

## **British Cheese Awards 2017 Unveils the First Specialist Cheesemaker Award.**

Entries for the British Cheese Awards 2017, now in its 24th year, are open. As well as Supreme Champion, the four Country Awards and the eight Main Category Awards, new for this year is the Best Specialist Cheesemaker Award.

For this new award, Gold Award winners from any category of the awards who are members of the Specialist Cheesemakers Association will be judged again to decide the best cheese.

Peter Mitchell, chairman of the British Cheese Awards, says: *“We are delighted to announce the inaugural Best Specialist Cheesemaker Award and look forward to receiving entries from Association members who are renowned for their excellence and commitment to quality.”*

For details on how to enter this year’s cheese awards and a full schedule, members of the Specialist Cheesemakers Association, can use the following link <http://www.britishcheeseawards.com> or contact Rachael Hann on T: 01749 822215 or E: [rachel.hann@bathandwest.co.uk](mailto:rachel.hann@bathandwest.co.uk).

The British Cheese Awards 2017, the pre-eminent cheese event in the UK and a great celebration of British cheese, take place on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 at the Royal Bath & West Show, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

Last year’s competition attracted over 1,000 entries from over 54 counties that covered the length and breadth of the UK. It showed just how vibrant the British Cheese Industry is today.

Sponsors for this year’s awards include the following companies: Harvey & Brockless, Somerdale, Barber’s 1833 Vintage Reserve Cheddar, Kroger, Wyke Farms, Tesco, Marks & Spencer and Coombe Castle, as well as others.