



GOAT, MEXICAN CHEESE WHEEL IN THE AWARDS AT THE 2018 LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL DAIRY COMPETITION

POMONA, CA (March 8, 2018) – Described as being aromatic and having a robust flavor profile, *fromage de chèvre* – or goat cheese – thrilled judges at the 2018 Los Angeles International Dairy Competition. The earthy alternative to cow’s milk cheese, goat cheeses took home 31 gold medals and three silver, putting a spotlight on artisanal cheeses.

“We not only saw an increase in goat cheese entries but judges said the quality of the goat entries was amazing,” said Amy Pond-Cirelli, competition coordinator.

Often referred to in general as *chèvre*, French for goat, goat cheeses have a tart, earthy flavor that sets them apart. The distinctive tang and aroma grows more robust as the cheese ages.

Another new phenomenon for the competition was the increase and subsequent favorable outcomes for Mexican cheeses. Queso cotija, queso Oaxaca, queso Panela, quesos Frescos and quesos para Fundir were well represented, winning eight golds and one silver.

The competition was held March 3 at Fairplex, home of the LA County Fair with 375 entries. Winners will be displayed at the Fair, Aug. 31-Sept. 23, and become part of the Fair’s annual dairy education program, which offers insights into California’s dairy and agriculture history to the Fair’s 1.3 million guests.

Lidl U.S., the private label for the Lidl grocery store chain, also received several medals for its dairy products, including butter, cheese, ice cream and yogurt.

Representing nostalgia and its steadfast grasp on ice cream, Thrifty Ice Cream took home several medals, including golds for its Rocky Road, Rainbow Sherbet and Chocolate Malted Krunch.

In total, judges awarded 277 golds, 69 silver and 18 bronze medals. The Danish judging system is used, in which each entry is judged based on its own merit, and not against other entries. International entries hailed from Britain, France, Spain and the Netherlands.

Entries also came from these states: California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin.

A complete list of medal winners is available at www.ladairycomp.com.

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