Flagship
Programme
Outline
2018

GALWAY, WEST OF IRELAND 2018
EUROPEAN REGION OF GASTRONOMY
2018 is set to be a great year for food in Galway!

- EUROPEAN REGION OF GASTRONOMY 2018 – GALWAY, WEST OF IRELAND -

Galway and West of Ireland is very fortunate to have been designated one of two European Regions of Gastronomy for the year of 2018. We are the first region in Ireland to attain this award alongside Noord Brabant in the Netherlands. Acquiring this designation took significant time and dedication from a dedicated food community. The designation was won by the people of Galway for the people of the Region and we would love to have everyone within our vibrant food community involved.

Food plays a critical role in all our lives in Galway, from farmer and fisherman to chef, restaurateur and consumer. We produce enough food to feed over 1.5million people which is a testament to our local landscape. We boast over 12,000 farms, 689km of coastline, 52 islands and over 350 restaurants. Food and food culture are at the centre of our regional fabric, engrained in all our lives.

- WHAT IT MEANS TO THE COUNTY & REGION -

The overall theme that has been set out for our term is, ‘From the Ground Up, Feeding our Future’

The designation aims to make good food accessible to all and use food as a way to bring people together. It aims to bridge the gap between food producers and consumers by creating a greater awareness of foods produced in Galway and the West of Ireland and making them more accessible to all.

We will explore our Food and associated culture across five key Focus Area’s which are;

- Education and Health,
- Linking Urban with Rural,
- Cultural Diversity,
- Sustainability and Feeding the Planet
- Supporting SMEs and Innovation.

As you will see from our programme outline we will have a range of exciting events, festivals and initiatives that will be taking place throughout the year which will have something for everyone from children to Chefs and everyone in between.

The designation is yet another fantastic opportunity for Galway and the West of Ireland to showcase our strengths and place us at the forefront of gastronomic excellence.

Visit our website on: www.galwaygastronomy.ie or email us at: regionofgastronomy@galwaycoco.ie

If you would like to add your projects, events or initiatives to our programme for the year please feel free to get in contact with us: regionofgastronomy@galwaycoco.ie

Our programme for the year is constantly evolving. This programme is serving as a guide of what you can expect from the designation throughout the year.
Join the Charter

GALWAY, WEST OF IRELAND 2018
EUROPEAN REGION OF GASTRONOMY

GALWAY
WEST OF IRELAND
Food
CHARTER

www.galwaygastronomy.ie
IRISH HOTEL FEDERATION’S GALWAY HOSPITALITY BALL

16TH JANUARY

The Galway Hospitality Ball was held in The Galmont Hotel and Spa on the 16th of January 2018. A wonderful showcasing of Galway’s local produce took place on the night with all the food served on the six course menu being sourced within our region. An array of culinary talent was also displayed with chefs from across Galway’s finest Hotels and Restaurants collaborating to create the ultimate fine-dining experience. A fantastic event that celebrated the start of an exciting year of gastronomy in Galway and the West of Ireland!

HOLIDAY WORLD SHOWS

FEBRUARY

Holiday World shows were attended over 3 weekends in January and February. Galway Gastronomy was brought to Belfast, Dublin and Limerick. A selection of Galway Food producers were invited to attend Galway County Council’s stand at these trade shows and provided attendees with a taste of Galway’s Gastronomic excellence and a chance to sell their food tourism experience.

WESTRONOMY AT THE TWELVE

MARCH

Westronomy at The Twelve is an unforgettable food adventure and introduction to the gastronomy of the region sharing on Friday the 2nd, 9th and 16th of March.

THE TWELVE, BEARNA, CO. GALWAY

TEL: + 353 91 597000

www.thetwelvehotel.com
www.westrestaurant.ie

BEYOND THE WEST – FOOD & DRINK SHOWCASE

TUESDAY 6TH MAR 9AM – 1PM

LEO Galway, Bord Iascaigh Mhara and Údarás na Gaeltachta host a special industry-only showcase for high quality food producers.

This event will target industry-only attendees, to include food buyers, chefs, retail and restauranteurs.

Free Entry

www.localenterprise.ie
Facebook: @LEOGalway
Local Enterprise Office Galway at (091) 509090
DON'T LET GOOD FOOD GO TO WASTE
TUESDAY 6TH MARCH AT 6PM
Enjoy an informative, educational food demonstration whilst learning essential tips around food waste prevention and cooking on a budget. In addition to the cooking demonstration, experts will be on hand to give advice on menu planning, food waste prevention, food storage, composting and general waste management.

This is a free event but due to limited spaces being available, registration is required.

THE GALWAY INTERNATIONAL HOTEL SCHOOL, GMIT 091-809510 / 091-536400

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF THE EUROPEAN REGION OF GASTRONOMY 2018 - GALWAY AND WEST OF IRELAND FRI 16TH MARCH 5PM
The people of Galway come together to mark the programme launch of a fantastic array of flagship events to celebrate the regions designation as European Region of Gastronomy for 2018. A family friendly ceremony leading into St.Patrick’s weekend festivities brings together our communities to celebrate their food, heritage and culture.

SPANISH ARCH, GALWAY CITY www.galwaygastronomy.ie @gastronomy2018

ST.PATRICK'S DAY PARADE, GALWAY CITY ‘FROM THE GROUND UP FEEDING OUR FUTURE THEME’ 17TH MARCH FROM 11.30AM
The Galway City Parade this year will embrace the theme of Gastronomy to celebrate the Galway and West of Ireland European Region of Gastronomy designation for 2018. Watch out during the festival for creative contributions from Galway City Communities. Free Event

GALWAY CITY CENTRE patricksparade@gmail.com Facebook: @paddysdaygalway

GALWAY FOOD FESTIVAL 2018 29TH MARCH TO MONDAY 2ND APRIL 2018
The theme for this year is ‘Planting seeds’ which is appropriate as the overarching theme for the European Region of Gastronomy designation is ‘From the Ground up – Feeding our Future’. The festival explores Health & Education, Sustainability, Supporting SME’s and Linking Urban and Rural. Visit the Halla Bia to see some of our wonderful producers. Go to one of the informative talks or demos on food or explore the food of the county on a farm tour!

GALWAY CITY AND COUNTY www.galwayfoodfestival.com Facebook: @galwayfoodfestival Twitter: @GalwayFood
BAY COAST WILD ATLANTIC WAY FOOD FESTIVAL
SUNDAY 8TH TO SUNDAY 15TH OF APRIL
Visit an Oyster or Mussel Farm, learn some new recipes, explore Kylemore Abbey’s gastronomic heritage, experience a fulacht fiadh or enjoy the Bay Coast Banquet. A collaboration of producers, Kylemore Abbey and Renvyle House Hotel to create a wonderful gastronomic experience. Daily and Weekend Tickets available.

RENVYLE PENINSULA AND KILLARY FJORD
Renvyle House Hotel & Resort, Renvyle, Connemara, Co. Galway, H91 X8Y8, Ireland. Tel: +353 (0)95 46100

GREEN YOUR GATHERING
THURSDAY 19TH APRIL FROM 9AM – 5PM
The Green Your Gathering seminar will inspire and support those organising festivals, meetings and events to adopt more environmentally-friendly practices in their operations.
This is a free event. Numbers are limited - registration is essential.
The event is being organised by Galway City Council, as part of the European Green Leaf designation, in partnership with Galway 2020, European Region of Gastronomy, and Fáilte Ireland.

THE ARDILAUN HOTEL, GALWAY
www.galwaycity.ie
Facebook: @galwaygreenleaf

GOOD FOOD IRELAND’S TOURROIR GLOBAL CONFERENCE
MONDAY 23RD & TUESDAY 24TH OF APRIL 2018
TourRoir brought to you by Good Food Ireland is a cross sector global business forum bringing together Food, Tourism and Culture to discuss how, through the inextricable link of these three sectors companies can grow business, local communities can flourish and destinations can ensure a more successful and sustainable economic future. To bring global recognition and to celebrate the European Region of Gastronomy designation, this event will be hosted by NUIG for 2018 as a flagship event. Tickets are available to purchase via the website.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IRELAND, GALWAY IRELAND
www.tourroir.com
Facebook/Twitter/Instagram: @touRRoir

A TASTE OF ORANMORE & CLAREN- BRIDGE
MAY – NOVEMBER 2018
A gourmet programme of events to showcase the best hospitality and signature dishes from our village restaurants and cafes. Look out for taster menus accompanied by a topical discussion from your chefs for the ultimate experience.

GALWAY
More Information: www.oranmore.ie
NORTH GALWAY FOOD AND CRAFT FAIR  SATURDAY MAY 5TH 2018 FROM 9AM – 4PM
North Galway Food and Craft Fair will be a fun day out for all the family. Lots of stalls from locally produced foods and crafts.

THE BIG RED BARN, KILCONLY, TUAM, GALWAY

www.wildwestcountryfest.com
Facebook: @galwayfoodandcrafts

THE FLIGHT OF THE DISHES FOOD SERIES  MAY – OCTOBER 2018
Based on the legend from King Guaire, Gort presents ‘The flight of the Dishes’ Food series for 2018. Twelve Gastronomic events are planned over the year that reflect the myth, history and people of the area. Eat local with Open Seasame, Go wild at the Gallery Café or have Dinner with Mr. Yeats at the Lady Gregory Hotel to name but a few.

Free and Ticketed Events
Flightofthedishes@gmail.com
087-2608299
Facebook: @Flighofthedishes

GORT, BURREN LOWLANDS, GALWAY

CONNEMARA MUSSEL FESTIVAL  FRIDAY 4TH – SUNDAY OF 6TH MAY 2018
A weekend packed full of activities to look forward to on the May Bank Holiday weekend, there’s something to suit everyone. Originally established to promote the excellence of the mussels of Killary Harbour, Connemara Mussel Festival has grown to become a celebration of local people, food, culture and heritage, and is recognised as the premier food event for Connemara attracting visitors from near and far.

TULLYCROSS, RENVYLE GALWAY

www.connemaramusselfestival.com
@connemaramusselfestival
connemaramusselfestival@gmail.com

GALWAY WEST OF IRELAND SHOWCASE, ANJOU, FRANCE
FÊTE DES VINS DE L’ANJOU, CHALONNES SUR LOIRE  17TH – 21ST MAY 2018
The Fete Des Vins D’Anjou which is based along the banks of the Loire in Chalonnes sur Loire, which is twinned with Ballinasloe, attracts up to at least 8’000 people each year. This will be a ‘bring and sell’ showcase with selling opportunity for Galway Food and Drink producers. This event will showcase the best of our regions food and culture with a European Region of Gastronomy food village and cultural showcase from Galway2020.

ANJOU, FRANCE

www.fetedesvins-anjou.fr
regionofgastronomy@galwaycoco.ie
BIA LOVER - FESTIVAL OF FOOD
SATURDAY 16TH & SUNDAY THE 17TH OF JUNE

Bia Lover is one of the biggest regional food events and attracts thousands of food lovers to Athenry. This year’s festival theme is ‘Natures Larder’ and will showcase the diversity of food produced locally. Now in it’s 5th year, They are proud supporters of Galway’s designation as European Region of Gastronomy 2018.

Free Event

www.bialover.ie
Facebook/Twitter: @BiaLover

ATHENRY, GALWAY

INTERNATIONAL AGRI BENCHMARK
BEEF & SHEEP CONFERENCE
FRIDAY 15TH – WEDNESDAY 20TH JUNE 2018

This six day event will attract delegates from all over the world and will explore the global picture on beef and sheep along with field trips to the region exploring comparisons in production systems and benchmarks.

www.agribenchmark.org
info@teagasc.ie

GALWAY BAY HOTEL, GALWAY

SEAFEST
FRIDAY JUNE 29TH – SUNDAY JULY 1ST

A weekend of fun, family friendly events lay in wait for you at SeaFest. Discover all about our oceans, including the creatures that live beneath, how we explore our seas, the ships that transport us and the fascinating tales from the deep.

Take part in interactive activities, watch demonstrations and go onboard a ship. The festival covers all things marine – from seafood cookery to science, cultural history to deep sea exploration and much more!

GALWAY HARBOUR AND DOCKS

More Information: www.seafest.ie
Facebook/Twitter: @seafest.ie
CLAREGALWAY CASTLE, CLAREGALWAY, GALWAY

www.galwaygardenfestival.com
@GalwayGardenFestival

CLAREGALWAY GARDEN FESTIVAL
SATURDAY 7TH & SUNDAY 8TH OF JULY 2018

Claregalway Garden Festival celebrates gardening, landscape, history, poetry, music and more besides. It is a showcase not just for the best of rare and special plant traders but also offers an excellent international guest speaker programme and a platform for the best of artisan craft and food in the west of Ireland.

SHEEP 2018
SATURDAY 7TH JULY 2018

More Information: www.teagasc.ie
@teagascgalwayclare

TEAGASC, MELLOWS CAMPUS, ATHENRY, CO. GALWAY

The National Sheep Event 2018 will take place on the 7th of July on the grounds of Teagasc, Athenry, attracting over 15'000 visitors to experience all aspects of this industry. An enjoyable family day out for all!

Free Event

GALWAY POTTERS MARKET 2018 - A CELEBRATION OF STUDIO POTTERY AND CERAMICS
FRI 20TH- SUN 22ND JULY

Info: See the Galway Potters Market Facebook page @GalwayPottersMarket

SPANISH ARCH, GALWAY

The market provides an occasion to appreciate a wide variety of high quality pottery and ceramics, with the opportunity of interacting with the potters, and doing some clay modelling themselves. This year the market will focus on food as the overall theme.

CONNEMARA OYSTER & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL JULY 2018

This exciting new festival will be officially opened by our European Region of Gastronomy Ambassador JP McMahon at 5pm on Friday the 20th of July followed by a gastronomic banquet. The weekend will feature Chef talks, shuckling competitions, food and music, hosted in Keoghs, Ballyconneely in Connemara.

BALLYCONNEELY, CONNEMARA, GALWAY

info@keoghsballyconneely.com
Phone: 095-23522
Facebook: @keoghsballyconneely
THE GALWAY RACES SUMMER FESTIVAL
MONDAY JULY 30TH – SUNDAY 5TH AUGUST
Widely regarded as the highlight of the Summer season in Ireland, Galway Races offers you fantastic horse racing, live music and entertainment, stunning fashion, family fun and an electric atmosphere that continues to draw people from all over Ireland and abroad to experience first-hand the infectious sense of fun. The Galway Gastronomy Van will be popping up to showcase the very best of Galway’s Local food each day. Ticketed Event

BALLYBRITE RACES, GALWAY

www.galwayraces.com
Facebook/Twitter: @GalwayRaces

CUAN BEO SHOWCASE AT CRINNIÚ NA MBÁD
SATURDAY 11TH – SUNDAY 12TH AUGUST
Cuan Beo explores sustainability and water quality as part of their cooking showcase at Crinniú na mBád, which is a longstanding traditional hooker boating event and festival.

KINVARA, GALWAY

Facebook: @crinniú
www.cuanbeo.com
cuanbeo@gmail.com

TUAM FOOD FESTIVAL – BLAS @ BROWNES
SUNDAY 19TH AUGUST 1-5PM
A celebration of the best from the west. A fun free, family day out. Meet local food and drink producers. Sample their offerings. Fill your belly and your cupboards!

TUAM, GALWAY

More Information: www.brownestuam.ie
Facebook: @brownestuam

MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL LOUGHREA
AUGUST 2018
This three-day festival will complement Loughrea’s Irish Walled Towns status with an exciting and varied programme of free events, designed to appeal to people of all ages, and run at various times throughout the weekend. Gastronomy plays a role in the heritage of Loughrea and is woven throughout this festival.

LOUGHREA, GALWAY

www.loughreamedievalfestival.com
Facebook: @loughreamedievalfestival
Agricultural economists from across Europe will travel to Galway to partake in their 2018 seminar and learn about Galway’s designation around gastronomy for 2018.

**Mackerel Festival**

**SATURDAY 18TH – SATURDAY 25TH AUGUST 2018**

This year will be the first Mackerel Festival in the West of Ireland and will celebrate the European Region of Gastronomy designation. You can expect cookery demos, fishing trips on a Galway Hooker, bbq, family picnics and to taste ‘An Ronnach’, a beer created for the festival by ‘The Independent Beer Company’!

**Autumn Gastronomy Lecture Series**

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

Using the European Region of Gastronomy Designation for 2018 as a focal point, National University of Ireland Galway will host an exciting series of lectures to draw their schools and associated expert contributors to discuss Sustainability & Feeding the Planet, Linking Urban & Rural, Cultural Diversity, Health & Education & Supporting our SME’s & Innovation. These informative lectures will be free and open to the general public.

**Medieval Tournament – Claregalway Castle**

**29TH & 30TH OF SEPTEMBER 2018**

The 4th annual international medieval combat tournament will champion gastronomy for 2018. It will include feature talks and workshops on all aspects of historic food and festivity with a special medieval feast focusing on game, wild produce and traditional recipes from the period.
GALWAY INTERNATIONAL OYSTER AND SEAFOOD FESTIVAL
FRIDAY 28TH- SUNDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2018
The Galway International Oyster & Seafood Festival welcomes lots of tantalising events for all to enjoy; seafood trails, oyster opening (shucking) championships and more.

NIMMO'S PIER, GALWAY CITY
More Information: www.galwayoysterfestival.com
Facebook/Twitter: @GalwayOysterFestival

EUROPEAN SHOWCASE OF GALWAY & WEST OF IRELAND REGION @ PROEFMEI – SEAFOOD FESTIVAL
NOORD BRABANT
5TH-7TH OCTOBER
Galway, in increasing its collaborations with its partner Noord Brabant for 2018, will showcase at this Seafood Festival in the Netherlands, to include some competitive chefs 'cook off'.

NETHERLANDS

CONG FOOD FESTIVAL
5TH - 7TH OF OCTOBER 2018
This year for the first time, Cong Food Festival will be held in the stunning venue of Cong Abbey. Over the course of three days you can enjoy a range of activities from demos, farmers market, BBQ, workshops, foraging and a unique wine tasting dinner.

CONG ABBEY, MAYO
More Information: www.congfoodvillage.com

CLARENBRIDGE OYSTER FESTIVAL
The Clarenbridge Oyster festival is a celebration of the native Oyster, of the history of this beautiful village and of the energy of a vibrant and modern day community respecting tradition, a tradition in since 1954.

CLARENBRIDGE, GALWAY
More information: www.clarenbridge.com
Facebook/Twitter: @clarenbridgeoysterfestival
The Connemara Green Festival is an exciting festival which celebrates Mother Nature, aims to raise awareness of the unique ecology of Connemara and raise funds for biodiversity projects. Enjoy inspiring events including walks with local ecologists and historians, nature workshops, foraging on the seashore, bird watching, hill walks, fauna & flora, exhibitions, activities and delicious local artisan foods. Come Taste the delicious foods of the European Region of Gastronomy, sampling various organic and locally sourced artisan foods in local establishments.

**LETTERFRACK, CONNEMARA, GALWAY**

[www.connemaragreenfestival.ie](http://www.connemaragreenfestival.ie)  
[@Connemaragreenfestival](http://@Connemaragreenfestival)

---

**BIA BÓ FINNE – A TASTE OF INISH-BOFFIN**

**OCTOBER 2018**

Celebrating the Islands food, crafts, music & traditions. With great events such as shoreline foraging, fish filleting, and butchery as well as numerous cookery demonstrations with chefs from all over the country it will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about new cooking styles, foraging techniques and even lesser known ingredients.

**INISHBOFIN**

[More information: www.biabofinne.ie](http://www.biabofinne.ie)

---

**FOOD ON THE EDGE**

**MONDAY 22ND- TUESDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2018**

Food on the Edge is a two day symposium that takes place in Galway city, Ireland. It is for chefs & food enthusiasts all around the world who want to create a better global network. Food on the Edge is a coming together of chefs to listen, talk and debate about the future of food in our industry and on our planet.

**National University of Ireland, Galway**

[More information: www.foodonthedge.ie](http://www.foodonthedge.ie)  
[Facebook/Twitter: @FoodOnTheEdge](http://@FoodOnTheEdge)

---

**CONNEMARA SEA WEEK**

**21ST- SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2018**

Connemara Sea Week is a multi-disciplinary festival, celebrating the wonderful marine heritage of Connemara. The festival celebrated its 30th birthday in 2014 and has grown to be a wonderful and unique festival with something to interest all age groups. Highlights include music workshops, art exhibitions, concerts, talks, walks, children’s activities, sports events, lots of great music and buckets of fun for all the family. This programme includes a wide array of gastronomic linkages from sea to plate.

**CONNEMARA, GALWAY**

EUROPEAN YOUNG CHEFS COMPETITION
SUNDAY 25TH – MONDAY 26TH OF NOVEMBER
The European Young Chef Award 2018 is a competition organized and promoted by the International Institute of Gastronomy, Culture, Arts and Tourism (IGCAT), the Regions of Gastronomy Platform. The aim is to strengthen links between European regions through young professional chefs while promoting culinary innovation using traditional cuisine and local products. GMIT Culinary student Aisling Rock hold the title from last year’s awards which took place in Barcelona. This year Galway is delighted to host the competition and welcome young chefs from all over Europe.

GALWAY MAYO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, GALWAY

More Information: www.igcat.org
Facebook/Twitter: @IGCAT2

EUROPEAN PLATFORM MEETING AND REGIONAL SHOWCASE GALWAY
27TH-29TH NOVEMBER 2018
All members of the European platform will travel to Galway working, sharing and learning conference and the development and legacy of all regions of gastronomy. Galway will showcase the various aspects of its region, along with the legacy projects underway.

GALWAY, WEST OF IRELAND

FOOD & CRAFT FAIR
1ST & 2ND OF DECEMBER 2018
Local Food & Craft Gift Fair which showcases Galway designers, handcrafted goods and artisan produce. The 6th annual food and craft fair will take place over 2 days in advance of the festive period showcasing the very best of local.

BLACK BOX GALWAY

More Information: www.localenterprise.ie
Contact: 091-509090
Clár
snaítheanta
Imeachtaití
2018

GAILLIMH, IARTHAR NA hÉIREANN 2018
RÉIGIÚN GASTRANAMALÓCHTA NA hEORPA