



Media Release

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The crème de la crème of Australian cheese and ice-cream revealed

Parmesan has been crowned Australia's king of cheese after taking out the top award in the Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show's (RQFWS) Cheese and Dairy Produce Show, while Grand Jaffa flavour was crowned the nation's best ice-cream in Brisbane today.

Serendipity from NSW beat 175 ice-cream, gelato and sorbet entries with their Grand Jaffa flavoured ice-cream while Victoria's Lion Dairy & Drinks Mil Lel Superior Parmesan won the prestigious Palatable Partner Champion Cheese of Show.

Judges were spoilt for choice as they tasted the best of the best cheeses from across the country and were treated to some exotic flavours in the ice-cream, gelato and sorbet judging including lychee and mint, basil, coconut ice and lemon meringue.

RQFWS Chief Judge Russell Smith said it wasn't common for parmesan to take out the Palatable Partner Champion Cheese of Show, but this one was special.

"This parmesan is so much better than a lot of imported parmesans from Italy, it's fantastic," he said.

"I'd like to see more Australians using Australian parmesans, Mil Lel Superior Parmesan proves just how good they can be."

Mr Smith said the competition was a success with a very high standard of products entered.

"The quality of entries at the RQFWS over the last four years just continues to get better and better," he said.

"The ice-cream panel were very impressed with the amount of superb products entered.

"There were also several first time entrants who have won medals, which is very encouraging."

The Dairy Produce Show has been a major part of the Royal Queensland Show's (Ekka) history, stemming back to the first ever exhibition in 1876.

It wasn't until 2011 that the Ice Cream, Gelato and Sorbet Competition was introduced as a stand-alone competition, being the first competition in Australia dedicated to judging the best in sorbets, gelato and ice cream.

The RQFWS, established in 2009, comprises of eight individual competitions showcasing the best in Cheese and Dairy, Ice-Cream, Branded Beef, Branded Lamb, Wine, Sausages, Beer and Cider, and Ham, Bacon and Smallgoods.

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The RQFWS has surpassed all expectations and is recognised as one of Australia's premier food and wine competitions.

The award winning products will also feature at this year's Ekka.

Australia's best cheese and dairy

- **Palatable Partners Champion Cheese Of Show:** Mil LeI Superior Parmesan produced by Lion Dairy & Drinks
- **Dairy Australia Champion Dairy Dessert or Yoghurt of Show:** Belgian Chocolate Mousse - Swiss Dark produced by Nicholson Fine Foods
- **Dairy Australia Champion Butter, Milk or Cream of Show:** Big River Milk Pasteurised & Homgenised produced by Big River Milk
- **Champion Buffalo, Goat or Sheep Milk Product:** Goat Curd produced by BoatShed Cheese
- **Champion Queensland Cheese or Dairy Product of Show:** Maleny Gourmet Apple & Cinnamon Yoghurt produced by Maleny Cheese
- **Grand Champion Dairy Product of Show:** Mil LeI Superior Parmesan produced by Lion Dairy & Drinks

Australia's best ice-cream, gelato and sorbet

- **Majors Group Champion Vanilla or Chocolate Ice-Cream or Gelato of Show:** Milk Chocolate produced by Paolo's Gelato
- **Majors Group Champion Flavoured Ice-Cream or Gelato of Show:** Grand Jaffa Ice Cream produced by Serendipity Ice Cream
- **Majors Group Champion Ice-Cream or Gelato of Show:** Grand Jaffa Ice Cream produced by Serendipity Ice Cream
- **Majors Group Champion Sorbet of Show:** Mango Sorbet produced by Serendipity Ice Cream
- **Majors Group Champion Queensland Ice-Cream, Gelato or Sorbet of Show:** Burnt Caramel produced by House of Gelato
- **Majors Group Grand Champion Ice-Cream, Gelato or Sorbet of Show:** Grand Jaffa Ice Cream produced by Serendipity Ice Cream

Competition winners earn the right to display their gold, silver, bronze or trophy show medal on product packaging, ensuring consumers know they are buying the best of the best in that product range.

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