

Marty Boetz, Longrain



\$25,000

Neil Perry, Rockpool



\$30,000

Peter Gilmore, Quay



\$15,000

Guillaume Brahimi, Bennelong



\$15,000

Matt Preston



\$15,000

Thomas Johns



\$250 per head

Paying top dollar for big name chefs

Amy Harris
Sydney Confidential

AUSTRALIA'S obsession with all things food is hitting crazy heights, with celebrity chefs worth up to \$50,000 to take part in the latest food fad — in-house appearances.

Not content with dining at their restaurants or seeing the best chefs work their magic on TV, foodies are forking out thousands at charity events to bring chefs and presenters into their homes.

One recent auction, in aid of The Starlight Foundation, drew a \$25,000

Mini cooks

Meet the top 12
Junior MasterChefs
dailytelegraph.com.au



bid to have Longrain's Marty Boetz prepare a private meal for 12.

The second highest bid of the night — for a dinner with *MasterChef's* Matt Preston — sold for \$15,000, while ARIA's Matt Moran said his services have gone under the hammer for as much as \$50,000.

It's understood many high-profile chefs are also often approached to cater private, non-charitable dinners.

And at least one popular Sydney chef has clued in to the phenomenon, with ex-Pello owner and head chef Thomas Johns opting for full-time personal service nine months ago.

It comes as TV networks prepare to roll-out the latest wave in food programming, with a new season of *My Kitchen Rules* as well as *Australian Iron Chef*, *Conviction Kitchen* and *MasterChef* all poised to air.