



**ROYAL
QUEENSLAND
AWARDS**
SHOWCASING AUSTRALIA'S BEST



MEDIA RELEASE

8 May 2025

Australia's best cheese goes 'the full monte'

The nation's best cheese has been crowned today, with a Melbourne cheesemaker taking out the top gong in the RNA's prestigious Royal Queensland Awards supported by King Street, which announced Australia's finest produce at the Brisbane Showgrounds today.

Australia's best beef, lamb, cheese, dairy, ice cream, gelato and sorbet were awarded today from a total of 540 entries. The number of cheese and dairy entries in the competition increased by 35 per cent compared to 2024.

Montefiore Cheese from Victoria was awarded the Grand Champion Cheese or Dairy Product of Show for their Trecce, giving the Melbourne business, who uses time honoured Italian recipes, a cheesy grin.

Meanwhile, the nation's best ice cream, gelato and sorbet was taken out by Scoop Gelati Bar from Burleigh on the Gold Coast for its Yuzu Gelato.

Tasmania can lay claim to being the beef and lamb capital of Australia this year with the state producing the Grand Champion Branded Beef of Show (Paradigm Foods' ICON XB Wagyu) and Champion Branded Lamb of Show (Royal Wholesale Meats' Tasmanian Royal).

Chief Judge of the Royal Queensland Ice Cream, Gelato and Sorbet Awards and Royal Queensland Cheese and Dairy Awards Russell Smith said the Grand Champion cheese was phenomenal and the standard of entries across the two dairy competitions was very high.

"The Montefiore Trecce was exceptional quality, scoring 19 points, and certainly deserves its Grand Champion status. It's rare for this type of cheese to win over cheddars and blues which have more complex flavours, speaking volumes about how excellent it is," he said.

Ice Cream, Gelato and Sorbet Judge Savannah Sexton said the Grand Champion gelato was exceptional.

"The Yuzu Gelato was balanced in flavour, very creamy and refreshing, and the acid from the yuzu rounded it out nicely," she said.

Chief Judge of the Royal Queensland Branded Beef and Lamb Awards Elaine Millar said the competition was very tight and the visual and taste judging was challenging due to the extraordinary quality of the majority of entries.



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“The Grand Champion ICON XB Wagyu from Paradigm Foods’ Tasmanian herd is a very deserving winner of the Branded Beef category. It offered the perfect balance of juiciness, tenderness and structure,” she said.

“The Tasmanian Royal Lamb from Royal Wholesale Meats earned its Champion title for its complexity of delicate yet luscious sweet and savoury flavours including shortbread, pureed macadamia and the richness of Chanterelle mushrooms sauted in homemade butter.

“Every year the judging panel is overwhelmed by the escalation in the quality of the Branded Beef and Lamb Entries. It is an outstanding achievement by our dedicated Australian producers and our retail and food service industries and ultimately the end diner are the beneficiaries.”

Some of today’s award-winning products will be showcased on the Royal Queensland Cooking Stage at the Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) which is now just 93 days away.

GRAND CHAMPION BRANDED BEEF OF SHOW (Australia’s best steak)

ICON XB Wagyu by Paradigm Foods

CHAMPION BRANDED LAMB OF SHOW (Australia’s best lamb)

Tasmanian Royal by Royal Wholesale Meats

GRAND CHAMPION DAIRY PRODUCT OF SHOW (Australia’s best cheese)

Montefiore Trecce by Montefiore Cheese Aust Pty Ltd

GRAND CHAMPION ICE CREAM, GELATO OR SORBET OF SHOW (Australia’s best ice cream)

Yuzu Gelato by Scoop Gelati

OTHER BEEF TROPHY WINNERS

CHAMPION MSA GRADED BRANDED BEEF OF SHOW

Stockyard Gold by Stockyard Beef

Grain Fed Class Class 1

Gold: Stockyard Gold by Stockyard Beef

Silver: Angus Reserve Black Angus Beef by NH Foods Australia

Bronze: Southern Grain 150 Day Angus by Australian Meat Group

Grass Fed Class Class 2

Gold: Josdale Angus Grass Fed by Australian Meat Group



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Silver: Southern Ranges Grass Fed by Australian Meat Group

Bronze: Angus Pure Grass Fed Beef by Thomas Foods International

Wagyu Class AUS-MEAT Marble Score 6 or less

Gold: Tajima Australian Grainfed Wagyu by Andrews Meat Industries

Silver: Black Opal by Harmony Agriculture & Food Company Pty Ltd

Bronze: Yugo XB Wagyu by Paradigm Foods

Wagyu Class AUS-MEAT Marble Score 7+

Gold: ICON XB Wagyu by Paradigm Foods

Silver: Kiwami by Stockyard by Stockyard Beef

Bronze: Tajima Australian Grainfed Wagyu by Andrews Meat Industries

Open Class

Gold: JBS Australia Yardstick MB2+ by JBS Australia

Silver: Coles Finest Carbon Neutral Beef by Coles

Bronze: Kilcoy Diamond Choice by Kilcoy Global Foods

OTHER LAMB TROPHY WINNERS

Branded Lamb – 20 kg or less

Gold: Lamb of Tasmania Trade Lamb by Tasmanian Lamb Company

Silver: Tasmanian Royal by Royal Wholesale Meats

Bronze: Royal Trade by Royal Wholesale Meats

Branded Lamb – More than 20kg

Gold: Tasmanian Royal by Royal Wholesale Meats

Silver: Royal Trade by Royal Wholesale Meats



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Bronze: White Pyrenees Lamb by WHITE STRIPE FOODS PTY LTD

Restaurant Trade Branded Lamb – More than 24kg

Gold: Australian Whole Meats/Minerva Foods

Silver: Royal Trade by Royal Wholesale Meats

Bronze: Tasmanian Royal by Royal Wholesale Meats

OTHER CHEESE AND DAIRY TROPHY WINNERS

CHAMPION COW'S MILK CHEESE OF SHOW

Montefiore Trece by Montefiore Cheese Aust Pty Ltd

CHAMPION NON COW'S MILK CHEESE OF SHOW

Florida Cheese Buffalo Mozzarella by Florida Cheese Pty Ltd

CHAMPION DAIRY DESSERT OR YOGHURT OF SHOW

Maleny Gourmet Passionfruit Yoghurt by Maleny Cheese

DAIRY AUSTRALIA CHAMPION BUTTER, MILK OR CREAM OF SHOW

Norco Pure Jersey Milk by Norco Foods

CHAMPION BUFFALO, GOAT, SHEEP OR OTHER NON-COW'S MILK PRODUCT OF SHOW

Natural Sheep Milk Yoghurt by Meredith Dairy

CHAMPION QUEENSLAND CHEESE OR DAIRY PRODUCT OF SHOW

Blackall Gold Washed Rind by Woombye Cheese

OTHER ICE CREAM, GELATO AND SORBET TROPHY WINNERS

CHAMPION VANILLA, CHOCOLATE OR STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM OR GELATO OF SHOW

Lindt Chocolate 70% by The Standard Market Company

CHAMPION FLAVOURED ICE CREAM OR GELATO OF SHOW

Yuzu Gelato by Scoop Gelati

CHAMPION ICE CREAM OR GELATO OF SHOW

Yuzu Gelato by Scoop Gelati

CHAMPION SORBET OF SHOW

Spicy Pineapple Sorbet with a touch of Tequila by Wicked Ice Cream



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For further information about the Royal Queensland Awards and a complete list of beef, lamb, cheese, dairy, ice cream, gelato and sorbet competition results, visit www.rqa.com.au.

Don't forget to follow us on social media @royalqueenslandawards

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