

Mary Berry CBE

BIOGRAPHY



Mary Berry CBE is the doyenne of family cookery, specialising in *Aga* cookery and cakes and desserts. Her television career has spanned more than six decades, and she has written over 80 best-selling cookery books, with many more still to come.

From an early age **Mary** knew she wanted to pursue a career in food, and at 18 she trained at the Bath College of Home Economics, followed by Paris Le Cordon Bleu. In the 1960's **Mary** became Cookery Editor of *Housewife* and later *Ideal Home Magazine* and was a member of the *Council of Food from Britain*.

In 1966 **Mary** published her first cookery book, *The Hamlyn All Colour Cookbook*. Her books have since sold over five million copies around the world. In addition to cookery books, Mary has also written her autobiography, *Recipe For Life*, published in 2013 by Michael Joseph. The latest title is *Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites*, published by BBC Books, 26th February 2015.

Mary Berry Cooks, was published by BBC Books in February 2014 to accompany the TV series of the same title. The book went straight to number 1 in the hardback non-fiction chart and remained there for 11 weeks, and also reached number 1 in the top 50 books across all UK sales by its 3rd week.

Mary shared her culinary secrets with the nation, initially appearing on Judith Chalmers' *Afternoon Plus* show in the 1970s, and also having a regular cookery slot on *BBC Radio 2's Debbie Thrower Programme*. **Mary** went on to host seven cookery series for Thames Television as well as series for the BBC including *Mary Berry at Home* and *Mary Berry's Ultimate Cakes*. During this time Mary continued to host *Aga* cookery classes from her home in Buckinghamshire as well as raising her young family.

More recently, **Mary** has been part of the BAFTA award winning *The Great British Bake Off* which moved from BBC2 to BBC1 for its 5th series, with viewing figures peaking at 10.3 million, the highest ever for the show, and some of the highest ratings across the BBC in 2014. **Mary** is well known for other shows including *The Great Sport Relief Bake Off*, *Great British Food Revival* (BBC2), *Food & Drink*, *The One Show* (BBC1) and often makes guest appearances on the *Chris Evans Breakfast Show*, the *Graham Norton Show* (BBC Radio 2), and *Woman's Hour* (BBC Radio 4). In January 2013 a two part documentary, *The Mary Berry Story* (BBC2), followed Mary as she revisited Bath and London, and shared memories from her childhood and early career. Her most recent series were *Mary Berry Cooks*, and *Mary Berry's Absolute Christmas Favourites*, both on BBC2 in 2014. *Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites* will air in May 2015.

In April 2014 the *Mary Berry Bakes* recipe app was launched for iPhone and iPad, and Mary has collaborated with Lakeland to produce her own cookware range, and has a beautiful collection of kitchenware available through John Lewis and Sainsbury's.

In 2012 Mary was awarded a CBE for services to culinary arts, and in 2014 she received the *Freedom of the City of Bath*, where city officials said she had "always been an exemplary ambassador" for her home city, and was a deserving recipient of their highest and most prestigious award. In Autumn 2014 she was listed second on *Radio Times* '30 most influential females in broadcasting' and won the 'Outstanding Achievement' award at the *Specsavers National Book Awards*.

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