

News

Shock as Nick Munier's 'Avenue' restaurant suddenly closes its doors

Melanie Finn

NICK Munier's Temple Bar restaurant is off the menu to diners after closing its doors.

After two years in business, 'Avenue by Nick Munier' will finish trading in a shock move that has taken many by surprise.

The decision to shut the doors of the popular eatery in Crow Street, Dublin, only happened earlier this week and customers who had bookings in the restaurant were contacted directly to inform them of the impending closure.

"We are sorry to inform you that unfortunately from Saturday the 22nd of April, we will no longer be trading," the email read.

"Unfortunately we have been left with no option but to close. Both Nick and Alanna (manager) would like to apologise for any inconvenience this may cause to you and wish to extend our sincere thanks for all your support of the business to date."

It is not yet known if the closure is temporary or permanent and no further information is known about the circumstances surrounding it.

When contacted about the news, Mr Munier confirmed he was closing the doors of the Michelin-recommended restaurant and it will cease trading after service today.

In a statement, he said that he wanted to extend his "heartfelt thanks" to his dynamic team of young chefs "led by Felipe



Restaurateur Nick Munier. Inset, Nick Munier with general manager Alanna Feeney, and the interior of the restaurant. Photos: Gerry Mooney, Brian McEvoy, Steve Humphreys

Armonia along with his dedicated front-of-house staff".

"Both Nick, Felipe and general manager Alanna Feeney also wish to thank their regular customers – many of whom they now consider friends – whose

unbridled support and loyalty since day one has been much appreciated," added the statement.

A well-known figure on the restaurant industry scene, Mr Munier previously set up Pichet on Trinity Street before moving on following a

buyout deal in 2014.

The restaurateur and artist previously worked as a judge on RTÉ's 'MasterChef' series alongside celebrity chef Dylan McGrath from 2011 to 2013, when they also did a celebrity version of the show. He first found fame as the

affable maitre d' on Marco Pierre White's flagship show on ITV, 'Hell's Kitchen'. He moved to Ireland more than 10 years ago and went on to work in restaurants like Peacock Alley and Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud.

Harney hits out at Cabinet memo leak

Ian Begley

FORMER health minister Mary Harney has described recent leaks of Cabinet memos as a "gross act of possible sabotage on the State".

Speaking in the opening address at yesterday's Women in Media conference, the retired politician said that she has noticed a tendency to leak sensitive documents to journalists.

The former tánaiste said "two very fine journalists had either seen or had access to a memo that was going to the Government" on a particular day.

"It was extremely sensitive information," Ms Harney said.

"Yet before the Government had the chance to consider the memo, it was in front of the (newspaper).

"I think (those responsible) were involved in a possible act of gross sabotage of the State."

Ms Harney, who was a founding member of the Progressive Democrats, was also critical about leaks which were revealed in another newspaper.

"These are serious issues that have to be dealt with seriously" she said yesterday at Kilcooly Country House Hotel in Ballybunion, Co Kerry.

"This issue I refer to is not exclusive to this Government," Ms Harney said.

"But it's not good enough. We need to take it seriously and be mindful of the implications that can follow from sensitive information put into the public domain in that fashion."

Ms Harney also spoke about the case of the undocumented in Ireland.

"We go every year to the US and we plead for undocumented Irish to be recognised and legalised," she said. "Surely the time has come for us to do that for the illegal immigrants here."

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