



PROVEN FINE FOOD

2009 Great Taste Awards Gold winners are announced:

Glen Tender, Crossgar Meats and The Offbeat Bottling Company fly the flag for Northern Ireland

(all Northern Ireland winners listed below)

(all X winners listed below)

The Guild of Fine Food has just announced the Gold winners of the Great Taste Awards 2009. The Awards are nationally recognised as *the* independent benchmark for fine foods, and each gold winner will have been blind tasted by a minimum of eight experts. High profile judges this year included Charles Champion, Anthony Worrall-Thompson, Sarah Jane Evans MW and Amy Lame. This year, out of a total of 4873 entries, 1030 products were awarded Gold; most were awarded one star (639), 308 were awarded two stars and just 83 were awarded the highest accolade of three-star gold, reserved for products that are considered faultless.

Leading the charge for Northern Ireland were Glen Tender, Crossgar Meats and The Offbeat Bottling Company, who each won a coveted 3-star gold for their Aberdeen Angus 21 day matured Sirloin Steak, Free Range Whole Duck and Thick Cut Orange Marmalade respectively. Glen Tender took home multiple awards, picking up a further two two-star golds for their Aberdeen Angus Rib Eye and Fillet Steaks, and a one star gold for their Rump Steak. Crossgar Meats also took home an additional award, a two-star gold for their Dexter Dry Aged Fillet Steak.

The awards ceremony for the 'Oscars of the Fine Food World' will take place at a glittering event at Fortnum & Mason's on September 7th, when the Supreme Judging Panel will taste all regional winners live in front of a packed crowd to decide which entry is to be crowned Supreme Champion 2009. Blur

bass player, farmer and writer Alex James, chef Mark Hix, and Thomasina Miers of Masterchef fame are among those already confirmed for the panel.

Now in their 16th year, the Awards have gone from strength to strength and many consumers recognise the distinctive black and gold logo as a sign of excellence. However, winning an award is much more than recognition for excellence; it is one of the most powerful tools to help grow business in the speciality food sector. Peter Craig, Director of Beckleberry's, who won Supreme Champion last year commented that "you couldn't buy the kind of endorsement and publicity we received, and the list of outlets we now supply has grown beyond our wildest dreams."

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Notes to Editors:

All Northern Irish winners are as follows:

Award	Description	Company	email address
1 star	Handmade Butter Fudge	Blackthorn Foods	blackthornfoods@hotmail.co.uk
3 star	Glen Tender Aberdeen Angus Sirlion Steak 21 day matured	Glen Tender	andy@glentender.co.uk
2 star	Glen Tender Aberdeen Angus Fillet Steak 21 day matured	Glen Tender	andy@glentender.co.uk
2 star	Glen Tender Aberdeen Angus Rib-eye Steak 21 day matured	Glen Tender	andy@glentender.co.uk
1 Star	Glen Tender Aberdeen Angus 10oz Rump Steak 21 day matured	Glen Tender	andy@glentender.co.uk
2 star	Lindens Chef Class Steak Burger	Linden Foods	elainew@lindenfoods.com
2 star	Banquet Royale Rose Veal Fillet Steak	Linden Foods	elainew@lindenfoods.com
1 star	Banquet Royal Rose Veal T Bone Steak	Linden Foods	elainew@lindenfoods.com
2 star	Wheaten Bannock	The Heatherlea	paulgetty@btconnect.com
1 star	Sunblest Bakers Choice Potato Farfs	Allied Bakeries Ireland	andrew.hollywood@alliedbakeries.co.uk
1 star	Broccoli & Cashel Blue Cheese Soup	Avondale Foods (Craigavon) Limited	dawn.geddis@avondale-foods.co.uk
1 star	Salsa Dip	Avondale Foods (Craigavon) Limited	dawn.geddis@avondale-foods.co.uk
1 Star	Dark Chocolate Truffle with Alcohol	Baxter Murray Creative Chocolate	info@baxtermurray.co.uk
1 Star	White Chocolate Truffle	Baxter Murray Creative Chocolate	info@baxtermurray.co.uk

2 Star	Crossgar Dexter Dry Aged Fillet Steak	Crossgar Meats	steve.millership@crossgar.ie
3 star	Crossgar Free Range Whole Duck	Crossgar Meats	steve.millership@crossgar.ie
1 star	French Dressing	Derek Doherty	derek@richsauces.com
2 star	Gourmet Mayonnaise	Derek Doherty	derek@richsauces.com
2 star	Pad Thai Sauce	Derek Doherty	derek@richsauces.com
1 star	Chilli Apple Jelly	Erin Grove Preserves	mark@eringrove.com
1 star	Onion Marmalade	Erin Grove Preserves	mark@eringrove.com
2 star	O'Reillys Origial	Fivemiletown Creamery	peterdunlop@fivemiletown.com
2 star	Boilie Goats	Fivemiletown Creamery	peterdunlop@fivemiletown.com
1 star	O'Reileys Mustard	Fivemiletown Creamery	peterdunlop@fivemiletown.com
2 star	Black Pudding	Gracehill Fine Foods	claiandrs@aol.com
1 star	Graces Irish Oatmeal Biscuits	Graces Irish Biscuits	william@gracesirishbiscuits.com
1 star	Handmade Soda Farls	Grahams Bakery	alistair@indulge-in-grahams.com
2 star	Handmade Wheaten Farls	Grahams Bakery	alistair@indulge-in-grahams.com
2 star	Honeycomb with Honeycomb Chunks Dairy Ice Cream	Hoys Farmhouse Ice Cream	info@hoysfarmhouseicecream.co.uk
1 star	Diabetic Vanilla Ice Cream	Hoys Farmhouse Ice Cream	info@hoysfarmhouseicecream.co.uk
1 star	Fifteens Biscuit & Condensed Milk Bake	Mc Erlain's Bakery (Genesis Breads)	liesa.johnston@genesisbreads.com
1 star	Shortbread Iced Biscuit	Mc Erlain's Bakery (Genesis Breads)	liesa.johnston@genesisbreads.com
1 star	SQ Date & Walnut Speciality Bread	Mc Erlain's Bakery (Genesis Breads)	liesa.johnston@genesisbreads.com
1 star	SQ Apricot & Raisin Speciality Bread	Mc Erlain's Bakery (Genesis Breads)	liesa.johnston@genesisbreads.com
1 star	Napoli Espresso	NorthSouth Coffee Company Ltd	info@northsouthcoffeecompany.com
2 star	House Blend Espresso	NorthSouth Coffee Company Ltd	info@northsouthcoffeecompany.com
2 star	Rumour Espresso	NorthSouth Coffee Company Ltd	info@northsouthcoffeecompany.com
1 star	Monsoon Espresso	NorthSouth Coffee Company Ltd	info@northsouthcoffeecompany.com
1 star	Free Range Whole Fresh Chicken	O' Kane Poultry Ltd.	suzanne.mathewson@okanepoultry.com
3 star	Southern Fry Chicken Portions	O' Kane Poultry Ltd.	suzanne.mathewson@okanepoultry.com
1 star	Pure Apple & Blackcurrant	P. Mc Cann & Sons	kevin@mccannapples.co.uk
1 star	Punjana Green Tea, teabag, from Kenya	Punjana Ltd.	ross@punjana.com

2 star	Punjana Teabags, 80's, India/Kenya	Punjana Ltd.	ross@punjana.com
1 star	ACFCR Certified Reserva San Bosco, filter coffee	Ristretto	gregg@ristrettocoffee.com
2 star	Ristretto Espresso Blend	Ristretto	gregg@ristrettocoffee.com
2 star	Fairtrade Belfast Brew, from Tanzania & India	Suki Tea House Ltd	annie@suki-tea.com
1 star	Fairtrade Organic Earl Grey Blue Flower from India, Albania & Germany	Suki Tea House Ltd	annie@suki-tea.com
1 star	Green Rooibus Citrus Organic from South Africa	Suki Tea House Ltd	annie@suki-tea.com
2 star	Challah Bread	Tamnagh Bakery	hickeykd@aol.com
3 Star	Thick Cut Orange Marmalade	The Offbeat Bottling Company	mail@offbeatbottling.co.uk
2 star	White's Organic Jumbo Oat Flakes	White's Speedicook Ltd	estherruddell@fanevalley.co.uk
1 star	Real Fruit Porridge - Cranberry Apple & Cinnamon	White's Speedicook Ltd	estherruddell@fanevalley.co.uk

- The Great Taste Awards is organised annually by the Guild of Fine Food
- <http://www.finefoodworld.co.uk>
- The Great Taste Awards has, over 15 years, become the 'Oscars' of speciality food and drink. From the start, all foods have been blind tasted by a panel of independent judges from all parts of the fine food business, with gold awards going to those products considered faultless. The awards have changed the lives of many producers, helping them grow from small-scale locally-known brands to nationally accredited fine food brands. More than 1,000 products received Great Taste Award gold stars in 2008.

For more information on the Great Taste Awards, please contact:

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