

# Mary Berry CBE

## BIOGRAPHY



**Mary Berry CBE** is the doyenne of family cookery, specialising in *Aga* cookery, 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 Le Cordon Bleu Paris. 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. **Mary** has also written her autobiography, *Recipe For Life*, published by Michael Joseph in 2013. *Mary Berry Cooks* was published by BBC Books in February 2014 and entered the hardback non-fiction chart at number 1, remaining there for 11 weeks, and reaching number 1 across all UK book sales by its 3<sup>rd</sup> week. *Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites* was published in February 2015 and the latest title, *Mary Berry Foolproof Cooking*, was published by BBC Books in January 2016.

**Mary** began her broadcasting career on Judith Chalmers' *Afternoon Plus* in the '70s, followed by a regular cookery slot on BBC Radio 2's *Debbie Thrower Programme*. She 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.

Currently **Mary** is a judge on BAFTA award winning *The Great British Bake Off* which moved from BBC2 to BBC1 for its 5<sup>th</sup> series, with viewing figures peaking at 10.3 million, some of the highest ratings across the BBC in 2014. Series 6 reached over 15million viewers for the final episode, becoming the UK's most watched show of 2015.

**Mary's** many other TV appearances include *The Great Sport Relief Bake Off*, *Great British Food Revival* (BBC2), *Food & Drink*, *The One Show* (BBC1) and radio including 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 shared memories from her childhood and early career, revisiting Bath and London. Most recently she has presented her own BBC2 series' *Mary Berry Cooks*, and *Mary Berry's Absolute Christmas Favourites* in 2014, *Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites* in 2015, and *Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking*, which secured 3 million viewers in 2016.

The *Mary Berry Bakes* recipe app for iPhone and iPad was launched In April 2014, adding to **Mary's** licensed product range which now includes cookware with Lakeland, kitchen and homeware available through John Lewis and Sainsbury's, chilled desserts in Tesco, Waitrose and Ocado, as well as her long established range of dressings, sauces and condiments.

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 came second in Radio Times '30 most influential females in broadcasting' and won the 'Outstanding Achievement' award at the Specsavers National Book Awards, the Lifetime Achievement Award from Observer Food Monthly Awards 2015, and Good Housekeeping Editor's Choice award 2016 for her book *Mary Berry Foolproof Cooking*.

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To make any enquiries please email us: [mail@limelightmanagement.com](mailto:mail@limelightmanagement.com)

Limelight Celebrity Management Ltd

10 Filmer Mews, 75 Filmer Road, London SW6 7JF Telephone: +44(0)20 7384 9950 Fax: +44(0)20 7384 9955  
Email: [mail@limelightmanagement.com](mailto:mail@limelightmanagement.com) Website: [www.limelightmanagement.com](http://www.limelightmanagement.com)

Registered Address: Lynwood House, 373-375 Station Road, Harrow, Middx HA1 2AW Registered in England No: 7050137  
VAT Reg No: 649 2735 07