



Press Release

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Cavan Chef Neven Maguire Wins Ireland's Top Restaurant Award

Cavan Chef Neven Maguire has been awarded Ireland's most prestigious 'Restaurant of the Year' Award at the annual Food & Wine Awards in Dublin's Mansion House Sunday 24th August. Neven's MacNean House & Restaurant, Blacklion, Co. Cavan beat stiff competition from Ireland's top Michelin starred restaurants to claim this coveted accolade.

In addition to winning Restaurant of the Year, Neven also won Best Chef in Ulster and Best Restaurant in Ulster, which he has won three times. When receiving his 'Restaurant of the Year' award, Neven gave a heart-felt speech of appreciation to the team at MacNean House & Restaurant in Blacklion, his local suppliers and food producers of which he is so proud and his thanks and praise to his family. His speech was appreciated by the over 500 top hoteliers, restaurateurs and chefs attending who acknowledged Neven's achievements with a standing ovation.

"I am thrilled to have won this award", says Neven. "This prestigious award is highly respected and recognises the hard work, commitment and dedication of my wife Amelda, my family, the team at MacNean House & Restaurant and the phenomenal achievement of my parents for founding the restaurant and keeping it going through tough times. I really appreciate all their help and support and also that of my local suppliers for their hard work and the top quality produce they supply to my restaurant".

Neven is Head Chef and Proprietor of his family's MacNean House and Restaurant in Blacklion, Co. Cavan, which has been open since 1989. The Restaurant and Guest House underwent extensive refurbishing in 2007, doubling its seating capacity and offering tastefully decorated guestrooms. The menu's at MacNean House and Restaurant offer a range of dishes specially created by Neven using local, seasonal produce and an extensive wine list.

Neven has a string of high-profile awards behind him, both for his culinary skills and his work at MacNean House and Restaurant, including: Food and Wine's 'Ulster Best Chef' Award 2007, Georgina Campbell's Restaurant of the Year Award 2007, Special Award for Culinary Achievements and Tourism Promotion from Cavan County Council 2007 and Georgina Campbell's Natural Food Award 2006, who said about Neven - "Neven's cooking is better than ever; exact, perfectly judged food that makes the most of meticulously sourced ingredients from the local and artisan producers he so strongly advocates."

Neven has been exceptionally busy in 2008 with a new cookbook, his 5th, due in bookstores this November. He has also just finished filming his new TV series 'Neven's Food from the Sun' which will be shown on RTE early 2009 and was also recently appointed by an Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mary Coughlan T.D. as a member of the Food Safety Authority.

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