

Wish Upon a Star

We were going to say that the good folks over at the *Michelin Guide* obviously know a good thing when they see it, but then we remembered that it took them a ridiculous number of years to recognise the work of Ross Lewis, Martin Corbett & Co over at Chapter One.

But such an interminable wait was not for chef Dylan McGrath at Mint who has been cooking up a storm since arriving in the trendy Dublin suburb of Ranelagh in 2006.

We soon saw his potential of course, and gleefully handed him the *Hotel & Catering Review Gold Medal Award for Fine Dining* last year, in a category that was sponsored by Barry Fitzwilliam Maxxium's cognac brand, Remy Martin.

Mint, plus McGrath's fellow Gold Medal nominee in 2006, Bon Appetit in Malahide, hit the big time in January when both restaurants joined Chapter One, L'Ecrivain, Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud, Restaurant Michael Deane and Thornton's in Ireland's list of Michelin Star performers. New Bib Gourmands were also handed to The Winding Stair in Dublin, Sha Roe Bistro in Carlow and Restaurant 23 in Warrenpoint.

It's a great news story for the industry, and we have high hopes to see more Irish restaurants gain international recognition next year. Whatever grouches say about Michelin inspectors, there's no doubting the power and enduring appeal of the star brand. Which means, we guess, an even longer wait for reservations in Mint and Bon Appetite. Oh well, every silver lining has its cloud. And we know it's worth the wait. ♦

Pictured: Dylan McGrath's Rabbit Blanquette with Toasted Brioche, Peppered Ventreche Bacon, Pickled Grisoles and Rabbit Consommé

