

PRESS RELEASE

9 May 2016

Sodexo sponsors Litfest for fourth year

Caption: Julianne Forrestal, executive craft chef, Sodexo Ireland (centre) with Litfest co-founders Rory O'Connell and Darina Allen at the recent Dublin launch.

Sodexo Ireland is once again proud to be a sponsor of the ground-breaking Kerrygold Ballymaloe Literary Festival of Food and Wine, which runs from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd May 2016. Sodexo has been involved from the outset and Julianne Forrestal, executive craft chef and Bord Bia chef Michelle Daly attended the recent Dublin launch at which this year's programme was previewed to an audience of culinary fans, chefs, food and drink writers and media.

As in previous years, Litfest will be welcoming the experts in the form of award-winning food writers, famous chefs, food and environmental activists, avant-garde farmers big and small, food filmmakers and photographers, soil experts and bee-keepers, wine makers, distillers and brewers, and policy makers.

The international guest and speaker lineup includes **Francis Mallman**, whose wood-fired feasts have featured on Netflix *Chef's Table*, **Yotam Ottolenghi**, **Nicolaus Balla** and **Cortney Burns** of Bar Tartine in San Francisco, **Eric Werner & Mya Henry** from Hartwood, a restaurant in the Mexican jungle, **Jancis Robinson MW**, **Prue Leith**, BBC TV presenter, **Claire Ptak**, **Hugh Johnson OBE**, **Mark Diacono**, **Elisabeth Luard** and **Ari Weinzweig** of Zingerman's in Michigan.

Closer to home, it includes **Mark Murphy** of the Dingle Cookery School, **Katie Sanderson** of the Dillisk Project, **Sally and John McKenna**, **Seamus and Kevin Sheridan** of Sheridan's Cheesemongers, **Rachel Allen**, **Darina Allen** and **Rory O'Connell** and many more.

Margot Slattery, country president of Sodexo Ireland said, *"As one of Ireland's largest food and facilities management providers, we operate in a very competitive environment that requires a constant eye on food trends and the demands of a diverse and increasingly sophisticated customer base. Our association with the Litfest gives unprecedented one to one access to some of the most forward thinkers in food and drink in Ireland and the world, providing a rich vein of inspiration to draw upon."*

Margot continued, *"Over 65% of our ingredients are now sourced from Irish producers and we are constantly looking to increase that percentage. Litfest has introduced Sodexo to some wonderful local producers, some of which are now, or in the process of, becoming suppliers to the company."*

Sodexo Ireland is a leading provider of food and facilities management services to clients in business and industry, education, financial services and healthcare. It employs approximately 2,000 staff in 200 locations across Ireland, serves 90,000 people daily and spent €21 million on Irish food in 2015.

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About Sodexo

Sodexo in the UK and Ireland

Sodexo employs around 34,000 people, and delivers services that improve the quality of life to clients at some 1,850 locations in the corporate, healthcare, education, leisure, justice and defence sectors.

With an annual turnover of more than £1bn, Sodexo delivers a range of services ranging from catering, cleaning, reception to asset management, security, laboratory and grounds maintenance services, enabling clients to focus on their core business.

Sodexo Benefits and Rewards Services in the UK provides benefit and reward services such as SayShopping vouchers; public benefits; and employee benefits such as childcare vouchers and engagement surveys.

Sodexo Group

Founded in 1966 by Pierre Bellon, Sodexo is the global leader in services that improve Quality of Life, an essential factor in individual and organisational performance. Operating in 80 countries, Sodexo serves 75 million consumers each day through its unique combination of On-site Services, Benefits and Rewards Services and Personal and Home Services. Through its more than 100 services, Sodexo provides clients an integrated offering developed over nearly 50 years of experience: from food services, reception, maintenance and cleaning, to facilities and equipment management; from Meal Pass, Gift Pass and Mobility Pass benefits for employees to in-home assistance and concierge services. Sodexo's success and performance are founded on its independence, its sustainable business model and its ability to continuously develop and engage its 420,000 employees throughout the world.

Key figures (as of August 31, 2015)

19.8 billion euro consolidated revenues

420,000 employees

19th largest employer worldwide

80 countries

32,000 sites

75 million consumers served daily

12.6 billion euro in market capitalisation (as of November 18, 2015)