



Press Release

For release on Tuesday 19th June

Cooking up a recipe for success

Celebrity chef to present at Glasgow tourism event

Scotland's national chef will be imparting his wisdom and experience to Glasgow's tourism industry at the next Glasgow Welcomes Champions' event.

Gary Maclean, Masterchef Professionals Champion in 2016, will be speaking to around 80 leaders from Glasgow's tourism industry at the SEC's Meeting Academy on Thursday 21 June, sharing his insights into the culture of the professional kitchen and his thoughts on successful leadership.

The multi-award winning Glasgow Chef, who is a Senior Lecturer at City of Glasgow College, will also discuss skill shortages in the tourism sector and the key to engaging and retaining rising talent in all areas of tourism and hospitality.

Attendees will also hear from Sallyann Tindall of Scottish Enterprise, who will provide an update on the Glasgow Tourism & Visitor Economy Plan, with tips on what Glasgow needs to consider to be China Ready.

The participants on the Aspiring Leaders' Programme will be sharing their stories and progress at the event, highlighting the benefits they have experienced, both professionally and personally. Run by Glasgow Welcomes, the programme is a unique, experience-led opportunity aimed at developing the next generation of leaders in Glasgow's tourism industry.

Hosted by Craig Martin, Chair of Glasgow Welcomes, this quarterly Champions' event is a valuable development opportunity for like-minded people from all sectors of the Glasgow tourism and hospitality industry who are passionate about customer service excellence. Its informal nature allows all attendees to share their experiences and learn from each other.

Craig Martin, Chair of Glasgow Welcomes, said: *“This Champions’ event is once again a chance for the leaders of Glasgow’s tourism industry to come together and share their ideas and experience with each other.*

“We are delighted to welcome Gary, a fantastic example of the rich talent in Glasgow, and, with the increasing numbers of visitors from China, I am keen to hear Sallyann’s useful tips to ensure we are ready to give these Chinese visitors a warm welcome to our city.

“I am also very much looking forward to hearing from our Aspiring Leaders. Glasgow Welcomes inspires and develops our city’s people to deliver outstanding, vibrant and memorable visitor experiences. In doing so we deliver real results and return on investment that enhance the Glasgow visitor journey.”

Gary Maclean, Scotland’s National Chef, said: *“I was very happy to accept Glasgow Welcomes’ invitation to speak at their Champions’ Event. Glasgow is an incredible city with a wonderful tourism offering and it’s great to see the industry coming together to share best practice. I hope sharing my experiences will be useful to everyone and I look forward to hearing from others.”*

The Glasgow Welcomes Initiative is industry-led and supported principally by Scottish Enterprise, as well as Skills Development Scotland, VisitScotland and Glasgow Life. It works in partnership to raise standards of service across every touch point of the city’s visitor experience. With a focus on leadership, skills and service excellence, it is an integral element of the Glasgow Tourism and Visitor Plan to 2023.

For more information about Glasgow Welcomes go to <http://www.glasgowtourismandvisitorplan.com/support/glasgow-welcomes/>

For more information about Gary Maclean go to garymacchef.com

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Notes to Editors

- Follow us on twitter: [@visitscotnews](https://twitter.com/visitscotnews)
- VisitScotland is Scotland’s national tourism organisation. Its core purpose is to maximise the economic benefit of tourism to Scotland.
- The organisation’s core objective is to contribute to the Tourism 2020 Strategy ambition of growing tourism revenues by £1 billion by 2020.
- This will be supported by five overarching strategies: Marketing, Events, Quality and Sustainability, Inclusive Tourism, International Engagement.

- The organisation employs 700 people and has offices and VisitScotland Information Centres across Scotland.
- Spending by tourists in Scotland generates around £12 billion of economic activity in the wider Scottish supply chain and contributes around £6 billion to Scottish GDP (in basic prices). This represents about 5% of total Scottish GDP
- For VisitScotland's press releases go to http://www.visitscotland.org/media_centre.aspx, tourism statistics and frequently asked questions go to <http://www.visitscotland.org/>
- Where possible, a Gaelic speaker will be made available for broadcast interviews on request (Far an tèid iarraidh, agus far am bheil sin nar comas, bruidhinnidh neach le Gàidhlig aig agallamh)
- For holiday information on Scotland go to www.visitscotland.com
- For information about business tourism in Scotland go to www.conventionscotland.com

2018 Year of Young People – Notes to Editors

- The Year of Young People 2018 will be the next of the Scottish Government's series of themed years, following the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017.
- The Year of Young People (YoYP 2018) will inspire Scotland through its young people aged 8 to 26, celebrating their achievements, valuing their contributions to communities and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and globally
- Central to YoYP 2018 will be a celebratory events programme that puts young people at the heart of its development and delivery, creating new and valuable experiences for young Scots and the wider public, with links to the inaugural 2018 European Championships.
- Over 200 young people throughout Scotland are currently being recruited to become YoYP 2018 Ambassadors. Ambassadors will ensure that people and organisations in their communities know about what's happening and will lead on projects and activities to create events and opportunities to celebrate young people.
- The Year of Young People will have six themes which were developed in co-production with young people themselves:
 - Participation – looking at how young people can influence public services and decisions which affect their lives
 - Education – creating a stronger role for young people in shaping their learning
 - Health and Wellbeing – supporting young people to lead healthier, active lives and have opportunities to learn about and improve their mental health and resilience
 - Equality and Discrimination – broadcasting the value of young Scots, challenging negative perceptions of young people, and supporting young people to take leading roles in challenging discrimination in all its forms.
 - Enterprise and regeneration – celebrating young people's role in innovation, entrepreneurship and the Scottish economy as well as making Scotland a greener and more pleasant place to live
 - Culture – celebrating young people's talent and contribution to Scottish culture and arts.
- Further information on what's happening and how people can get involved can be found on the new website www.yoyp2018.scot or @YOYP2018 on Twitter.