

Meet the kitchen all-stars

It's that time again when we reveal the results of our annual survey to find the products that chefs and restaurants simply can't do without. And the winners are...

What is the one gadget that tops every chef's wish list? Who is the industry's go-to coffee supplier for a first-rate caffeine experience? And what equipment do restaurants up and down the country use to prepare their food?

Restaurant reveals the answers to all these questions, plus a whole lot more besides, and discovers the products, services, brands and suppliers that make the industry tick. We canvassed the views of chefs and restaurateurs across the country and asked them to vote for their top products and services in 21 categories, ranging from their combi-oven of choice to their favoured drinks supplier.

Now in its third year, the Chefs' Choice Awards, as the survey has become known, recognise the



Kit's a knockout: chefs voted for their top products and services

star players in food, drink and equipment as voted for by the industry itself. It's an important exercise because it identifies what products chefs really use and rate - those behind-the-scenes suppliers that form the backbone of the eating-out sector - and celebrates the innovation and product development that companies continue to bring to the restaurant world.

The results are a mixture of well-known companies and brands and some smaller players that have impressed this year, either by offering a more bespoke service or driving innovation. Over the next few pages you will find out what makes some of the winners stand out from the crowd.

Turn over for a selection of award-winners' profiles

Chefs' Choice Awards 2012

The top-rated suppliers, brands and products as chosen by the people who really matter

Best Bottled Water Brand

Winner **San Pellegrino**
Highly Commended **Hildon**

Best Chocolate Brand

Winner **Barry Callebaut**
Highly Commended **Vairhona**

Best Coffee Brand

Winner **illy**
Highly Commended **Lavazza**

Best Combi-oven

Winner **Rational**
Highly Commended **Electrolux**

Best Condiment Brand

Winner **Heinz**
Highly Commended **Knorr Patak's**

Best Cooking Range

Winner **Charvet**
Highly Commended **Hobart Bonnet**

Best Drinks Supplier

Winner **Matthew Clark**
Highly Commended **WaverleyTBS**

Best Energy Drink Brand

Winner **Red Bull**
Highly Commended **Lucozade**

Best EPoS Supplier

Winner **Micros**
Highly Commended **TISSL**

Best Equipment Distributor

Winner **CCS**
Highly Commended **Nisbets**

Best Equipment Brand

Winner **Robot Coupe**
Highly Commended **Electrolux**

Best Fish Supplier

Winner **M&J Seafood**
Highly Commended **Direct Seafoods**

Best Foodservice Company

Winner **Brakes/Wild Harvest**
Highly Commended **John Mower**

Best Frozen Brand

Winner **Boiron**
Highly Commended **Lamb Weston**

Best Gadget

Winner **Thermomix**
Highly Commended **Clifton Water Bath**

Best Knife Supplier

Winner **Global**
Highly Commended **Victorinox**

Best Meat Supplier

Winner **Aubrey Allen**
Highly Commended **Direct Meats**

Best Pan Brand

Winner **Bourgeat**
Highly Commended **All-Clad**

Best Soft Drinks Brand

Winner **Coca-Cola**
Highly Commended **Britvic**

Best Stock Brand

Winner **Nestlé CHEF**
Highly Commended **Knorr, Essential Cuisine (tied)**

Best Tableware Supplier

Winner **Villeroy & Boch**
Highly Commended **Churchill**

