



NEWS RELEASE

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Best of the best make shortlist for Taste of Kent Awards

Some of the county's top food and drink producers and retailers hoping to land Kent's ultimate accolade for their industry, are a step closer to their goal following the announcement of the shortlist for the Taste of Kent Awards 2008.

A 42% increase in votes from members of the public were received for the awards - which are in their fifth year and organised by the champions of food and drink for the county, Produced in Kent.

The 12 award categories include Kent Pub of the Year, Best Kentish Beer and Kent Food Producer of the Year. For the first time, there is also a self-nominated 13th category for the Kent Innovative Product of the year, which is being sponsored by SEEDA. The judges for this category will be looking for a unique product available to the public, which demonstrates both creativity and originality.

The final stages of judging will include mystery shopper visits and a tasting panel, with the winners being announced at an awards dinner to be held at the Fairfax Hall, Leeds Castle, near Maidstone, on Thursday, February 26.

Julie Monkman, Manager at Produced in Kent, said: "We are delighted to have had such a magnificent response from the Kent public, it's a real vote of confidence for our food and drink producers

"To have received more nominations than ever before shows that people are increasingly interested and knowledgeable about what they eat and where it comes from. Kent has a wide variety of amazing produce and these awards are a great way to highlight that."

The sponsors for this year's event are SEEDA, Hadlow College, Barclays Bank, Foodari Direct, Bennett Opie, Kent Life, Biddenden Vineyards, Kent County Council, Belmont International, Kent Frozen Foods, Chapel Down Winery and Maxim PR & Marketing.

To find out more about Produced in Kent visit www.producedinkent.co.uk.

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Notes to editors

Produced in Kent

Produced in Kent is a not-for-profit organisation, which works with food, drink and craft producers within the county to promote fresh produce, local sourcing and a reduction in food miles. Its ethos also aims to reduce food packaging and protect the rural landscape of Kent. It is jointly funded by Kent County Council and Hadlow College.

	Nominees in alphabetical order
1	<p>Kent Butcher/Meat Producer of the Year - Hadlow College</p> <p>AJ Barkaways, Faversham</p> <p>The Butcher of Brogdale, Faversham</p> <p>Godmersham Game, Mystole, Canterbury</p>
2	<p>Best Kentish Cider and Perry</p> <p>Biddenden Strong Cider, Biddenden Vineyards, Biddenden</p> <p>Hard Core, Core Fruit Products Ltd, Mystole, Canterbury</p> <p>Rough Old Wife, Cork Farm, Old Wives Lees</p>
3	<p>Kent Restaurant of the Year - Kent Frozen Foods</p> <p>Michael Caines at the Abode, Canterbury</p> <p>The Mulberry Tree, Boughton Monchelsea</p> <p>Richard Phillips at Chapel Down, Tenterden</p>
4	<p>Kent Food Producer of the Year - Kent Life</p> <p>Blue Bell Hill Apiaries, Chatham</p> <p>The Fudgery, Ashford</p> <p>St Nicholas Court Farms, Birchington</p>
5	<p>Kentish non-alcoholic Drink Producer - Kent County Council</p> <p>Biddenden Vineyards Ltd, Biddenden</p> <p>Core Fruits Products Ltd, Mystole, Canterbury</p> <p>Pine Trees Farm, Doddington</p>
6	<p>Kent Pub of the Year - Biddenden Vineyard</p> <p>The Chaser Inn, Shipbourne</p> <p>Old Brewery Tavern, Canterbury</p> <p>The Plough at Stalisfield, Faversham</p>
7	<p>Kent Local Food Retailer of the Year - Barclays Bank</p> <p>The Garden Produce Company, Canterbury</p>

	<p>Hartley Dyke Farm Shop, Cranbrook</p> <p>The Little Stour Farm Shop, Wingham, Canterbury</p>
8	<p>Best Kentish Beer - Belmont International</p> <p>Chapel Down Brut, Chapel Down Winery, Tenterden</p> <p>Gadds no 3, Ramsgate Brewery, Ramsgate</p> <p>Spitfire, Shepherd Neame, Faversham</p>
9	<p>Kent Food and Drink Product of the Year - Bennett Opie</p> <p>Biddenden Ortega, Biddenden Vineyards, Biddenden</p> <p>Fudge - The Fudgery, Ashford</p> <p>Rapeseed Oil, The Chapel Press, Romney Marsh</p>
10	<p>Kent Seafood Retailer of the Year - Foodari Direct & Bank Farm Produce</p> <p>Eddie Gilberts. Ramsgate</p> <p>Griggs, Hythe</p> <p>Whitstable Fish Market, Whitstable</p>
11	<p>Kent Farmers' Market of the Year - Hadlow College</p> <p>Cliftonville Farmers' Market</p> <p>Rochester Farmers' Market</p> <p>Shipbourne Farmers' Market</p>
12	<p>Best Kentish Wine - Maxim PR & Marketing</p> <p>Biddenden Ortega, Biddenden Vineyards, Biddenden</p> <p>Chapel Down Bacchus, Chapel Down Winery, Tenterden</p> <p>Chapel Down English Rose, Chapel Down Winery, Tenterden</p>