

INNOVATION TAKES CENTRE STAGE AT THE 14TH SALÓN GOURMETS AWARDS 2026

These awards recognise the most original and eye-catching new products presented at the Salón Gourmets; this year, the Award for Best International Product has been added to the categories of Innovation, Presentation (Packaging) and Best Organic Product

The prizes for the social media competitions have also been awarded: the users' favourite stand was 'Sabor a Málaga', and a social media user guessed the 'Mystery Product', which turned out to be Esir's saffron coffee

Furthermore, today Savel cheese, from Airas Moniz, was named Best Cheese in Spain 2026, whilst Rey Silo Blanco, from Ernesto Madera and produced in Pravia (Asturias), was awarded the Champion Gold prize at the ICEX Cheese from Spain Awards, an award designed to support Spanish cheese producers with export potential



Madrid, 16 April 2026.– The final day of Salón Gourmets (SG), Europe's leading trade fair for quality food and drink, is traditionally one of the most eagerly anticipated. A day marked by the presentation of the year's main new products and the presentation of the Salón Gourmets Awards, which are celebrating their 14th anniversary this year. These awards recognise the innovative efforts of exhibitors and highlight those products that stand out for their originality, development and ability to set trends in the gastronomic sector. In 2026, the awards are divided into four categories: Innovation, Presentation (Packaging), Best Organic Product and, as a new addition, Best International Product, introduced this year to highlight offerings from beyond our borders that have become part of the Spanish gastronomic landscape.

WINNERS OF THE 14TH SALÓN GOURMET AWARDS

Innovation Awards:

First prize: Creamy cocoa polvorón with Lacasitos sprinkles, coated in milk chocolate. Exhibitor: La Estepeña

Second prize: Chicken breast and a blend of aromatic rice, with whole grains and a subtle toasted aroma. Exhibitor: Frinsa

Third prize: Reverse spherification of salmorejo. Exhibitor: Trezesferas

Packaging Awards:

First prize: Albert Adrià's Bitter Almond Nougat Exhibitor: Torrons Vicens

Second prize: Artisan ice cream in a new 125ml single-serve format Exhibitor: Helados Palacio

Third prize: Pack of 4 seasoning blends to explore flavours from around the world in your own kitchen Exhibitor: Especies El Avión

Best Organic Producer Awards:

First prize: Organic vinegar made from Piedra Luenga Pedro Ximénez wine Exhibitor: Bodegas Robles

Second prize: Filtered natural cider from organic apples from Asturias Exhibitor: El Gaitero

Third prize: Dry young white wine made from the small-grained Muscat variety Exhibitor: Viñas Familia Gil

Award for Best International Product:

First prize: Tub-shaped crisps made from native Peruvian potatoes Exhibitor: Tiyapui

Second prize: Honey with hints of blackberry, with a delicate, fruity flavour. Ideal for cheeses and desserts Exhibitor: Casafolino

Third prize: White sausage with duck foie gras Exhibitor: Maison Huchin

AWARDS ON SOCIAL MEDIA TOO

The Salón Gourmets event extends beyond the exhibition centre and is also experienced on social media. This year saw the 7th #MistandfavoritoSG26 competition and the 6th #ProductoincóginitoSG26 competition. The first of these allows users to choose their favourite stand from among those selected by the organisers. In this 39th edition, the award went to Sabor a Málaga. Meanwhile, in #ProductoincóginitoSG26, Salón Gourmets selects an unknown product which social media users must identify using the various clues provided on Instagram over the four days of the event. One social media user guessed the secret product: saffron coffee, from the exhibitor Esir.

THE BEST CHEESES IN SPAIN

One of the most eagerly awaited moments of the day was the final of GourmetQuesos, the country's most prestigious cheese competition. With over 800 samples assessed by 64 judges, following two qualifying rounds and across 20 categories, Savel cheese, from Airas Moniz, produced in Chantada (Lugo), was chosen as Spain's Best Cheese 2026, standing out for its organoleptic qualities and excellence in production. Meanwhile, the ICEX Cheese from Spain Awards, promoted by ICEX Spain Export and Investment to support the sector's internationalisation, have awarded their highest accolade to Rey Silo Blanco cheese, by Ernesto Madera, produced in Pravia (Asturias), which was chosen as Champion Gold by the international jury.

WOMEN IN GASTRONOMY: PROMOTING TALENT AND COLLABORATION





Today, the Women in Gastronomy Association (MEG) presented its work as a national network of professionals in the sector, as well as details of the 2nd National Congress of Women in Gastronomy, to be held on 10 and 11 May in Alicante. The event will bring together professionals from across Spain to address the sector's main challenges, with a particular focus on sustainability, innovation and female leadership, establishing itself as a forum for reflection, exchange and the creation of new opportunities.

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