

Food & Drink Awards 2017

We are delighted to announce the fifth Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food and Drink Awards. Get nominating your local favourites now!



Our 2016 presenter Andy Garland from BBC Radio Kent
Below: The 2016 winners and runners up



NOMINATIONS are now being encouraged for the 2017 *Kent Life* and *Kent on Sunday* Food & Drink Awards. The awards dinner will take place in October, from 6.30pm until midnight. Details of our venue will be revealed next month.

The prestigious awards, which launched in 2013, are designed to champion, highlight and offer a showcase to the great and the good from the region's food and drink industry, including local producers and suppliers, small farming businesses, chefs, restaurants, pubs and hoteliers.

All will be people who care about the countryside and the future of our local environment. The companies included will all be nominated by you, our wonderful readers. We want to know if you've received a fantastic meal at your local pub or have been impressed by the produce and service at your neighbourhood Farmers' Market or farm shop.

The nomination form is available overleaf and will be repeated next month. It is also available to complete online at: kentfda.co.uk, where you can read more about the awards and see pictures of last year's winners.

ENTRIES CLOSE ON 7 AUGUST 2017.

Our handpicked panel of high-profile judges who all live and work in Kent will then select a shortlist, kickstarting the independent judging

process where finalists will be visited or interviewed to determine a worthy winner in each category.

All finalists will be invited to the prestigious awards ceremony, where they will enjoy a Champagne reception and three-course meal with wine before finding out if they are a winner.

This is our fifth Food & Drink Awards and we are immensely proud to be able to offer you once again the opportunity to reward and recognise the deserving businesses within our local food and drink industry that go above and beyond expectations.

These awards are what *you* make of them so if you are the owner of a restaurant, a chef or local producer, then spread the word among your clients, customers and visitors.

It takes no time at all to make your nomination. You can email, post or nominate online. The judging panel is looking for quality over quantity, focusing on good comments rather than simply the number of nominations received, so everybody is in with a chance no matter how big or small their business.

Don't forget to let us know when you have made your recommendation on our Twitter page @kentlife and @KOSMedia by using #kentfda – similarly, if you are looking for nominations, please use the hashtag. ▶

Nominate your Kent food and drink favourites by using the form on the next page or email us at fda@archant.co.uk or nominate at kentfda.co.uk



Does your favourite restaurant offer food as good as our 2016 winner Read's?



The Food & Drink 2016 judging panel: best job ever?



Do you know a chef as talented as our 2016 winner Graham Garrett?



More delights from our 2016 Chef of the Year at The West House

KENT LIFE
Kent on Sunday
FOOD & DRINK
AWARDS 2017

Name of entry:

Nominee's address:

Category:

Reason for nomination:

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Your name:

Address:

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Tel:

Email:

Send your nominations to:
 Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PP or email your nominations to fda@archant.co.uk or enter your nomination online at kentfda.co.uk by **7 August 2017**.

The 12 categories

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by *K Sports*



This award is open to businesses that have started a new venture in the food and/or drink industry in the past 18 months. We want to know what impact it has made on the local community, success so far and plans for the future.

FARM SHOP OF THE YEAR

SPONSOR TO
BE CONFIRMED

A successful farm shop must not only offer a range of produce in an accessible layout, but also work in partnership with local food producers in order to bring their customers the best seasonal produce, at its freshest best.

PUB OF THE YEAR

SPONSOR TO
BE CONFIRMED

Whether it's the food, the drink, the good company or the strong role in the community (ideally, all of them) we want to find the best pubs in the county. Tell us why you love your favourite – it could be your local or one you are happy to travel miles to.

INDEPENDENT CAFÉ/TEA ROOM OF THE YEAR

SPONSOR TO
BE CONFIRMED

Judges of this category will be looking for a café, either on its own or as part of a garden centre, museum or farm venue that really meets the needs of its customers.

Does it demonstrate attention to diners both in terms of its food offering, atmosphere, information and variety of menu? Is the tea and coffee served always of tip-top quality?

FARMERS' MARKET OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by *Perrys Accountants*



Exceptional as Standard

The key to a good Farmers' Market is not only the range of produce and the quality of the stalls but also the principles it supports. For example, does it work with other farmers? Is most of the produce sold there grown locally? Are the stallholders welcoming and knowledgeable and is the layout easy to navigate? Are any extras offered on a regular basis, such as cookery demonstrations or talks? Is it well advertised and is there good accessibility and parking?

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by *Canterbury Auction Galleries*



The restaurant of the year will offer a fabulous dining experience, everything from ambience to the service and most importantly, the food. Are ingredients locally sourced? Is the drinks list local as well as international? Can staff tell you more about the food and drink if you ask? Whether it's big or small, if it ranks high for fine dining, give it your vote.

CHEF OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by *Umbermaster Kitchens*



This award aims to recognise those chefs who show an exceptional awareness of produce and have the knowledge and expertise to use their ingredients to create sensational, seasonal menus – local sourcing is a bonus as always.

BEST INDEPENDENT FOOD & DRINK RETAILER

Sponsored by *Illuminate Skin Clinics*



This winner will consistently show an expert knowledge and passion for their trade, whether a deli, wine or beer store, greengrocer, butcher or baker. They will support great local produce.

PRODUCT/PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

SPONSOR TO
BE CONFIRMED

This award recognises local producers whose passion for Kent produce is at the heart of their business. It's open to all producers who demonstrate a real passion for our county's food and drink.

OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE

SPONSOR TO
BE CONFIRMED

Nothing makes a business stand out more than excellent customer service, no matter the size of the company. So if staff at a food and/or drink venue consistently give you a warm welcome, go the extra mile and make you feel at your ease, vote for them here.

FAMILY DINING AWARD – NEW

Sponsored by *The Foxhunter Park*



This is the place that never fails to keep the kids happy, without forgetting the parents. Do you know somewhere offering tasty, reasonably priced, nutritious children's meals as well as facilities to keep the children entertained in a welcoming environment? Then tell us about it.

FOOD & DRINK HERO OF THE YEAR



This person will have made a lasting contribution to the food and drink community. It could be a celebrity, a critic, a barman, waiter or farmer who goes that extra mile to make a difference in the food and drink industry in Kent

The 2016 Winners

Be inspired by our fabulous winners of the 2016 Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards. Your favourite pub, restaurant, farm shop or café could be enjoying their moment in the spotlight this year - or it could be you! This is your chance to shout about all the great businesses and people in Kent's food and drink industry



2016 Independent Food or Drink Retailer winner Macknade Fine Foods



2016 Farm Shop winner Lower Hardres



2016 Food & Drink Hero winner Julian Barnes



2016 Customer Service winner Hendricks of Hythe



2016 Food Producer winner Kent Collection Smokehouse and Charcuterie



2016 Drink Producer winner Anno Distillers



2016 Pub of the Year winner Tyler's Kiln



2016 Chef of the Year winner Graham Garrett



2016 Newcomer winner Sulston's Kitchen



2016 Café of the Year winner Finch House



2016 Farmers' Market winner West Malling



2016 Restaurant winner Read's Restaurant with Rooms