

CA STATE FAIR & FOOD FESTIVAL

JULY 14-30, 2023

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Joseph Farms and Sierra Nevada Cheese Company Took Top Honors in the Prestigious 2023 California State Fair Commercial Cheese Competition

In a field of over 113 distinct cheeses, their artisanal creations were awarded as the Best of Show Cheese in their respective categories.

SACRAMENTO — Joseph Farms earned the esteemed Best of Show Cheese - Cow's Milk for their Premium Extra Sharp Cheddar. This special reserve cheddar, aged over 11 years, is a testament to the company's dedication to natural, hormone-free production processes. Its impressive flavor profile reflects the superior quality and attention to detail Joseph Farms consistently brings to their products.

Likewise, Sierra Nevada Cheese Company was recognized with the Best of Show Cheese - Other Milk Type award for their Bella Capra Chèvre. This remarkable cheese is crafted from fresh, local goat milk sourced from a neighboring farm. Its light citrus flavor notes and creamy texture have set a new benchmark in the industry, demonstrating the exemplary artisanal approach that Sierra Nevada Cheese Company embraces.

The annual competition was held at Cal Expo on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, where three panels of nine distinguished judges, led by Chief Judge Mary Dedrick, tasted and evaluated all entries. The judges, selected from respected cheese merchants, writers, promoters, and educators, awarded a total of 105 medals - 57 gold, 30 silver, and 18 bronze among 15 producers.

"This year's Commercial Cheese Competition showcased the immense talent and ingenuity of our state's cheese makers", said Tom Martinez, CEO of Cal Expo and the California State Fair. "We are incredibly proud of all our participants, but particularly Joseph Farms and Sierra Nevada Cheese Company for their outstanding contributions. These award-winning cheeses embody the perfect blend of tradition and innovation that defines California's thriving dairy industry."

A complete listing of award-winning California Cheeses and competition information can be found on the California State Fair website at CalExpoStateFair.com.

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For more information about the California State Fair and its summer concert series, please visit the Fair's website at www.CalExpoStateFair.com.

About the California State Fair

The California State Fair is an international award-winning fair, receiving top honors at the International Association of Fairs and Expositions out of more than 1,100 fairs world-wide. The California State Fair is dedicated as a place to celebrate the best the state has to offer in agriculture, technology and the diversity of its people, traditions and trends that shape the Golden State's future.

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