

Lifetime Excellence 2019

The Lifetime Excellence Award is awarded annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the Industry in Scotland.

This evening we are recognising someone who has devoted his life and career in the pursuit of excellence, while Scotland is not the country of his birth his love of Scotland has been well documented and there are many chefs who through his mentoring and guidance owe him a deep gratitude for much of what they have achieved and how their career has developed.

Born in France, son of a Charcutier, he initially considered training as a priest however decided that this was not for him and through his father's influence he decided to train as a chef. After serving his apprenticeship he worked at the French Embassy in London before being called for Military Service, on completion of this he worked for 8 years as Sous Chef at the British Embassy in Paris before returning to the UK in the early 60's to work as a chef in private houses.

In 1967 together with his brother Michel they opened Le Gavroche in London it was the first restaurant in the UK to be awarded a Michelin Star also the first to achieve 2 stars and then ultimately 3 stars.

In 1984 with Michel they established the Roux Scholarship its purpose was to provide an opportunity for the finest culinary talent in the country to further their career, the Roux Scholarship has over the years been responsible for training many of our finest chefs but most notably the first Roux Scholar, Andrew Fairlie.

Through his company Chez Roux he continues at the age of 83 to operate restaurants throughout the world including 7 in Scotland where he champions the finest Scottish produce. He has continued over the years to speak about the love of this country it's people and culture, he spends a considerable time in Scotland where he visits all the Chez Roux establishments ensuring that the standards of excellence are being maintained.

Message from Chef Roux

"Collecting the award on my behalf is Darin Campbell, Head Chef at Cromlix House. In recognition of all his hard-work, devotion and dedication. He has been responsible for successfully training quite a number of young boys and girls into our profession."