



PRESS RELEASE



Minger named Best Scottish Cheese at British Cheese Awards

Highland Fine Cheeses in Tain has landed the Best Scottish Cheese trophy at the British Cheese Awards for the second year in a row, this time with its Minger, an oozy and pungent cheese with an orange annatto washed rind and creamy paste, hinting at flavours of the farmyard. Held at the Bath & West Showground on Friday 22 March, the 28th British Cheese Awards

assessed over 600 entries from across the UK and Ireland, before welcoming cheese lovers into the judging arena throughout the new Bath & West Food & Drink Festival.

All trophies were presented during the British Cheese Awards Dinner, with Snowdrop by Cote Hill in Lincolnshire taking the Supreme Champion trophy and Cashel Blue from Cashel Farmhouse Cheesemakers named Reserve Champion, as well as Best Irish Cheese. Best English Cheese went to Tor from White Lake Cheese and Best Welsh Cheese was awarded to Gafr Las from Bryngaer Goats.

Rory Stone of Highland Fine Cheeses commented: "It's completely wonderful to be recognised as Best Scottish Cheese, but more than anything a Gold medal in the washed rind category where we rub shoulders with the Gods of British Cheese hints that we are no longer merely pushing the parameters of mediocrity, maybe, finally, we've arrived!"

Organised by The Royal Bath & West Society, the British Cheese Awards saw a 63-strong judging panel made up of cheesemakers, cheesemongers, cheese experts, buyers and commentators assessing entries in their individual classes during the morning session, awarding Bronze, Silver and Gold accolades. During the second round, all Gold award winners from each category were judged alongside one another to identify the category winners, before all category winners were judged in the final round to find this year's Supreme Champion and Reserve Champion.

Hosted for the first time by the new Bath & West Food & Drink Festival, the British Cheese Awards invited festival visitors to sample some of this year's entries over the course of the weekend and to cast their votes in the People's Choice Award.

For further information, please contact:

Sam Brice at Freshly Ground PR

07961 635960

sam@freshlygroundpr.co.uk

Amy Brice at Freshly Ground PR

07717893123

amy@freshlygroundpr.co.uk

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 was 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

Bath & West Food & Drink Festival

The first ever Bath & West Food & Drink Festival took 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 featured 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.

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

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

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