

## Inspirational Irish food shops

**What are the best Irish food shops? Stephen Conmy examines some inspirational food stores that are worth a visit.**

### Country Choice

*Where:* Nenagh, Co Tipperary.

*Who:* Peter and Mary Ward's country store is an intriguing treasure trove of high quality, and mostly local, produce. Peter, a big fan of the slow food movement, is a vocal champion of Irish artisan foods.

*What's good?* The terrine made from the family's Saddleback pigs and any of Mary's delicious jams.



### Manning's Emporium

*Where:* Ballylickey, West Cork.

*Who:* Val Manning, his niece, Laura Manning, and Laura's husband, Andrew Heath. The business has been family-run for over 70 years.

*What's good?* Everything, ask Val to make you something 'special.'

### Ardkeen Stores

*Where:* Dunmore Road, Waterford.

*Who:* Colin Jephson. He was also a former sponsor of *The Theatre of Food* at the Electric Picnic.

*What's good?* A vast range of smoked fish, but this is a proper artisan food supermarket. You can

also [shop online](#) and have your goods delivered.



### **James Whelan Butchers**

*Where:* Clonmel.

*Who:* James Whelan.

*What's good?* The meat – reared, slaughtered and dry-aged by the man himself. He recently won the top prize at the UK's Great Taste Awards for his beef dripping. James is also a [Twitter](#) star in Ireland.

### **McCambridge's**

*Where:* Galway.

*Who:* The McCambridge family. The shop was founded in 1925.

*What's good?* The cold meats from the deli. Plus, an excellent selection of wines & spirits. The company also runs a [catering](#) business.

### **Urru**

*Where:* Bandon, Co Cork.

*Who:* Ruth Healy.

*What's good?* Hampers, especially the '[Made in Cork](#)' collection.



## **Fallon & Byrne**

*Where:* Wicklow St., Dublin.

*Who:* Paul Byrne and Fiona McHugh.

*What's good?* The sourdough baguette and the soft cheeses.

If you want to start a food business or open a food shop, please begin with a [GREAT BUSINESS PLAN](#) and a [GREAT MARKETING PLAN](#) before applying for finance.

Also, Bord Bia has developed a guide for artisan food producers who wish to understand and enter the Irish retail landscape. This [Guide to Retail for Small Food Producers](#) is part of a series of publications from Bord Bia that includes the *Guide to Distribution for Food & Drink Producers* and the *Guide to Farmer's Markets for Small Food Producers*.

*Images - Yulia Grigoryeva / Shutterstock.com.*

## **Inspirational Irish food stores - The ThinkBusiness readers' choice**

We received some great reader feedback when we published the list above. Thanks for contributing. The nine more suggested stores from ThinkBusiness readers are:

### **Castleisland Meats**

The Meat Centre, 127 Main Street Castleisland, Co. Kerry

### **Scally's SuperValu of Clonakilty**

Scally's SuperValu Clonakilty, Faxbridge, Clonakilty, Co. Cork

### **Nolan's of Kilcullen**

Main St Kilcullen, Co.Kildare, Ireland (open since 1886)

**Foodstore Claremorris**

Ballyhaunis Road, Claremorris, Co. Mayo

**The English Market**

The English Market (a gathering of great food shops), Cork City

**Cannon and Cole**

Main Street, Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath

**Cosgrove and Son Delicatessen**

32 Market Street, Sligo

**Kelly's Butchers**

Newport, Co. Mayo

**Pat Smith, Butcher**

Auburn Moate Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

*Interested in setting up a food business or a food store? [Then read this.](#)*