

BATH & WEST

FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL

P R E S S R E L E A S E



Line-up revealed for new Food & Drink Festival, with full details announced

British Cheese Awards, 22 March 2024

Bath & West Food & Drink Festival, 23-24 March 2024

With the first ever Bath & West Food & Drink Festival set to take place over the weekend of 23-24 March, the Royal Bath & West Society has announced details of the inaugural festival line-up. While playing host to the 28th edition of the prestigious British Cheese Awards, the event will also feature demonstrations and presentations on everything from pairings and baking to cooking on a budget, with entertainment on offer for all ages.

TV presenter and Great British Bake Off contestant, Briony May Williams will get things underway on the Farmhouse Kitchen Stage on Saturday morning, followed by appearances

from the likes of the Fuss Free Foodie, food & drink broadcaster Nigel Barden and food writer and presenter, Andy Clarke. Other highlights include a cheese and cider pairing session with West Country food & drink heavyweights, Thatchers and Wyke Farms, in celebration of some of the region's most famous and popular produce.

Away from the stage, Liver Cottage Mobile Kitchen will present a cookery demonstration like no other, as comedy chefs Hugh Fearn and Lee Whittingstall move through the crowds to create 'fusion food on the move', blending home grown ingredients with food foraged from the corner shop, the streets and of course the audience.

A celebration of the South West's farmers, producers and purveyors, the Food & Drink Festival will be built around the British Cheese Awards judging arena. An awe-inspiring sight for any cheese lover, the arena will be home to hundreds of the country's top cheeses, giving visitors the opportunity to learn about the rigorous judging process and even sample some of the trophy winners.

Judging will take place on Friday 22 March, as over 60 of the most respected names in cheese assess the best of Britain and Ireland. The judging panel will feature comedian and British Cheese Champion Marcus Brigstocke, author and cheesemonger Ned Palmer, cheese consultant and author Emma Young and cheesemaker Mary Quicke MBE, all led by head judge Tim Rowcliffe.

Food and drink stands will surround the judging area, bringing together the region's best producers, including Bath Soft Cheese, E18hteen Gin, Godminster, Purbeck Ice Cream, Good Game Charcuterie, Devon Rum Co, Incredible Brewing Co, Wild West Cider and many more.

For younger visitors, the Little Foodies zone will keep families entertained with creative crafts and activities, while the Farmhouse Tavern will showcase beverages of all kinds, including cider, beer and spirits, alongside low and no alcohol alternatives.

The Bath & West Food & Drink Festival will take place at The Bath & West Showground near Shepton Mallet, Somerset from 23-24 March 2024. Tickets are available to purchase from www.bathandwest.com/tickets. Full details of the event can be found at <https://www.bathandwest.com/food-and-drink-festival>.

The British Cheese Awards 2024 is open for entry until Monday 19 February, with judging set to take place on Friday 22 March. Full details can be found at www.britishcheeseawards.com.

For further information, please contact:

Sam Brice at Freshly Ground PR

07961 635960

sam@freshlygroundpr.co.uk

Bath & West Food & Drink Festival

The first ever Bath & West Food & Drink Festival will take place between 23-24 March 2024 at The Bath & West Showground near Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

Celebrating the finest producers and purveyors in the South West and beyond, the festival will feature a live Farmhouse Kitchen stage, a Farmhouse Tavern area showcasing drinks from across the region and a Little Foodies kids' zone, as well as hosting the prestigious British Cheese Awards.

Tickets are available to purchase from www.bathandwest.com/tickets.

Web: www.bathandwest.com/food-and-drink-festival

Instagram: [Royalbathandwest](https://www.instagram.com/Royalbathandwest)

X: [@Bathandwest](https://twitter.com/Bathandwest)

Facebook: [@bathandwestshows](https://www.facebook.com/bathandwestshows)

British Cheese Awards

The British Cheese Awards is the UK's leading cheese and dairy products awards scheme, judging hundreds of entries each year that represent over 75% of the nation's producers. Founded by Juliet Harbutt in 1994, the British Cheese Awards was taken over by The Royal Bath & West Society in 2015. Under the organisation's stewardship, the British Cheese Awards has continued to grow and develop, attracting record-breaking numbers in recent years.

Bringing cheesemakers, cheesemongers, farmers, retailers and buyers together on the judging panel, the British Cheese Awards assesses entries in a wide range of traditional categories, awarding Bronze, Silver and Gold prizes, as well as trophies for the stand-out

cheese in each category and each country. Following a busy day of judging, the Supreme Champion and Reserve Champion are announced that evening at the British Cheese Awards Dinner.

The British Cheese Awards will be hosted by the Bath & West Food & Drink Festival for the first time in 2024, taking centre stage at the two-day consumer event.

Web: www.britishcheeseawards.com

Instagram: [britcheeseaward](https://www.instagram.com/britcheseaward)

X: [@BritCheeseAward](https://twitter.com/BritCheeseAward)

Facebook: [@BritishCheeseAwards](https://www.facebook.com/BritishCheeseAwards)

#BCA24

January 2024