

## Get a Taste of Cavan this summer!

**1st June 2015:** The Taste of Cavan returns on 7th and 8th August 2015 at its new home in Cavan Equestrian Centre.

Following on from the success of the 2014 event, where 35,000 visitors, food lovers and families enjoyed two days of demonstrations, exhibitions and the best of midlands provenance, this year's Taste of Cavan promises to be even bigger and better than before, with a stellar line-up of chefs including Kevin Dundon, Rachel Allen, and Cavan's own award-winning Neven Maguire.

Other top chefs set to appear at Taste of Cavan include 'The No-Salt Chef', Brian McDermott, Máire Dufficy of Bord Bia, Shane Smith, Head Pastry Chef at Fallon & Byrne, Gearóid Lynch of the Olde Post Inn, Adrian Martin, Craft Butchers' Association and Fergus Murphy from Murph's Bistro.

With over 100 stalls from local producers sampling their tasty wares, Taste of Cavan offers a great opportunity to treat your taste buds to the very best in Irish culinary delights, from chocolates to cheeses, mushrooms to meats, with delicious Irish craft beers available to refresh your palate.

**One of Ireland's best-loved chefs and TV personalities, Kevin Dundon is looking forward to making his first appearance at Taste of Cavan this year.**

**"I am delighted and honoured to be part of Taste of Cavan 2015," says Kevin. "This two day festival will celebrate what's good in Cavan and showcase the wealth of excellent produce available in the county, a fantastic festival for all the family!"**

**Returning this year is Cavan's own Neven Maguire, of MacNean House and Restaurant in Blacklion, who says:**

**"I am delighted to be back at the Taste of Cavan this year; it is getting bigger and better every year and one of the top food festivals in Ireland. It is wonderful to see such great local artisan produce we should all be proud of".**

**Senior Agri Food and Drink Manager at Ulster Bank, Dr Ailish Byrne said:**

**"As one of Ireland's most important indigenous industries, Ulster Bank is a proud supporter of the Food and Drink sector. Our goal is to work with both existing and new customers in this sector and we are delighted to be involved with the Taste of Cavan event. Ulster Bank has close relationships throughout the food chain in Cavan, including primary producers and small and medium-sized food firms. The Taste of Cavan allows us to highlight and build on those relationships, as well as to help celebrate the importance of the local agri-food industry."**

In addition to the fantastic food and beverages on offer, Taste of Cavan offers plenty to entertain the entire family. The festival village at Cavan Equestrian Centre will play host to a funfair, 'The Cube', bungee trampoline, a climbing wall, Agri-Aware pet farm, teddy bear workshops with Bear Essentials and more. World famous street theatre company Macnas will also be making an appearance with their giant Boy Explorer.

There will also be a Medieval Village with knights on horseback and demonstrations from Irish Arms' weapons master Boyd Rankin, who was a special weapons advisor on the hit TV show Game of Thrones and made a cameo appearance in Season One.

There will be free parking at the event and Cavan Chamber will be running a free shuttle bus service the short distance to and from Cavan Town for the duration of the two-day event. Cavan Town will also play host to walking history tours, scavenger hunts, art exhibitions and an outdoor cinema.

The event will be launched on Wednesday, 3rd June at Fallon & Byrne, Exchequer St, Dublin by Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys, TD, who said she expected this year's festival to be even bigger and better.

**"After the resounding success of Taste of Cavan in 2014, I have no doubt that the event will be even bigger and better this year," said Minister Humphreys.**

**"Taste of Cavan showcases the best of Cavan's culinary scene, with an impressive line of guest chefs and producers. There is something for all of the family in the festival village, so I hope we will see tens of thousands of people flocking to the Cavan in August to soak up the atmosphere and sample the wonderful food at this fantastic event."**

Admission is only €5 with kids under 12 free, so save the date, Friday 7th and Saturday 8th of August at Cavan Equestrian Centre. You'll build up an appetite for some true meal appeal at the Taste of Cavan!

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/TasteOfCavan](http://www.facebook.com/TasteOfCavan), [twitter.com/TasteofCavan](http://twitter.com/TasteofCavan), email [fun@thisiscavan.ie](mailto:fun@thisiscavan.ie), or contact 087-7802049

**ENDS**

#### Notes to Editor

Taste of Cavan started in 2012, and by 2014 over 35,000 people attended the week long events. In 2014 the number of stands had grown from 50 in the first year to almost 100. At least nine contracts have been awarded to producers as a direct result of the Taste of Cavan events.

The Taste of Cavan was set up to showcase the unique and diverse food products we have in Cavan and the region; no other County can boast the array of foods on display here, from cheese to chocolate, and poultry to pork, from dairy to mushroom, and liqueur to latte.

Taste of Cavan is a collective effort between Cavan County Council, Bord Bia, Bord Fáilte, Ulster Bank, regional media partners Anglo Celt and Northern Sound, IFA and the food producers themselves.

Approximately 7,000 people in Cavan are employed in the Agriculture and Food service sectors or 27% of the county's total labour force.

Twenty per cent of the national pig herd is located in Cavan, 70% of Irish poultry production is located in Cavan/Monaghan region, and 60% of national mushroom production is located in the Cavan/Monaghan region.

The value of Irish food and drink exports was €10 billion in 2013. Ireland currently produces food for 36 million people and by 2020 aims to produce food for 50 million people.