



GourmetQuesos breaks participation record again

Nobody wanted to miss it, the semi-final of the 15th GourmetQuesos, The Best Spanish Cheeses Championship 2025, which took place on 19 and 20 March at the School of Hospitality and Tourism of Madrid, broke its own record for the number of samples presented.

Cheeses from every corner of Spain, 895 samples in total, were received by the Championship Organisers at the Madrid Association of Catering Companies (AMER).

For two days, the 64 tasting judges have tasted, smelled and savor, all the samples submitted to choose the 100 cheeses that will go on to the grand final, within the 20 categories that make up the competition. Aspects such as rind, colour, texture and flavour are the criteria taken into account when choosing the 5 best cheeses in each category. The professional jury was made up of technicians, cheese masters, shop managers, bloggers and gastronomic journalists, chefs, purchasing managers from large supermarkets and restaurant managers.

The grand final will take place next Monday 7 April but it will not be until Thursday 10 April when we will know the winners. There will be 40 judges in charge of choosing, by means of a blind tasting, the 3 best in each category and therefore they will opt for the title of Best Cheese of Spain 2025.

2nd Cheese from Spain Awards - ICEX

This category, promoted by ICEX Spain Exports and Investment, had 50 samples submitted. The international jury will be made up of professionals from the sector such as Burkhard Endemann (Germany), Michelle Buster (USA), Michaël Belissa (France), Jurre Hans Lodewijk Beijneveld (Netherlands), Nicholas Gibbs Bayne (United Kingdom) and Rolf Beeler (Switzerland). New this year, a maximum of 10 Gold prizes can be awarded, plus a special Champion Gold prize for the cheese chosen by an absolute majority. All the winning cheeses will be able to participate in different promotional activities promoted by ICEX in foreign markets.

Finalist cheeses



**From 7 to 10 April 2025
at Ifema Madrid**

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