

Award-winning Chef Neven Maguire launches new book and TV series

Tonight will see the launch of award-winning chef Neven Maguire's new book 'Neven's Food from the Sun' and its accompanying TV series by Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Brendan Smith, also T.D. for Cavan and Monaghan. The launch will be held in Maguire's MacNean House & Restaurant.

"2008 has been a fantastic year for me with the new book out and the TV series being broadcast on prime time TV early next year", says Maguire, chef/owner of MacNean House & Restaurant. "I know times are tough right now, particularly in the restaurant business, but we have a strong, hard-working and dedicated team and it's paying off. Last year we undertook extensive refurbishment, adding ten guest rooms. Luckily we have seen a return on this investment with a 30% increase in business."

Maguire's books have previously sold over 100,000 copies and the new book, his 5th, published by Harper Collins opens a new international market. The book includes over 100 recipes inspired by Neven's love of food and travelling, with a strong Mediterranean influence. Much of the book's photography was shot in sunny Mallorca where Neven also filmed parts of his new TV series as well as in his own kitchen at home in Blacklion.

Maguire employs over 15 people at his MacNean House & Restaurant. A promoter of seasonal, local produce, he uses a number of local suppliers. Due to demand at weekends, MacNean House & Restaurant also boosts B&B business in the village, filling additional beds when its guest house is full.

"I am very proud that businesses in the community benefit from the restaurant and am so grateful to my loyal regular and new customers who travel to Blacklion. People come to the restaurant for fine dining that is good value for money as well as friendly and attentive service", says Maguire.

Speaking on the launch Brendan Smith T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food says, "I'm particularly proud as a Cavan man to say that Neven has put Blacklion on the culinary map. Through his championing of local producers, Neven has generated a great sense of community spirit in this area. My job is made all the easier by people like Neven, who is a truly wonderful ambassador for Irish food at its best."

Neven Maguire's new book 'Neven's Food from the Sun' is out now in all good book stores. The accompanying TV series will be broadcast on RTE 1 early 2009. www.macneanrestaurant.com



Neven and Amelda Maguire pictured with broadcaster Marty Whelan and Brendan Smith, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

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