

MEDIA RELEASE

October, 2009

RASPBERRY, MACADAMIA & ALMOND HIT THE RIGHT NOTES

Spring 2009 Sydney Royal Fine Food Show Regional Food Results

Raspberry, macadamia, roasted almond and orange blossom honey were the flavours to tickle the taste buds of the judges at the recent Spring Sydney Royal Fine Food Show.

Cuttaway Creek Raspberry Farm in Mittagong walked away with two Champion awards for their Raspberry Wine Vinegar - Champion Regional Food Exhibit and Champion Savoury Product.

Cuttaway Creek Raspberry Farm owner Dave Penn says the wins have been a sweet success on many levels.

"We're thrilled to have received such high recognition in a very competitive industry. After all the hard work that's gone into growing our fruit and developing our products it's great to be acknowledged, and receiving the Champion Regional Food Exhibit Award is our greatest achievement to date, said Mr Penn.

"The benefits of winning Sydney Royal are already showing, we're currently experienced a substantial increase in sales as a direct result of the awards and medals we received."

The Champion Sweet Product was awarded to Rinaldi Confectionary from Pasadena in South Australia, for their roasted almond nougat with orange blossom honey.

Jelbonleigh Estate in Wahroonga was awarded the Champion Speciality Product for their macadamia nut butter.

"To win a Champion award has been an absolute delight. I'm such a small producer and after ten years in the business this has been a wonderful acknowledgment," said **Donna Burton, Jelbonleigh Estate owner.**

Standards were high and so was the medal count, with an increase in gold, silver and bronze medals compared to 2008.

The final medal tally was 141, with 7 Gold, 43 Silver and 91 Bronze medals awarded across the Competition's 13 classes.

RAS Fine Food Chair, Lyndey Milan says the Regional Food Competition is a wonderful way to see the way food trends are developing in Australia.

"We constantly refine the classes within the competition to reflect this and stay at the forefront of the industry. To win at the Sydney Royal is an outstanding achievement, there's not better competition than this, said Ms Milan.

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“It’s gratifying to see some products just get better and better every year. While the Rinaldi nougat was a winner last year, the judges commented that it was exceptional this year.”

Judges award gold medals to products which gain 90 or more points based on a set of strict criteria.

“The Sydney Royal Fine Food show has a nation-wide reputation for uncompromising standards and therefore any win at Sydney is highly regarded in the market place,” said Ms Milan.

Other highlights included a Gold medal for Nicholson Fine Foods in Yamba for their Euro style Spiced Beetroot Finishing Vinegar.

Brookfarm in Byron Bay won Gold for their roasted macadamia nuts with bush pepper spice. Yalla in Maroubra won Gold for their beetroot relish and Gold also went to Newcastle’s Pudding Lady for their premium vintage age Christmas pudding.

The Regional Food Competition recognises the diversity of Australia’s food industry and the contribution these value added products make to over 70 regions across the country.

Boasting over 350 entries this year, the variety and demand for regional food continues to grow, extending into chilli products; sweet jams & preserves; nut & cereal products; savoury sauces & pickled products; fruit products; drinks; value added honey products; oils and vinegars, dressings & marinades.

Entries in the Regional Food Competition must be of 95% Australian origin.

Discerning consumers can be confident in the excellence of produce which displays Sydney Royal medals on the packaging.

Sponsored by the **NSW Food Authority**, the Regional Food Competition was added to the Sydney Royal Fine Food Show in 2003.

A list of Gold, Silver and Bronze medal winners can be found by visiting www.sydneyroyalshows.com.au.

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REGIONAL FOOD

CHAMPION REGIONAL FOOD EXHIBIT
CUTTAWAY CREEK RASPBERRY FARM
RASPBERRY WINE VINEGAR

CHAMPION SWEET PRODUCT
RINALDI CONFECTIONARY PTY LTD
ROASTED ALMOND NOUGAT WITH ORANGE BLOSSOM HONEY

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CHAMPION SAVOURY PRODUCT
CUTTAWAY CREEK RASPBERRY FARM
RASPBERRY WINE VINEGAR

CHAMPION SPECIALITY PRODUCT
JELBONLEIGH ESTATE
MACADAMIA NUT BUTTER

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