensuring sustainability and best practice standards, which will ultimately have an influence on the Irish food/fishing industry and its culture.

Winner – Fishy Fishy Café, Kinsale, Co Cork

7. Good Food Ireland Top Regional member Award – North - sponsored by Tourism Ireland

Winner – Belle Isle School of Cookery, Lisbellaw, Co Fermanagh

8. Good Food Ireland Top Regional member Award – South - sponsored by Tourism Ireland

Winner – The Cliff House Hotel, Ardmore, Co Waterford

9. Good Food Ireland Top regional member Award – East - sponsored by Tourism Ireland

Winner – The Winding Stair, Dublin 1

10. Good Food Ireland Top regional member Award – West - sponsored by Tourism Ireland

These four awards will be judged across all member sectors. The winner will be the member who most epitomises in each region the Good Food Ireland philosophy of committing above all else to using local and artisan food produce.

Winner – Gregan's Castle, Ballyvaughan, Co Clare

11. Good Food Ireland Host of the Year Award - sponsored by Failte Ireland

In a highly focused and demanding service industry, this award honours the person who offers demonstrable evidence of care, passion, attention to detail and a focus on providing service that excels in every way.

Winner – Kay O' Flynn, Rathsallagh House, Dunlavin, Co Wicklow

12. Good Food Ireland Members' Best Producer Award - sponsored by Bord Bia

Using the Good Food Ireland network is central to the organisation's philosophy. This award will go to the producer the judges feel has been most actively sought out and promoted by fellow members.

Winner – G's Gourmet Jams, Abbeyleix, Co Laois

13. Good Food Ireland International Dietary Award – sponsored by Silverhill Foods

The international visitor to Ireland and indeed the home consumer has varied dietary requirements from pork-free to alcohol free to hallal to coeliac. This award honours the member that is most innovative in the kitchen and in their menu in recognising individuals own lifestyle/daily routines and nutritional requirements.

Winner – Itsa4, Sandymount, Dublin 4

14 Good Food Ireland Top Overall Member Award – sponsored by Independent Newspapers

This award is given to the member who most represents the philosophy of Good Food Ireland and is a benchmark for all others.

Winner – Ballymaloe House & Ballymaloe Cookery School, Shanagarry, Co Cork

15. Good Food Ireland Person of the Year Award - Sponsored by Waterford Crystal

A person who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help and secure the future of Good Food Ireland This award highlights the enormous work and commitment that is carried on behind the scenes – that may not be obvious to the members and indeed the public.

Sean Boland, Managing Director Hertz Ireland

Members of Voluntary Good Food Ireland Steering Group

Chairman

Redmond O'Donoghue Former Group Chief Executive Waterford Wedgwood and current
Chairman Fáilte Ireland

Vice Chairman

Chris Kane	Former Executive Director Fáilte Ireland
Darina Allen	Ballymaloe Cookery School
Hugo Arnold	Journalist & Good Food Ireland Food Consultant
Peter Ward	Country Choice, Nenagh
Jay Bourke	Restaurateur & Hotelier- Eden, Bellinter House
Richard Corrigan	Chef/Restaurateur
Derry Clarke	Chef/Proprietor, L'Ecrivain
Peter McCann	General Manager, The Merrion Hotel
Robert Ditty	Proprietor Ditty's Artisan Bakery, Co Derry
Bill Kelly	Proprietor, Kelly's Resort Hotel & Spa
Sean Boland	Managing Director Hertz Ireland
Samantha Leslie	Proprietor, Castle Leslie Estate
Maurice Keller	Arlington Lodge Country House Hotel
Margaret Jeffares	Managing Director Good Food Ireland

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