

Image Interiors

Galloping Gourmets

Once upon a time, the notion of Irish gourmet food meant putting a bit of butter on the spuds or a bit of parsley on the bacon but not any more. Help is at hand and comes in the guise of the cousins of cuisine, Eveleen and Pamela coyle of Fabulous Food Trails.

What about a spot of peat smoked salmon from the Aran Islands, followed by Final's venison pate, Connemara pork and apple sausages and delicious cheeses from Carlow and Cashel? All served off the silver service under a canopy on the banks of the Ballinahinch river in County Galway? Sounds good doesn't it?

Well this picnic is just one of the highlights of a typical Fabulous Food Trail. Eveleen and Pamela will pick you up and take immense care of you and your friends for a few days. Driving you to gorgeous country houses and hotels, they will introduce you to chefs and the burgeoning community of Irish artisan food producers.

And this is a hands-on operation. You will lick your fingers as you attempt to make a handmade chocolate under the gaze of a Belgian chocolatier in Galway. You will marvel at James McGeough in Oughterard and taste his cured smoked lamb, and you will get your feet wet, nicely soaked in fact, in the Atlantic as you chat with Richard West, the oyster farmer of Claddaghduff. You will also meet his French wife Paschal, their dog and throw a few oyster down your throat as the wind whips up across the bay. Brilliant. Bring your wellies, your pallet and your curiosity.

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