

A catch above the rest!
**Michael O'Meara's *Sea Gastronomy* nominated for Best Cookbook in the
World in the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards 2016!**

Sea Gastronomy: Fish and Shellfish of the North Atlantic by Michael O'Meara and published by Artisan House Connemara has been shortlisted for two awards in the most prestigious accolades in the world of culinary writing, the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards 2016. Internationally recognised as the 'Oscars' of the culinary industry, the World Cookbook Awards is the most distinguished competition of its kind in the world. *Sea Gastronomy* has been shortlisted by an international committee in two categories; Best in the World in the Fish and Seafood category, and most significantly, Best in the World in the Cookbook of the Year category.

This outstanding achievement positions *Sea Gastronomy* as the one of the most distinguished cookbooks in the world with the potential of winning the title of the world's best cookery book, competing against global competitors China, South America, Europe and USA. O'Meara's publication is the only Irish nominee in those two categories, while 13 other Irish nominees have been shortlisted across various other categories. The highly acclaimed *Sea Gastronomy* has been positioned in the centre of the global gastronomic landscape.

Now in its 20th Year, the prestigious Gourmand World Cookbook Awards is the world's leading culinary authority in publishing. The Awards recognise the world's most accomplished and influential writers in the food industry across 136 countries around the globe. Speaking on his nomination, Michael O'Meara, chef/proprietor of Oscars Seafood Bistro, Galway, said: "I am truly honoured to have been recognised. *Sea Gastronomy* is a very special publication to me, and it has been a culmination of a twenty year journey of research, created from a lifelong passion of fish, seafood, cooking and photography. To be acknowledged and shortlisted by the Gourmand World Cookbook awards grants us the opportunity to showcase Ireland's unique seafood story to a global audience and profile Ireland as one of the most distinguished culinary destinations in the world."

Recently announced as winner of John and Sally McKenna's Book of the Year 2015, *Sea Gastronomy* is a stunning encyclopaedia of fish, containing over 220 recipes on over 110 seafood species of the North Atlantic. The combination of recipes, cooking tips and scientific knowledge and facts behind each seafood species is encyclopaedic and makes for spell-binding reading. Michael's unique combination of culinary and photographic skills and most of all his expertise, passion and commitment to all things related to Irish fish, seafood and fish cuisine are reflected in this outstanding tome. The compelling and imaginative *Sea Gastronomy* is an absolute must for any culinary connoisseur.

The specialist publishing house Artisan House create beautifully illustrated high-quality books and bespoke publications on a diverse range of subjects. Established in 2013, Artisan House publications is based in Letterfrack in Connemara, Co. Galway. Mary Ruddy and Vincent Murphy of Artisan House spoke of their delight. "We are very honoured that *Sea Gastronomy* has been shortlisted as finalists in the prestigious World Gourmand Cookbook Awards. We are aware that we are a small scale and relative newcomer to publishing so this is a huge endorsement of our commitment to high production values in our publishing. It is also very much a reflection of the commitment and dedication of not only our author, Michael O'Meara, but also contributors like Dr. Peter Tyndall and Ernie Whalley as well as copy editors, indexers, etc. *Sea Gastronomy* is a truly Irish publication that is making waves in the culinary publishing world. Michael has established himself as a national culinary authority and we are proud to see *Sea Gastronomy* getting such recognition."

This landmark achievement for Artisan House Publishers and Michael O Meara has positioned Ireland and the seafood of Ireland as an emblem of cooking excellence, recognising *Sea Gastronomy: Fish and Shellfish of the North Atlantic* as one of the world's most distinguished culinary treasures.

Each year the awards are hosted in an international city, and this year the prestigious Best in the World Gourmand World Cookbook Awards 2016 will be held in Yantai, China, on 29th May, 2016. There will be four days of conferences, presentations, tastings, shows, exhibitions, for business and pleasure with Chinese and International publishers, authors, journalists, and distributors. <http://www.cookbookfair.com>

Sea Gastronomy was kindly supported by BIM under Fisheries Local Action Group Scheme.

Sea Gastronomy is available nationwide through Dubray's, Eason's, Waterstones, Charlie Byrne's, Hodgis Figgis, independent bookshops and signed copies of regular and special limited editions are available from Oscars

Seafood Bistro in Galway, www.oscarseafoodbistro.com or online from Artisan House, at www.artisanhouse.ie
RRP €30

Ends

For further details, please contact:

Mary Ruddy, Editorial Director, Artisan House,

Email: artisanhouseeditions@gmail.com

Tel: 087 333 4627

OR

D'Arcy Marketing & PR – Noreen D'Arcy

Email: Noreen@darcmarketingandpr.ie

Tel: 091 568390 / 086 8227556

D'Arcy Marketing & PR – Eadaoin Coyle

Email: Eadaoin@darcmarketingandpr.ie

Tel: 091 568390 / 087 6219781

Notes for editor

Michael O'Meara, chef, photographer, lecturer, food entrepreneur

Michael O'Meara has worked as a professional chef for almost thirty years and is chef/proprietor of *Oscars Seafood Bistro* in Galway city. He is a lecturer in Culinary Arts at The Irish International Hotel & Catering School and in Galway/Mayo Institute of Technology.

Recognising the need for high quality affordable food photography, Michael undertook to develop his skills in photography. His skills developed to such an extent that he is now a major supplier of stock photography to Getty Images and Istockphoto. He holds a M.Sc. in Culinary Innovation and Food Product Development from Dublin Institute of Technology. In 2014 he was winner of the Georgina Campbell Seafood Chef of the Year.

Michael O'Meara's unique combination of culinary and photographic skills, academic excellence and most of all his expertise, passion and commitment to a sustainable marine environment position him perfectly to produce *Sea Gastronomy*, an authoritative, comprehensive and visually beautiful book on North Atlantic fish and shellfish.

Publisher: Artisan House Connemara

Artisan House is a publishing company creating beautifully illustrated high-quality books and bespoke publications on a richly diverse range of subjects including food and lifestyle, photography, and the visual arts, music and poetry.

Their creative approach embraces the complete cycle from concept to final delivery including design, editing, translation, illustration, photography, and print management. This enables total oversight of the process to ensure publications of exceptional standard.

Previous publications include *Celebrating Irish Salmon* by Máirín Uí Chómain; *Joe Boske The Works* by Joe Boske; and *Connemara* by Dorothy Cross.

Creative Director, Vincent Murphy, and Editorial Director, Mary Ruddy, established Artisan House in 2013. Based in Connemara, Co. Galway, Artisan House has previously published *Celebrating Irish Salmon* by Máirín Uí Chómain; *Joe Boske The Works* by Joe Boske; and *Connemara* by Dorothy Cross. Artisan House is a member of Publishing Ireland.

www.artisanhouse.ie