

Gourmet cabaret hits the right note

Mairead Lavery enjoys the top class food and entertainment on offer at Harvey's Point

You know those black and white movies in which Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, Frank Sinatra or Rita Hayworth entertain an audience in a dining room setting at a cabaret? Well I'd never been to such a show until two weeks ago when I got a chance to attend the Harvey's Point Summer Cabaret in Donegal.

I don't know what I expected, but what I got was just brilliant. The evening of first-class food and entertainment kicked off at 7.30pm in the glittering ballroom, where the warm subdued lighting burnished the copper panels on the ceiling.

After a first course of soup, each table was invited to the self-service buffet, with oysters, mussels, salmon and smoked salmon, mini quiches, numerous salads, succulent spare ribs salads, cold meats and lots more laid out in a mouth-watering display.

Of course, by the time you were finished, there was hardly room for the main course. The choice here was between beef, chicken and cod, accompanied by great vegetables and potatoes done several different ways.

With that eaten, all we could do was gaze in wonder at the deserts. Every cake and pie you could imagine was on offer: fresh pancakes, ice-cream, a chocolate fountain with fruit and marshmallows – you get the idea.

NOT AN INCH ON THE DANCE FLOOR

And the food was only half of the evening. The cabaret kicked off while tea and coffee were being served and it was ably hosed by Gene Fitzpatrick.

Liam Murphy opened with some of Michael Bublé's greatest hits.



DETAILS

Harvey's Point Dinner Cabaret runs every Wednesday night from now to October and costs €59 for non-residents. If you want to stay over, B&B plus the Dinner Cabaret starts at €139. The bedrooms are enormous and the best-appointed I've ever stayed in. Full details are on www.harveyspoint.com or call 074-9722352. Harvey's Point is situated on Lough Eske, not far from Donegal Town.

ABOVE: Harveys is situated on Lough Eske. **BELOW:** Majella and Daniel O'Donnell with Marc Grysling and Deirdre McGlone

Majella O'Donnell got a great reception and worked the 300-plus audience almost as well as her famous husband Daniel does.

Kristina and Julian showed us what the tango was all about, while Matt McGranaghan was a pure wonder on the violin. His rendition of *The Orange Blossom Special* had me convinced

a train was about to burst into sight.

I loved Liam Murphy's impersonation of Elvis Presley – and wasn't a bit surprised to hear he's the only Irishman to have won the *Elvis Idol* competition in the US, which brought him the title of "The World's Finest Elvis Impersonator".

With *Heartbreak Hotel*, *All Shook Up* and *Blue Suede Shoes*, he packed the dance floor and had everyone off their seats clapping.

We had a bit of fun with Eugene, and his renditions of

Nessun Dorma, *Time to Say Goodbye* and *Ireland's Call* went down a treat.

Six hours of great food and entertainment was wound up by Simon Casey and the Bluestack Ensemble, who ensured there wasn't an inch to spare on the dance floor until the evening ended at 1am.

Proprietors Marc Grysling and Deirdre McGlone and all the team at Harvey's Point ensured their guests had a great night and were attentive to every detail of the evening. **CL**



Week 6

15-18 BEEF WINNER 2010
Victoria Kells
Co Cavan
Won a Parthenaise Heifer

Three miles outside of Killeshandra Co Cavan, you'll find a very happy Parthenaise cow by the name of Bella. Bella was brought home to the Kells' family farm by a bright young lady named Victoria who was one of the lucky winners in last year's Heifer & Hogget Competition. The Kells' farm has 75 cows between pedigrees and crosses, and about 70 sheep. Limousins, Simmentals, Charolais are just some of the breeds to be

found in the Kells' herd of cattle. Of all cows on the farm, Victoria is most excited to see how Bella's calf turns out. The Parthenaise is due to calve this October after being crossed with a Simmental bull, and Victoria expects that the combination of the two breeds will serve very well. A very motivated young lady, at just 17, Victoria has already passed her driving test and is hoping to get a car. Next September brings the dreaded Leaving Cert and Victoria wants to specialise in agri-food business in college. While Victoria enjoys playing hockey at school, she prefers working on the farm. Even though

agri-food is her calling, being outside with the animals will always be her first love.

ONLINE DAIRY WINNER 2010
Matthew Hanrahan
Co Cork
Won a Montbeliarde Heifer

Although raised on a dairy farm of pedigree Holstein Friesian cows in Mitchelstown, Co Cork, Matthew Hanrahan (16) changed the pace of his herd a bit when he brought home his prize from last year's competition: a Montbeliarde heifer named Kate. Matthew says Kate is a great

addition to the farm, as she is less nervous and more curious than the Friesians he is used to. In April, Kate was bred with another pedigree Montbeliarde and is due to calve next January. Matthew is very happy with this decision so far, and will probably breed her with a pedigree Montbeliarde again. Matthew has developed a great liking for cow breeding, a skill both inspired and taught by his parents. Although he is aware of the effort needed to produce a competition-quality, as opposed to commercial-quality cow,

Matthew is determined to show animals and will do this when he feels he has the right animal. When he isn't farming, Matthew loves to play soccer and rugby, and follow his favourite team, Munster.

Heifer & Hogget Competition 2011

www.myfarmbook.com

LAST CHANCE TO POST US YOUR ENTRY

Email entries to heifers@farmersjournal.ie



Many thanks to the breed societies who are the generous sponsors of the heifers and hoggets



BEEF: Irish Aberdeen Angus Association, Irish Angus Cattle Society, Irish Aubrac Cattle Society, Irish Limousin Cattle Society, Irish Parthenaise Cattle Society and Irish Salers Cattle Society **DAIRY:** Irish Holstein Friesian Association and Irish Montbeliarde Cattle Society **PAIRS OF HOGGETS:** Beltex Sheep Society, Irish Charollais Sheep Society, Irish Texel Sheep Society, Irish Vendeen Sheep Society, Mayo Blackface Sheep Society, Mayo Mule Sheep Society and Tullow Sheep Breeders Society (Suffolk Cheviot Cross)

Deadline for entries is Friday 22 July 2011