



NEWS RELEASE

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There's Still Time To Get Involved In Taste Of Kent Awards

Time is running out for people to nominate their favourite products and producers from around the county for this year's 2008 Taste of Kent Awards, which looks set to be the biggest and best so far.

Now in its fourth year, the awards, which are run by the champions of food and drink in the county Produced in Kent, recognise and honour the best of the best within the county and have become a much sought-after annual hallmark of quality.

The public can nominate their favourite food and drink products and producers across 12 categories with the top three being shortlisted for judging ahead of an awards evening, where the winners are announced. Categories include Kent Restaurant of the Year, Best Kentish Cider or Perry and Kent Food Producer of the Year. There is also a self-nominated 13th category of Kent Innovative Product of the year, which is being sponsored by SEEDA.

The public has until December 31st to get involved in the competition and can vote for their favourite product or producer at www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk. Nomination forms will also be available at farmers' markets across the county.

Julie Monkman, Produced in Kent's Manager, said: "This competition is all about highlighting and recognising the superb depth and breadth of food and drink products and producers in Kent and the amazing quality that's available right here on our doorsteps.

"We have had a great response from the public and this promises to be the most successful awards we have run so far. However, if you know of someone who deserves to be nominated there is still time to put them forward."

Sponsors for this year's events include SEEDA, Hadlow College, Barclays Bank, Foodari Direct, Bank Farm Produce, Bennett Opie, Kent Life, Biddenden Vineyards, Kent County Council, Belmont International, Kent Frozen Foods 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.

	Categories
1	Kent Butcher/Meat Producer of the Year - Hadlow College Butcher or farmer, selling or producing meat that has spent the majority of its life in Kent.
2	Best Kentish Cider and Perry Cider produced in Kent made predominantly from apples or pears grown in Kent.
3	Kent Restaurant of the Year - Kent Frozen Foods Must actively use locally sourced products where and when available from within Kent and demonstrate this commitment in menus and marketing.
4	Kent Food Producer of the Year - Kent Life Primary Product must have spent the majority of its life in Kent and/or undergone a value added process over and above re-packing and re-marketing.
5	Kentish non-alcoholic Drink Producer - Kent County Council Producer of a non-alcoholic drink demonstrating active local sourcing where and when products are available from within Kent.
6	Kent Pub of the Year - Biddenden Vineyard Pub must demonstrate active local sourcing of food and/or drink where and when products are available from within Kent.
7	Kent Local Food Retailer of the Year - Barclays Bank Must demonstrate active local sourcing where and when products are available from within Kent.
8	Best Kentish Beer - Belmont International Beer produced in Kent predominantly using hops from Kent
9	Kent Food and Drink Product of the Year - Bennett Opie Made from primary product that has spent the majority of its life in Kent and/or undergone a value added process over and above re-packaging or re-marketing.

10	Kent Seafood Retailer of the Year - Foodari Direct & Bank Farm Produce Must demonstrate active local sourcing where and when products are available from within Kent
11	Kent Farmers' Market of the Year - Hadlow College
12	Best Kentish Wine - Maxim PR & Marketing Wine made from grapes predominantly grown in Kent at a vineyard based in Kent
13	Kent Innovative Product of the Year - SEEDA Self nomination by members.