



# Cooking with Jazz Tour of Ireland

June 20th to 28th, 2018

\$2899 per person sharing land only

\$799 Single supplement - limit to 4 per tour



Join New Orleans Chef Dickie Brennan and Celtic Jazz Singer Tara O'Grady & her Black Velvet Band as they tour Belfast, Bushmills, Derry and Donegal on their Irish Bayou Bus! Food walking tours, whiskey distilleries, 5-Star hotel resorts/spas, castles and countryside, plus live performances.

## ITINERARY

### Wednesday, June 20th - DEPART THE UNITED STATES

Depart your hometown and take an overnight flight across the Atlantic.

### Thursday, June 21st - DUBLIN ARRIVAL

After landing at Dublin Airport, complete customs and immigration formalities. Our driver/guide Matt Nolan will welcome you to Ireland and escort you and your luggage to the coach. After you land enjoy breakfast at Man O' War in Johnstown near Navan. We can offer guests a unique traditional Irish experience, only twenty minutes from Dublin Airport. Early morning Full Irish Breakfast consisting of bacon, egg, sausage, black and white Pudding, tomato, mushroom and hash brown potato, freshly brewed coffee and traditional Irish breakfast tea served with homemade brown bread. Hotel check-in and spend the balance of the afternoon free to explore Belfast on foot before the group meets for dinner in the great room restaurant at the Merchant hotel.

**OVERNIGHT: MERCHANT HOTEL BELFAST (B,D)**

### Friday, June 22nd - BELFAST CITY FOOD TOUR & TITANIC MUSEUM

The award winning Belfast Food Tour takes you on a 4-hour fun and food filled guided walk to some top food and drink spots around Belfast City Centre. We start in the historic St George's Market, meeting producers, then visit traditional bars, world class shops and finish in a top restaurant in the lively Cathedral Quarter, eating and drinking some of the best local food and drink along the way. No need for breakfast, nor will you need lunch, and leave the bus behind! Our enthusiastic local foodie guides will ensure guests get a flavour for the city and the produce of Northern Ireland. In the afternoon we'll visit the Titanic Belfast. Embark on a journey through the life of the Titanic, from her conception to her tragic end.

Dinner and live performance by Tara O'Grady and the Black Velvet Band at AMPM Bohemian restaurant. Belfast's #1 music venue.

**OVERNIGHT: MERCHANT HOTEL BELFAST (B,D)**

### Saturday, June 23rd - COOKING DEMONSTRATION & CONCERT

After breakfast we'll depart Belfast and drive across the Province of Ulster crossing into the Republic of Ireland to Donegal where we'll spend the next two nights at Harvey's Point Hotel - # 1 hotel in Ireland.

1pm: Welcome on arrival by Deirdre, Noel and line-up of staff.

3pm: Cookery Demonstration in the Garden Suite - Wild Atlantic Way dish, inspired by nature and the season, using local artisan produce.

4pm: Presentation of 'Donegal Silkie' whiskey & 'An Dúlamán' Gin by Sliabh Liag Distillery.

6pm: Meet & Greet cocktail and drinks reception served in our new /olde bar called "Memories." Marie, their "Queen of Cocktails," will have fun being creative with nods to New Orleans.

7pm: Four course gourmet dinner served in their fine dining restaurant. Special starter, main course and dessert inspired by Louisiana cuisine (with pre-organized recipes from Dickie Brennan himself!)

9pm: Music by Tara & her band with songs off her five cds, including her tribute to New Orleans cd - Irish Bayou.

**OVERNIGHT: HARVEY'S POINT, DONEGAL (B,D)**



### Sunday, June 24th - SLIEVE LEAGUE AND TRIONA DESIGN

After breakfast drive on to Killybegs and Teelin to view breathtaking Slieve League sea cliffs, where the highest point reaches 1,972 feet making them the highest in Europe. The cliffs drop straight down to the wild Atlantic waves below and you will see marvelous vistas. Enjoy tea and homemade scones before driving through the majestic Glengesh Pass. Visit Triona Design in Adara where the Centre remains the epicentre of Donegal Tweed production to this day and has a proud heritage that is renowned across the world. The Visitors Centre is based in the location where Donegal Tweed was born and within the centre you will see our Master Weavers working on looms that have been used for centuries, a replica Weavers Cottage and a warm welcome to our Tax Free Shop which serves a complimentary Irish Coffee. Dinner tonight at Smugglers Inn overlooking Rosnowlagh beach is one of Donegal's best seafood restaurants, with the best views of Donegal bay.

**OVERNIGHT: HARVEY'S POINT, DONEGAL (B,D)**



### Monday June 25th - DERRY FOOD TOUR

After breakfast depart for the city of Derry to embark on their food tour - Over 4 hours we will visit 6 eateries and you'll taste over 30 different food and drinks. At each stop you will get an insight into the businesses and produce. It's a relaxing morning, in a gorgeous city, and what better way to see it than to eat and drink your way around it! Before we leave this walled city we'll take part in a step on guided tour to give us a brief history with over fifty natural and built attractions in the region, such as Derry's Walls, The Bogside, The Peoples Gallery (Murals) The Bloody Sunday Story, The History of the Apprentice Boys, and The Marching Season Traditions. The tour has been listed by many as one of the best experiences they have had on their travels anywhere. Doire, aka Derry, aka Londonderry has 1,500 years of history and culture enclosed within Ireland's only completely walled city. From the sixth-century monastic settlement to the vibrant European city of the twenty-first century, no visit to Ireland is complete without a visit to Derry. Continue on to Bushmills for our two night stay and pause to view ruins of Dunluce Castle. Dinner tonight in our hotel. Enjoy exquisite cuisine inspired by fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Their restaurant is one of the most idyllic places to

eat in Bushmills. Whether it be a long lunch, a celebratory dinner, al fresco dining or cream tea at the fireside, the menus celebrate the finest Irish produce, combining much-loved signature dishes with classic cuisine such as prime Ulster beef strips and Atlantic seafood platters. These can be paired with the extensive wine list they have to suit all tastes. They offer a sophisticated yet informal environment, showcasing a rich history and heritage in the setting of the original 17th century stables and wine cellar, contrasted by intimate snugs with whitewashed walls and warm mellow brick timbers. The importance of local and seasonal produce from sustainable sources is reflected in their Taste of Ulster inspired menus. They work with the finest artisan producers and local farmers and fishermen to source the very best ingredients .

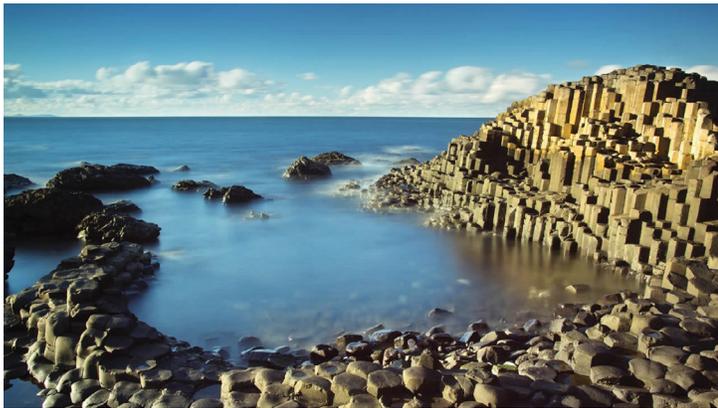
**OVERNIGHT: BUSHMILLS INN, BUSHMILLS (B,D)**

### Tuesday, June 26th - CAUSEWAY FOOD TOUR

After breakfast we'll embark on the Causeway Food Tour - this guided tour will showcase some of the best local produce and hidden gems the North Coast has to offer. Sit back, relax and savour the flavours that make this area so unique. We will be making 5 stops along the beautiful Causeway Coastal route with each one offering a delicious & surprising taste experience! These include sample tasting at the world's oldest licensed whiskey distillery, feasting on local fish prepared by fabulous chefs and a farm stop where we will meet the producers behind our fantastic produce. Starting in Coleraine, the tour will last for approximately 6 hours. You will have the chance to sample local food and drinks at each stop so please come hungry! Enjoy this time together to eat, discover and take home foodie goodies and see for yourself why this area is Ireland's food heaven! Dinner tonight at the Harbor Bistro in nearby Portrush Harbor. Wood fired grilled meats, chicken, fish, and famous steaks from JD Hart & Sons Butchers, with a wide selection of bistro dishes in our restaurant with rustic charm. Return to Bushmills Inn for a session with Tara and the Black Velvet Band in the Gas bar.

**OVERNIGHT: BUSHMILLS INN, BUSHMILLS (B,D)**





### Wednesday, June 27th - GIANTS CAUSEWAY & NINE GLENS OF ANTRIM

After breakfast drive North to visit the Giant's Causeway, enormous hexagonal columns formed by volcanic activity 60 million years ago. We'll have lunch at the Nook before we leave for Belfast. Drive the Nine Glens of Antrim, one of Ireland's popular scenic routes to discover lovely views of mountains, valleys and coastlines. This area is where many of the scenes from "Game of Thrones" were filmed. Continue on to the Belfast for our last night stay at the Culloden hotel with dinner tonight in the Mitre restaurant - The Mitre Restaurant is one of the finest restaurants in Northern Ireland, run by

top chef Paul McKnight. With breathtaking views across Belfast Lough, it serves modern Irish Cuisine using only the finest and freshest local ingredients. The décor is gothic grandeur, the food gourmet chic, while waiters ensure your glass never runs empty. Let them show you to your seat and they'll show you how to dine in ultimate style.

Today the Culloden Estate and Spa is one of the finest and most distinguished 5 star hotels in Northern Ireland, but not everyone is aware that this majestic Gothic mansion is steeped in history! The Culloden was built in 1876 by a Mr. William Auchinleck Robinson, JP and former MP. It took two and a half years to complete, and most of the stone came from Scotland by boat, arriving in the County Down fishing village of Portaferry and being brought to the site by horse and cart. Mr Robinson carefully chose his site in Cultra within the townland of Craigavad, and only 6 miles from the centre of Belfast. He was conscious of the fact that its situation on the Eastern side of Belfast Lough had certain climatic advantages. The site benefited from the shelter of the Holywood Hills, and the cold North and North Easterly winds seemed to lose their strength as they crossed the expanse of the Lough before reaching Craigavad. Consequently the locality's temperature was about 3 degrees higher than in Belfast!

**OVERNIGHT: CULLEDON HOTEL & SPA RESORT, BELFAST (B,D)**



### Thursday, June 28th - RETURN TO THE US

Transfer to Dublin Airport in plenty of time to check in for your flight to the US. The beauty of flying from Dublin Airport is that you will clear US customs and Immigration there. There is no Duty Free on board the return flight however but there is ample shopping and duty free stores in the airport.



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## HOTELS

The 5 AA Red Star **Merchant Hotel** is in the Cathedral Quarter of Belfast's city centre. It offers luxurious air-conditioned rooms, free Wi-Fi, a spa, and a rooftop gymnasium and hot tub. The **Merchant Hotel** is the winner of the Best UK Hotel 2011 award in the International Hotel Awards. All of the elegantly appointed rooms are decorated with original artwork. They each have black-out blinds, a flat-screen TV, and spacious en suite marble bathrooms. The Merchant is a Grade I Listed building dating back to 1860. Its Great Room Restaurant has a huge domed ceiling and offers a fine à la carte menu and traditional afternoon teas. There is a selection of bars, including the Veuve Clicquot Champagne Lounge. Berts Jazz Bar serves food and has live music 7 nights a week. The Spa has 5 treatment rooms and a hydrotherapy area. There is also a sauna and a steam room located on the rooftop.

**Harvey's Point** has a magical location in the middle of the Bluestack Mountains, on the edge of Lough Eske. It is 3.5 miles from Donegal town. Each bedroom is elegant and private, and has a large Italian marble bathroom. Rooms also have a TV and facilities for making tea and coffee. **Harvey's Point** restaurant has 2 AA Rosettes and provides relaxed, elegant dining.

**Bushmills Inn Hotel** is located in the stunning Causeway Coast and Glens, an area of breath-taking beauty where the rugged coastline merges with silent glens. With the nearby picturesque seaside villages of Portrush and Portstewart, golden Blue Flag beaches and Northern Ireland's only UNESCO World Heritage Site at the Giant's Causeway, there is no doubt as to why the Causeway Coastal Route has been named one of the greatest drives on earth.

Standing high on the slopes of the Holywood Hills, overlooking Belfast Lough and the County Antrim Coastline, is the magnificent **Culloden Estate and Spa**, originally built as an official Palace for the Bishops of Down, the Culloden stands in 12 acres of beautiful secluded gardens and woodland, palatial surroundings, exquisite decor, fine antiques and exceptional service combine to give the **Culloden Estate and Spa** a unique air of elegance. A recent renovation programme has ensured that the **Culloden Estate and Spa** remains one of the top hotels in Ireland. With all its tranquil opulence you could be forgiven for thinking the Culloden is a rural retreat, however this beautiful property has the added advantage of being just 10 minutes from Belfast City centre and is conveniently located to many of Northern Ireland's major visitor attractions.