
Independent retailers from Scotland named finalists in Shop of the Year 2019

The Guild of Fine Food's annual Shop of the Year awards, an accreditation scheme which recognises and promotes excellence in independent retail, has announced its finalists for 2019. Out of the 45 independent retail outlets named, six from Scotland are among those in the running to win in the following categories: Delicatessen & Grocer, Specialist Food or Drink Shop, Farm Shop (farmer owned), Food Hall and Specialist Cheese Shop.

Having had a written entry reviewed by a panel of respected industry experts, these independent retailers, which include The Cheese Lady, a specialist cheese shop in Haddington, Ayr-based concept bakery, Bhaile Craft Bakery, and The Dumfries Larder, will now undergo two further rounds of judging; an announced visit from one of the judges and a mystery shop carried out by Insight6. Shop of the Year 2019 will reach its exciting finale on Monday 11 March when the world of fine food gather at Fodder Farm Shop and Café in Harrogate to find out the winners of each category, following Fine Food Show North, the Guild of Fine Food's trade-only event.

Scotland's Shop of the Year finalists:

Ardross Farm Shop, Elie – Farm Shop (farmer owned)

The Cheese Lady, Haddington – Specialist Cheese Shop

The House of Bruar, Perthshire – Food Hall

The Dumfries Larder, Dumfries – Delicatessen & Grocer

The Mainstreet Trading Company, Roxburghshire – Delicatessen & Grocer

Bhaile Craft Bakery, Ayr – Specialist Food or Drink Shop

From overall shopping experience and financial performance to staff training opportunities and environmental initiatives in place, the panel of judges, which includes Edward Berry of The Flying Fork, Stuart Gates, former managing director at Fortnum & Mason and senior buyer at Harrods, award-winning retailer Tracey Colley and food writer, Patrick McGuigan, will rate, score and provide feedback on every aspect of the shops before agreeing on an overall category winner.