



Nick and Dylan are unveiled as judges for Irish MasterChef

By **Caitlin McBride**

CELEBRITY chefs Dylan McGrath and Nick Munier have been unveiled as the judges for Ireland's first MasterChef.

The popular BBC show has proven to be one of the most successful cooking reality shows in recent years, and Irish viewers will get to see their own version of the programme on RTE later this year.

Montrose bosses were keen to keep the identities of the celebrity hosts under wraps, but the Michelin-starred chef and the top restaurateur have been revealed as the star attractions for our version of the show, which will see the winner walk away with the ultimate prize of €25,000.

Both of the kitchen kings were spotted in Ranelagh last week, and speculation was rife that they would be setting up shop together in the plush suburb.

However, the high-profile duo were instead meeting to discuss last-minute talks about their participation in the show.

RTE has now launched a nationwide search for passionate amateur cooks to take part in the upcoming series.

Speaking about his participation in the show, Munier said: "I'm hoping to see exceptional cooks that have a sense of flavour and a natural flair for food.

"I also want to see people who are genuinely ready to change their lives for a career in food."

McGrath, who is currently enjoying the success of his new Georges Street venture, **Rustic Stone**, said: "I'm very excited to be part of MasterChef Ireland and I want to see people who are genuinely enthusiastic about food, who want this really badly and who have a real hunger to succeed."

The producers are keen to get

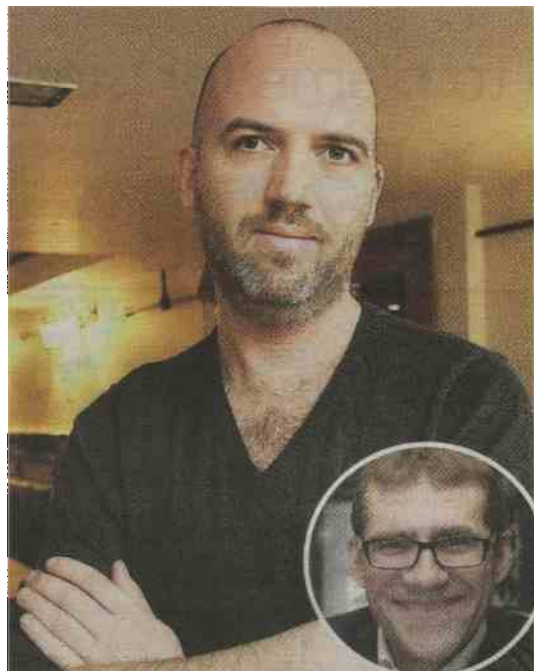
the best in the country, and those interested will have just two weeks to apply.

Like all good reality shows, they will be put through their paces in several rounds before even making the audition stages, where they will go head to head with fellow amateur cooks.

Producer Lynda McQuaid said: "We want to find Ireland's best amateur cook and we want to hear from everyone in Ireland who thinks they have what it takes to be the very

first MasterChef champion."

For more details on how to apply, visit: www.rte.ie/masterchef. The closing date for applications is April 27.



TEAM: Dylan McGrath and Nick Munier; Right - John Torrode and Greg Wallace of UK Masterchef