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## ANOTHER SUNDAY WORLD EXCLUSIVE

**A PIZZA PURE CLASS:** Rob O'Reilly shows off the brilliant pizza to Geraldine, in his pay-as-you-go restaurant



INSIDE TRACK: Geraldine with the staff

# MEAL OF FORTUNE

## Business booming at pay-as-you-please restaurant

**IT'S THE perfect recipe for beating the recession – a restaurant where diners pay whatever they want.**

And while pricey eateries are going bust, business is booming for the Pay As You Please restaurant in Killarney, Co Kerry. When Rob O'Reilly and Barry McBride came up with the idea in January, nay-sayers said it would never work. But nearly a year on, they've got a staff of five – and a thriving clientele.

### Close

Even snarky website Trip Advisor has voted it Killarney's number one Restaurant. Rob told the *Sunday World* this week: "I'll be taking the staff out to celebrate in another restaurant – and we'll pay them what we think their meal is worth!"

"The idea was to set up as a pop-up restaurant – so they could close down quickly if it didn't work out."

"We were only open two lunchtimes a week, now it's six lunchtimes and two evenings a week."

"On Thursday nights we show films on the wall – mostly oldies. We recently showed *Ghostbusters* and we show Charlie Chaplin's silent movies."



GRAB WORTH PAYING FOR: Our Geraldine with Rob O'Reilly

### By GERALDINE COMISKEY

"In general people have really appreciated us. The takings are good."

"We leave a black box at the counter and you put what you like in. It's anonymous how much people leave."

While some people are generous, Rob was shocked when RTE presenter Clare Byrne valued his carrot cake at just €6.50.

Rob was a guest on the *Daily Show* with Clare and Darlin, and brought in a few slices of the delicious cake for the crew.

The mostly Mediterranean menu is in tune with the casual, chic surroundings. But even their pizza is posh – because

chef Barry learned his craft from Darina Allen at Ballymaloe House cookery school.

I tried the pizza, a delicious salad with goats' cheese and walnuts, and of course the carrot cake. Other popular dishes include fried black pudding and a tritтата made with chorizo.

### Comfortable

I was impressed by the range of dishes to suit both veggies and meat-lovers. It's a menu to suit all tastes and ages. "It's a place where everyone feels comfortable."

The *Sunday World* had no trouble finding the restaurant, which was right beside a carousal and Christmas market.

I thought locals were joking when they told me to "bring a bottle". But Rob explained: "We want it to feel like going to a friend's house."

The restaurant is also equipped with quirky creature comforts – a piano, a guitar and furry hot water bottles.

"One of the lads suggested hot water bottles. It's usually girls who want them, but last week a group of tough men from Killarney were sitting at the tables outside in the cold, and asked for hot water bottles."

Country'n'western singer Glen Campbell recently dropped in with his band while they were playing the INEC. And Katy Perry's crew came in while she was playing Belfast. "They were doing a tour of Ireland."

But no one can accuse Rob of being starstruck. "I didn't know who Katy Perry was! Then I remembered she was the one who married Russell Brand."

Both Rob and Barry trained as engineers, but while Barry went on to be a chef, Rob set up a number of businesses.

The 28-year-old entrepreneur from Killarney came up with the idea when he was travelling around Australia and visited a vegan restaurant. "They had a good ambience. But it was a bit hippie – our place is cooler."

Indeed the ambience in Pay as You Please is something money can't buy.

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