

Judit McNally

Cocoa by Judit



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Judit McNally is building CocoabyJudit, a handcrafted chocolate business, from her own purpose-built kitchen at her farmhouse outside Cappoquin, Co. Waterford.

Originally from Hungary, Judit moved to Ireland with her West Waterford husband in 2004. The couple would go on to run a café and bakery in Dungarvan for 19 years, where Judit further developed her skills in pastry, patisserie, baking, making cakes and wedding cakes.

Their decision sell the business set Judit on a new entrepreneurial journey, inspiring her to invest in her own kitchen, launch an online shop and develop relationships with local wine and artisan food stores.

“I really concentrate on using very high-quality chocolate and local ingredients for my fillings. We grow lots of our own fruit and I deal a lot with Blackwater Distillery, which is just a short cycle down the road. I buy local honey from an apiary about five kilometres from me. I infuse Waterford seaweed in my salted caramel to help with the Deise flavour. I am getting the best of Waterford ingredients and put them into something very beautiful,” she says.

Judit has already received plenty of recognition since her launch at the end of 2023. Her first chocolate selection won gold at the Blas na hÉireann Food Awards in 2024, and her chocolates also took first place in the confectionery category at the Listowel Food Awards. She has been shortlisted for the Irish Made Awards by Irish Country Magazine and recently secured an opportunity to supply the four-star Faithlegg Hotel in Waterford.

Judit credits ACORNS with helping her to set goals and stay accountable. “The experience was absolutely amazing. All the women in the group were very driven and our Lead Entrepreneur was extremely inspiring. There were great workshops online with plenty of great tips – from accounting and bookkeeping to discussions about sources of funding.”

Providing early stage female entrepreneurs, living in rural Ireland, with the knowledge, support and networking opportunities to meet and even exceed their current aspirations.



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
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