

Neil Perry AM is one of Australia's leading and most influential chefs. Neil's career in hospitality began at Sails restaurant at McMahons Point and in Rose Bay. Neil then became head chef at Barrenjoey Restaurant, Palm Beach and was also given creative control over Perry's in Paddington. In October 1986, he opened the Blue Water Grill at Bondi Beach and took the site from a 20 year failure to an overnight success. He then opened Rockpool in February 1989 with his business partner Trish Richards, which became a culinary institution, was on the Top 50 Best Restaurants in the World list for 7 years running, was awarded Three Hats by the Sydney Morning Herald too many times to count and won Gourmet Traveller Restaurant of the Year 5 times. Neil and Trish, together with David Doyle, went on to open Rockpool Bar and Grill in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth, Spice Temple in Sydney and Melbourne, Rosetta in Sydney and Melbourne, and Burger Project in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, before selling the group to Quadrant in 2016.

Neil's latest restaurant project, Margaret, in Sydney's Double Bay, is his first solo venture. It is named after his mother who had an enormous influence on his hospitality career.

Neil also leads a team of consultants at Qantas overseeing the First and Business class menus and lounges. This year marks his 25th year in this role. He is also the author of eleven cookbooks and through his involvement with the Starlight Children's Foundation and various other charities, Neil was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2013 for "significant service to the community as a benefactor of and a fundraiser for charities, and as a chef and restaurateur".

Neil and his wife Samantha live in Sydney's Eastern suburbs with their two teenage children, Macy and Indy. Neil also has an adult daughter, Josephine, who got married earlier this year.

Neil's determined passion for Australia, quality food, wine and travel have driven him to where he is today.

