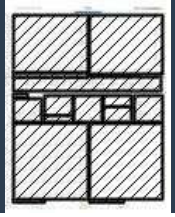
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Donegal at the forefront of making Ireland a 'world-class food and tourism destination'

BY SEAN MURPHY

AN excellent eight Donegal businesses have been shortlisted for the prestigious Good Food Ireland awards.

The ceremony, which is in its 20th year, has announced that a host of hugely popular food and drink companies have been highlighted.

Rathmullan House, the Lemon Tree Restaurant in Letterkenny, the Blue Goat in Ramelton, The Bakery Shack, Viking House, Anderson's Boathouse, Breac House, and Crolly Distillery are all finalists.

A spokesperson for Good Food Ireland said: "We recognising excellence.

"The Awards shine a spotlight on the outstanding businesses, producers and people who champion local Irish produce.

"They help make Ireland a world-class food and tourism destination. Co Donegal is proudly represented among this year's finalists."

Rathmullan House is tipped for Culinary Haven of the Year and the Lemon Tree is in the Restaurant Experience of the Year category on the Wild Atlantic Way.

The Blue Goat Ramelton is shortlisted for Irish Food Retail Experience of the Year.

The Bakery Shack could win the Irish Food Retail Experience of the Year for bakery and chocolate producer, while the Viking House is shortlisted for the Best Irish Seafood Experience.

Andersons Boathouse is also in the running for Best Irish Seafood Experience.

The Breac House is tipped for a Sustainable Culinary Tourism Award, and Crolly Distillery is in the best Drinks Producer category.

The spokesperson said: "These nominations are a fantastic endorsement of the quality, passion and dedication of the people behind Co Donegal's food, drink and hospitality sector.

"The nominations recogniss their contribution not only to the local economy.

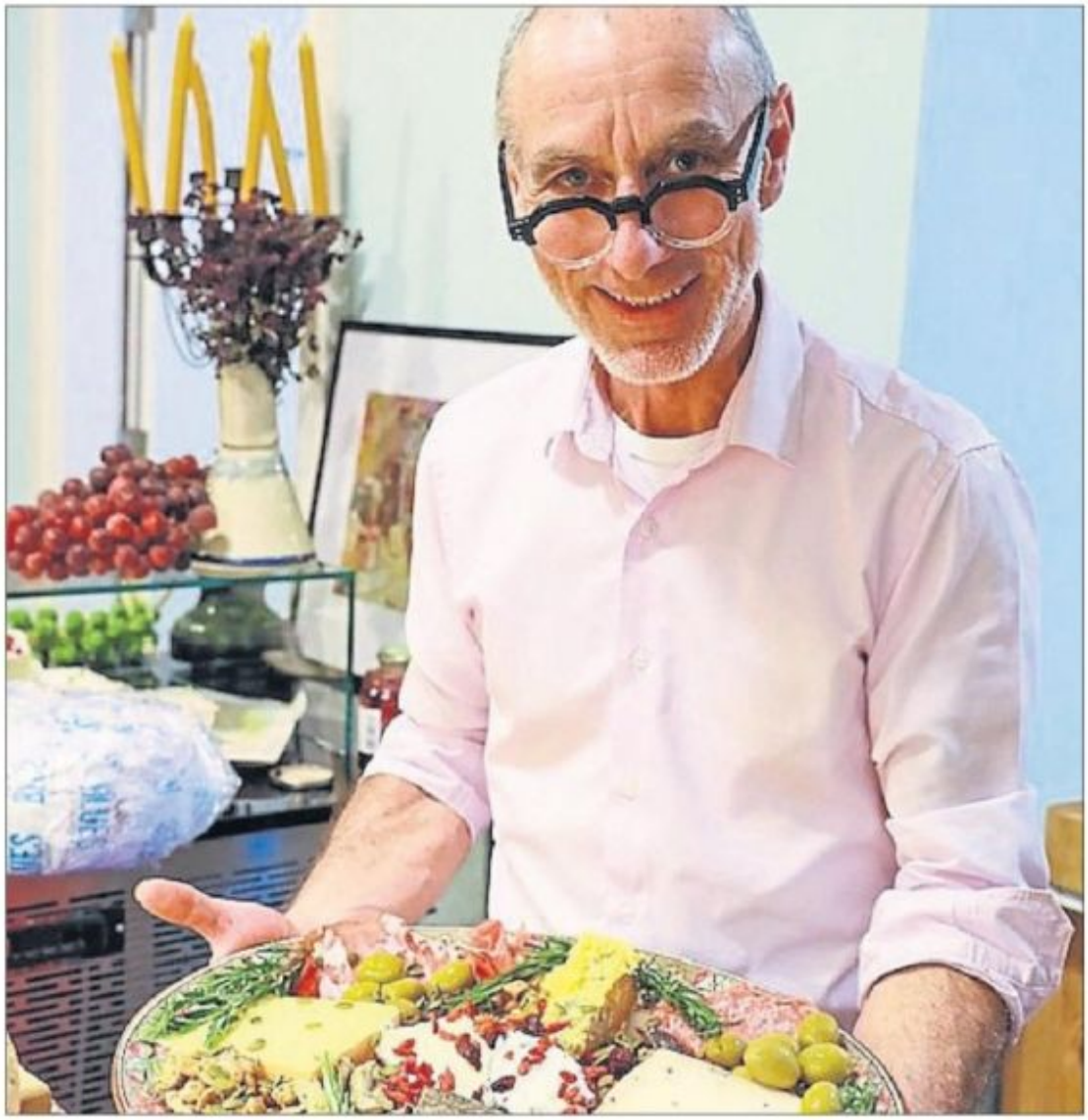
"They are also towards Ireland's growing reputation as a leading food tourism destination."

The winners will be announced at the Good Food Ireland 20th anniversary celebration and gala awards ceremony in Dublin on Monday, November 16.



The award-winning Lemon Tree Restaurant in Letterkenny has been nominated again.

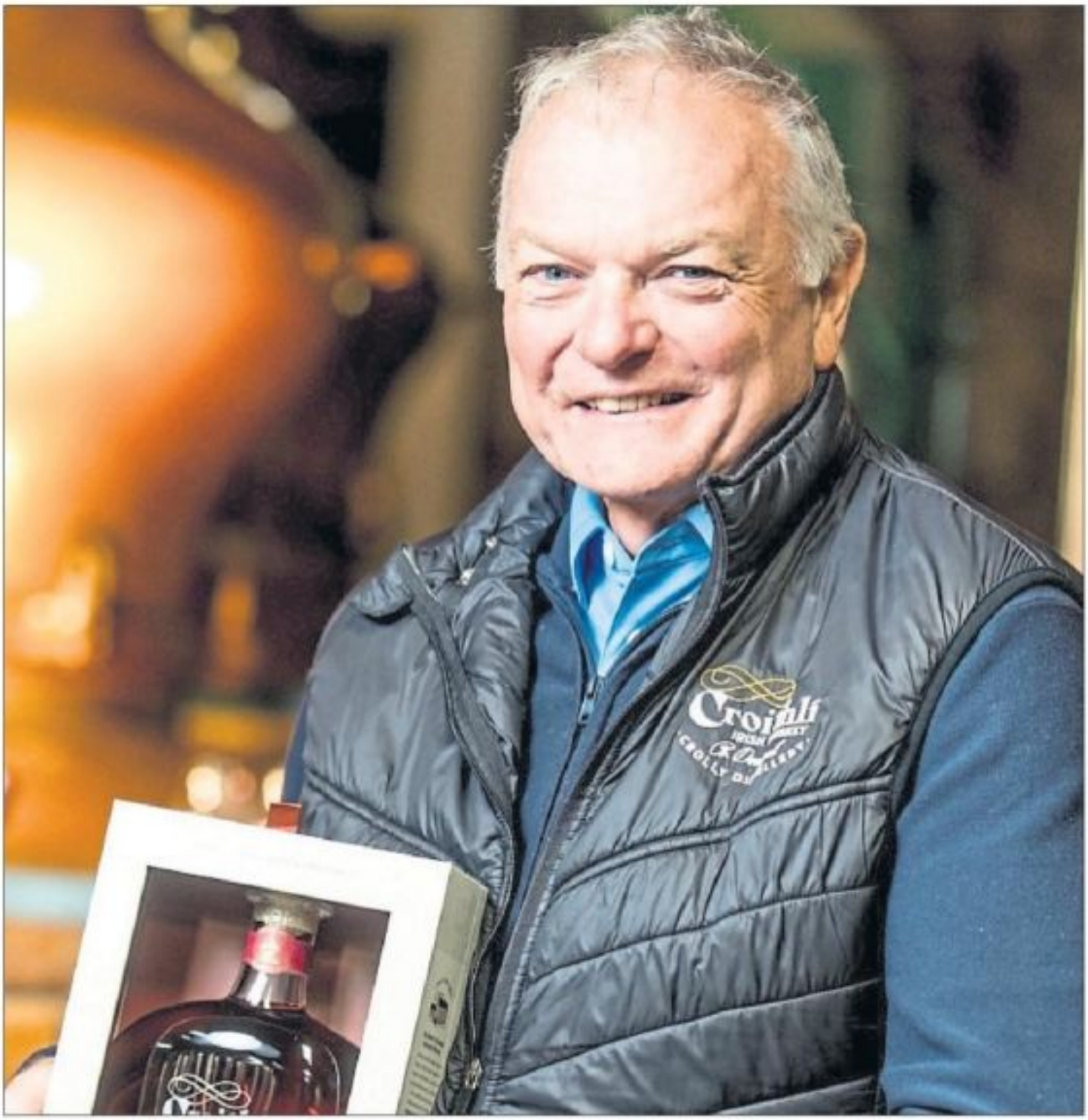
Credit: Lemon Tree.



Des Gallen of the Blue Goat in Ramelton.



Rathmullan House is a major landmark on the Donegal food scene.



Crolly Distillery co-founder Conor McMenamin.