

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Finalists for the 2018 Bar of the Year Awards Announced

Following extensive deliberations and many miles travelled up and down the country visiting all the entrants, the finalists for the **2018 Bar of the Year Awards** have been announced. From over 500 entries, a 30% increase on last year, the judges have whittled down the shortlist to just 125 outstanding bars.

Now in their 13th year, the awards celebrate all that is great about Irish pubs, clubs and bars and showcase the high standards of the Licensed Trade across the country. In the midst of the World Cup, categories such as **Bar Food of the Year** and **Best Bar to Watch the Match** will be of particular interest to the bar going public as well as the anticipation as to who are the contenders for the enviable overall **Bar of the Year**.

All shortlisted premises are eligible for the **Southern Comfort People's Choice Awards**, voted for by the public. Voting will be carried out provincially in Dublin, Leinster, Munster, Connacht/Ulster with the winners of each province announced on the night from which the coveted **National Southern Comfort People's Choice** winner will be chosen! To vote for your favourite bar, go to www.licensingworld.ie/public-vote/.

The winners of all categories will be revealed at a gala awards ceremony on **20th August** in the **Clayton Hotel Burlington Road, Dublin** and will be hosted by **Newstalk's Tom Dunne**.

Following the success of last year's Tasting Village, once again, local artisan distillers and craft brewers from across Ireland will have the opportunity to showcase their unique products to over 500 of the best in the trade.



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Commenting on the finalists, Katherine O’Riordan, Event Director said “With locally produced spirits and craft beers continuing to thrive, it’s great to see bars across Ireland stepping up to the plate being equally creative and innovative with the service they provide. These awards give us the chance to shine a light on the unique bars at the hearts of cities and towns across Ireland and we look forward to turning the tables and showing them a great night out for a change.”

‘The quality of the offering in the licensed trade sector was highlighted during the site visits for this year’s awards. High quality products and services were on offer with increasing evidence of investment in staff training resulting in enhanced customer experiences. It’s encouraging to see the pub trade in Ireland showing innovation, new product offerings and commitment to increased levels of customer service,’ said Gail Cotter Buckley, Member of the Judging Panel and Bar Management Lecturer, CIT.

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