

Emilie Mjorndal Emilie's Woodfired Kitchen

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As the one-time head of a firm providing catering services to every major tech firm in Paris and Berlin, Emilie Mjorndal would have been forgiven if she had overlooked Glenbeigh, Co. Kerry as her next destination.

"I came because my daughter was living here," she says. "I've always cooked and run my own businesses. I saw there was an opening in Kerry for a place that served fresh food, so the first few months were about biding my time until the right premises became available."

Emilie's Woodfired Kitchen opened in Glenbeigh in March 2019, and such has been its success that she is now on the cusp of opening a second premises, a bakery in Kilorglan.

"We make everything from scratch, we buy nothing in – that's what makes us unique. If we use a paste or a sauce, we make it in our kitchen. Our Glenbeigh store is a restaurant and shop stocked with more than 300 local products," she says.

Emilie currently employs 20 staff in Glenbeigh, with another 10 set to come on board in Kilorglan, where she aims to produce more than 1,000 breads every day.

"I'm an idealist more than an entrepreneur. The mission, which is to make the best possible food from the freshest ingredients, is more important to me than money. I hope that's enough to make me a household name because that, too, is what I want to be," she says.

As a new arrival to Ireland, Emilie believes ACORNS was vital in helping her build a network with likeminded businesswomen and is grateful for the culture of openness which laid the ground for honest and safe discussion.

"We still do video calls every couple of weeks. The female entrepreneurs in my group have been very active for each other," she adds.

