



Welsh winners with a heavenly taste

TEN irresistible Welsh foods have been judged among the best in Britain after being selected from more than 10,000 UK entries.

A panel of more than 400 Great Taste judges – including Masterchef Judge Charles Champion and Great British Bake Off winner Frances Quinn – carried out blind tastings to choose a fraction of the entries for their coveted “three-star” accolade.

Among the innovative Welsh winners were a mascarpone and caramelised fig ice cream, crystallised edible flowers and, perhaps surprisingly for a Welsh list, a haggis.

Here are the 10 Welsh winners, which will go forward to the UK list of top 50 foods with a final announcement of the Great Taste Supreme Champion 2015 on September 7:

■ **Traditional Haggis by AJ Pugh Butchers of Knighton:** Scotland may be the home of the haggis but a traditional recipe from these Mid Wales butchers won the all-important taste test. Judges said the haggis was “well ground and having a nice balance of offal”.

■ **Eat My Flowers’ Crystallised edible flower:** A three-generation farming family diversified and Eat My Flowers was set up in 2011 on the beef and sheep farm. They grow fresh flowers producing crystallised blooms and pretty edible flower lollipops.

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■ **Mascarpone and Caramelised Fig Ice Cream by Forte’s Ice Cream:** From humble beginnings in the mountains between Rome and Naples, the Forte’s family moved to a restaurant in North Wales and branched out to north-west England.

Their passion, attention to detail and artisan skills have been passed from generation to generation in the family-run business over the past 85 years.

Of the firm’s 35 flavours, the judges’ said their entry – Mascarpone and Caramelised Fig Ice Cream – was “rich and creamy” with “a nice fig flavour”.

■ **Honey Marmalade by Coles Family Brewers:** The brewery is based at the ancient White Hart Inn, built in 1371 to house the workmen who constructed the original church. The village was famous for its Llandarog Fair, where cakes were made at the White Hart Inn using beer from the cask, for the drovers to eat. And they would have surely have loved this honey marmalade – given half the chance. The judges said it was a “homemade vibrant and fresh marmalade with a marvellous combination of flavours”.

Coles also produces many unique ales throughout the year.

■ **Dairy Handmade Butter by Ty Tanglwyst, Pyle, near Bridgend:** Dairy farmer Rhys Lougher has won gold at the Great Taste awards before with his traditional Welsh salted butter and double cream.

Rhys says many consumers have not tasted

salted butter made on farm to a traditional Welsh recipe, while others have forgotten how good food tasted in the past, so he aims to fill the gaps.

A 200g portion of the dairy butter will typically cost about £2.17.

■ **Pant du Cyf Welsh cider Pen-y-groes, Caernarfon:** Pant Du Orchard was established in 2007. Now there are 2,900 apple trees on 16 acres of land on the farm; 2,000 of them are traditional cider apple trees and the rest are native Welsh apple trees. Five hundred of the native Welsh varieties are Bardsey Apple trees, a variety that was at one time almost extinct.

■ **Carrot cake by Mrs O’s Pop-Up Tearoom, Cowbridge:** Serving freshly baked homemade cake, afternoon tea, light lunches and an impressive selection of teas in vintage china, this pop-up tea room pretty much sells out when it visits Riverside Market and Roath.

■ **Shirgar Welsh salted butter by Gower View Foods Ltd:** Shirgar Butter from Carmarthenshire followed up its success at the Royal Welsh Show in Llanellwedd with Gold and Bronze Awards at the Nantwich Show. And now it has done it again – 250g of it can be bought in Tesco for £1.60.

■ **Vilberie Medium Dry Cider by Apple County Cider Company, Whitehouse Farm, near Skenfrith in Monmouthshire:** Apple County Cider produces premium single variety ciders made from 100% apple juice, using varieties such as Dabinett, Vilberie and Brown Snout.



■ **L’Antico Nero 36-month cured ham by Districts of Italy:** The Llandudno-based firm has earned a reputation for importing Italian delicacies. As well as ham, Marcello Fiorita’s company supplies Tuscan extra virgin olive oil along with other specialist foods from his homeland to top London delis and restaurants.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Three charged after PC attacked

THREE people have appeared in court accused of attacking a police officer in Cardiff.

Rachael Heron, Dennis Taylor and Jacob Marriott appeared at Cardiff Magistrate’s Court accused of inflicting grievous bodily harm. Heron, 38, of Blaenavon Close, St Mellons; Dennis Taylor, 62, of Wakehurst Place, St Mellons; and Jacob Marriott, 23, of Eurwg Crescent, St Mellons, are all charged with assaulting the on-duty officer early on Saturday.

Richard Paull, prosecuting, told the court the officer had been left with serious injuries. The attack is alleged to have happened around 12.20am on Saturday at the junction of Coleford Drive and Cragside Close in St Mellons.

Heron and Taylor were released on bail. They were both given a curfew of between 7pm and 7am and will wear electronic tags. Marriott was remanded in custody.

All three were ordered to appear at Cardiff Crown Court on August 17.

1,000 marked balls stolen

BURGLARS broke into a golf club – and stole a thousand balls.

Police began investigating the theft from Southerndown Golf Club in Llantwit Major after the balls were taken from a ball-dispensing machine at the club at 10.30pm on Sunday.

A spokesman for South Wales Police said officers wanted to speak to people who were in two vehicles in the area on the night of the theft.

PC Jamie Williamson said: “Goodness knows what those responsible will do with the balls. They’d struggle to sell them on as each one has ‘stolen from Southerndown Golf Club’ printed on them. So the balls are easy to spot – hopefully somebody who has seen them or who knows something about the incident can lead us to whoever was responsible.”

Police can be contacted on 101 or anonymously on 0800 555111, the Crimestoppers number.

Arsonist with ‘hair on fire’

AN arsonist is reported to have set his or her own hair on fire after a deliberate car fire in Newport.

Gwent Police have appealed for information about the arson attack at Ebenezer Terrace in the city around 11.30pm on Monday night.

A Kia Sportage car had been set alight and witnesses said the offender may have accidentally set fire to their own hair, before running off towards Newport Leisure Centre.