Manchester's best restaurants and bars according to the Manchester Food and Drink Festival Awards 2018

The best restaurants and bars in Manchester have been recognised in the MFDF Awards 2018

By **Emily Heward**
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The French at The Midland Hotel Manchester (Image: Manchester Evening News)

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After eleven days of street food, supper clubs and sipping on beer and gin in Albert Square, Manchester Food and Drink Festival is packing up for another year.

And tonight, organisers reveal the winners of the prestigious MFDF Awards, recognising the best restaurants and bars in the city as well as the individuals who make Manchester's food and drink scene so special.

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Venues were shortlisted and judged across 18 categories by a panel of industry experts and food and drink critics. The judges' scores were then combined with votes from the public to decide the winners.

Prizes were handed out at a gala dinner at Gorton Monastery tonight, attended by top talent from the city's hospitality industry as well as a celebrities including Coronation Street's Sair Kahn, Mikey North and Victoria Ekanoye, The Smiths' Mike Joyce, XS Radio's Clint Boon and actor Ian Puleston-Davies.

The event marked the end of this year's festival, which attracted around 100,000 visitors to events in Albert Square and around the city.

Phil Jones, festival founding director, said: "The 21st MFDF was a fabulous success this year – the Festival Hub was better than ever and with record visitor figures.

"The awards are the culmination of the event and really celebrate the food and drink talent that is thriving within the Greater Manchester food and drink scene. All the categories were very strong this year and reflect the high standards that are abundant in the city's hospitality industry. The winners should be immensely proud, as should the nominees. Watch this space for details of our 2019 festival!"

Manchester Food and Drink Festival Awards 2018 - all the winners

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

Recognising the 'best of the best' dining establishments in Greater Manchester in 2018. This category can feature restaurants of any style or price point.

THE WINNER

Adam Reid at The French - Peter Street, Manchester, M60 2DS

Adam Reid at The French (Image: Publicity pic)

THE SHORTLIST

The Rabbit – Urbis, Cathedral Gardens, Corporation Street, City Centre, Manchester M4 3BG

Where The Light Gets In - 7 Rostron Brow, Stockport, SK1 1JY

Umezushi - Unit 4, Mirabel Street, Manchester, M3 1PJ

Sugo - 22 Shaw's Road, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 1QU

Levanter - 10 Square St, Ramsbottom, Bury BL0 9AT

Adam Reid at The French - Peter Street, Manchester, M60 2DS

LAST YEAR'S WINNER: Bundobust

PREMIUM AND FINE DINING VENUE OF THE YEAR

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This award recognises the best premium to fine dining establishments across the city.

THE WINNER

Adam Reid at The French - Peter Street, Manchester, M60 2DS

Adam Reid at The French (Image: Publicity pic)

THE SHORTLIST

The Rabbit - Cathedral Gardens, Corporation Street, City Centre, Manchester, M4 3BG

Where The Light Gets In - 7 Rostron Brow, Stockport, SK1 1JY

Umezushi - Unit 4, Mirabel Street, Manchester, M3 1PJ

Hawksmoor - 184-186 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3WB

Grafene - 55 King Street, Manchester, M2 4LQ

Adam Reid at The French - Peter Street, Manchester, M60 2DS

LAST YEAR'S WINNER: El Gato Negro

CASUAL RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

This award aims to recognise the best informal dining establishments in Manchester.

THE WINNER

Levanter - 10 Square St, Ramsbottom, Bury BL0 9AT

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THE SHORTLIST

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THE SHORTLIST

Bundobust - 61 Piccadilly, Manchester, M1 2AG

Sugo - 22 Shaw's Road, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 1QU

Porta - 50 Greenwood Street, Altrincham, WA14 1RZ

Albert's Schloss - 27 Peter St, Manchester, M2 5QR

Elnecot - 41 Blossom Street, Cutting Room Square, Ancoats, Manchester, M4 6AJ

Levanter - 10 Square St, Ramsbottom, Bury BL0 9AT

LAST YEAR'S WINNER: Baratxuri

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Shreddie
or not?

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR - SPONSORED BY MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS

Celebrating the best new food and drink operations to open in Greater Manchester since the last awards decision period in June 2017.

THE WINNER

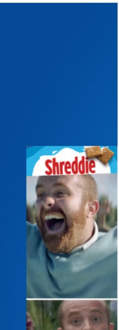
The Creameries - 406 Wilbraham Rd, Manchester, M21 0SD

CHEF OF THE YEAR

Aiming to celebrate the most talented and outstanding work of chefs cooking in Greater Manchester kitchens - his or her skill, menu, commitment and contribution to the dining scene.

THE WINNER

Rachel Stockley, Baratxuri - 1 Smithy St, Ramsbottom, BL0 9AT



CHARCUTERIA

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Baratxuri in Ramsbottom

THE SHORTLIST

Adam Reid, Adam Reid at the French - Peter Street, Manchester, M60 2DS

Sam Buckley, Where The Light Gets In - 7 Rostron Brow, Stockport, SK1 1JY

Richard Sharples, Hispi, 1C School Lane, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 6RD

Ben Mounsey, Grafene - 55 King Street, Manchester, M2 4LQ

Omar Rodriguez Marrero, Umezushi – Unit 4, Mirabel Street, Manchester, M3 1PJ

Rachel Stockley, Baratxuri - 1 Smithy St, Ramsbottom, BL0 9AT

LAST YEAR'S WINNER: Matt Nutter, Allotment

PUB / BEER BAR OF THE YEAR

Recognising the finest pubs in the region, focusing on quality and range of ales/beers and atmosphere.

THE WINNER

Port Street Beer House - 39-41 Port St, Manchester M1 2EQ

Port Street Beer House

THE SHORTLIST

Stalybridge Station Buffet Bar - Platform 4, Stalybridge Railway Station, Rassbottom St, Stalybridge SK15 1RF

Café Beermoth – Brown Street, Manchester, M2 1DA

Trackside Bar, Bolton St Station, Bolton St, Bury BL9 0EY

Heaton Hops - 7 School Ln, Stockport, SK4 5DE

The Bay Horse Tavern - 35-37 Thomas St, Manchester M4 1NA

Port Street Beer House - 39-41 Port St, Manchester M1 2EQ

LAST YEAR'S WINNER: Marble Arch

BAR OF THE YEAR

Recognising the best drinking venues in the region that aren't considered 'pubs'

THE WINNER

Science and Industry - 49 -51 Thomas Street, Manchester, M4 1NA

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Shreddie
or not?

THE SHORTLIST

Cottonopolis - 16 Newton Street, Manchester, M1 2AE

Hawksmoor - 184-186 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3WB

Flok - 5 Stevenson Square, Manchester, M1 1DN

Albert's Schloss - 27 Peter St, Manchester, M2 5QR

Patron – 42 – 44 Oldham Street, Northern Quarter, Manchester, M4 1LE

Science and Industry - 49 -51 Thomas Street, Manchester, M4 1NA

LAST YEAR'S WINNER: The Refuge

OUT OF TOWN VENUE OF THE YEAR

Now in its third year, this award recognises the superb establishments that are based in the suburbs of Greater Manchester.

THE WINNER

Where The Light Gets In - 7 Rostron Brow, Stockport, SK1 1JY

Inside the restaurant at Where The Light Gets In

THE SHORTLIST

The Allotment Vegan Restaurant - 6 Vernon Street, Stockport, SK1 1TY

Sugo - 22 Shaw's Road, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 1QU

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Shreddie
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Porta - 50 Greenwood Street, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 1RZ

Levanter - 10 Square St, Ramsbottom, Bury BL0 9A

The Creameries - 406 Wilbraham Rd, Manchester, M21 0SD

Where The Light Gets In - 7 Rostron Brow, Stockport, SK1 1JY

LAST YEAR'S WINNER: Baratxuri

COFFEE SHOP/TEA SHOP OF THE YEAR

Recognising the best coffee bars and teashops in the region.

THE WINNER

Pot Kettle Black - 14, Barton Arcade, Deansgate, Manchester, M3 2BW

Pot Kettle Black

THE SHORTLIST

Ancoats Coffee - Unit 9, Royal Mills, 17 Redhill Street, Ancoats, M4 5BA

Idle Hands - 35 Dale St, Manchester, M1 2HF

Takk - 6 Tariff St, Manchester, M1 2FF

Ezra and Gil - 20 Hilton St, Manchester, M1 1FR

Fig and Sparrow - 20 Oldham St, Manchester, M1 1JA

Pot Kettle Black - 14, Barton Arcade, Deansgate, Manchester, M3 2BW

LAST YEAR'S WINNER: Trove

AFFORDABLE EATS VENUE OF THE YEAR

Recognising the best venues that are visited for a high value, quick and simple dining experience. This category can include cafes, takeaways and any venue whereby the price point means a main and drink can be purchased for under £10.

THE WINNER

Mi & Pho - 384 Palatine Rd, Northenden, Manchester, M22 4FZ

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MI & PHO
0161 312 3290
Vietnamese Restaurant
Mi & Pho
VIETNAMESE CAFE

Mi & Pho (Image: Facebook)

THE SHORTLIST

Lupo Caffé Italiano – 2.05 Boat Shed, 16 Exchange Quay, Salford, M5 3EQ

Platzki - 255 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 4EN

Eat New York – 64 Oldham Street, Manchester, M4 1LE

Lord of the Pies - 559a Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton, Manchester, M218AN

Fusion Lab - Manchester Arndale Market, M4 3AH

Mi & Pho - 384 Palatine Rd, Northenden, Wythenshawe, Manchester, M22 4FZ

LAST YEAR'S WINNER: Rudy's Pizza

FOOD AND DRINK RETAILER OF THE YEAR

To reflect the growing number and status of food and drink retailers in Greater Manchester. The winner of this category is decided by public vote only.

THE WINNER

Pollen Bakery on New Islington Marina, Ancoats (Image: Manchester Evening News)

Pollen - Unit 2B, Cotton Field Wharf, 8 New Union Street, Manchester, M4 6FQ

THE SHORTLIST

Lunya - Barton Arcade, Deansgate, Manchester, M3 2BB

Epicerie Ludo - 46 Beech Road, Manchester, M21 9EG

Salvi's – The Corn Exchange, Manchester, M4 3TR

Mettrick's Butchers - 63 Melbourne St, Stalybridge, SK15 2JJ

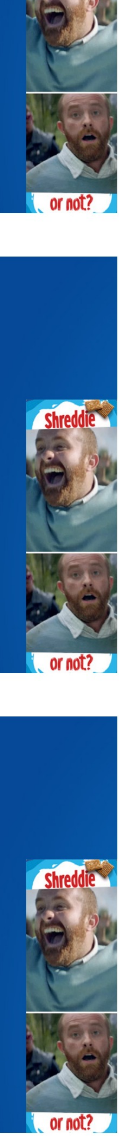
Grape to Grain - 1 Church Ln, Prestwich, Manchester M25 1AN

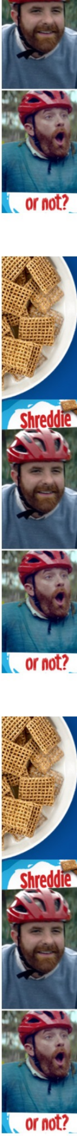
Pollen - Unit 2B, Cotton Field Wharf, 8 New Union Street, Manchester, M4 6FQ

LAST YEAR'S WINNER: Ancoats General Store

VEGETARIAN OFFERING OF THE YEAR

Reintroduced in 2017 this award focuses on the growing number of vegetarian offerings in the city and reflects the huge growth in meat and dairy free dining.





THE WINNER

Lily's - 75-83 Oldham Rd, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7DF

THE SHORTLIST

Bundobust - 61 Piccadilly, Manchester, M1 2AQ

Indian Tiffin Room - First Street, 4RL, 1 First St, Manchester, M15

Chaat Cart - 13 - 15 Derby Way, Marple, Stockport, SK6 7AH

Elnecot - 41 Blossom Street, Cutting Room Square, Ancoats, Manchester M4 6AJ

Amma's Canteen - 285 Barlow Moor Rd, Manchester, M21 7GH

Lily's - 75-83 Oldham Rd, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7DF

LAST YEAR'S WINNER: The Allotment

MANCHESTER BREWERY OF THE YEAR

This award raises a pint to all the great breweries establishing themselves throughout Greater Manchester and celebrates the very best brew in town.

THE WINNER

Marble - 41 Williamson St, Manchester, M4 4JS

IPA
THE BIGGEST MARBLE
DOBBER IPA

Marble Brewery with Ladies that Beer (Image: Andy Lambert)

THE SHORTLIST

Beatnikz - 15 Red Bank, Manchester, M4 4HF

Wander Beyond - 98 N Western St, Manchester, M12 6JL

Pomona Island Brew Co Ltd, 33 Waybridge Enterprise Centre, Daniel Adamson Road, Salford, M50 1DS

Runaway - Unit 4 Millgate, Dantzic Street, Manchester, M4 4JW

Track Brewing - 5 Sheffield Street, Manchester, M1 2ND

Marble - 41 Williamson St, Manchester, M4 4JS

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LAST YEAR'S WINNER: CLOUDWATER

POP UP, EVENT OR PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Designed to recognise the ever more pioneering food and drink one off projects, events, activities and pop ups happening in the region.

THE WINNER

Hatch – Oxford Road, Manchester, M1 7ED

Hatch on Oxford Road (Image: Ben Blackall 2017)

THE SHORTLIST

Ancoats Food Assembly - Seven Bro7hers Beerhouse, 33 Blossom Street, M4 5AF Manchester

Into the Gathering Dusk – Barbecue Coffee Manchester, 486 Wilbraham Road, M21 9AS

Hyssop – Various

MCR Beer Week – Various

Stockport Foodie Friday – Market Place, Stockport, SK1

Hatch – Oxford Road, Manchester, M1 7ED

LAST YEAR'S WINNER: GRUB

FRONT OF HOUSE TEAM OF THE YEAR

This award aims to recognise the most outstanding front of house team in Manchester. The panel were looking for the restaurant that goes that extra mile in terms of service – where customers can rely on an experience that makes them feel special, from greeting to departure.

THE WINNER

20 Stories - NO. 1 Spinningfields 1 Hardman Square, Manchester, M3 3EB

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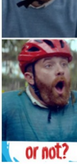

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The cocktail bar at 20 Stories

THE SHORTLIST

Piccolino - Clarence Street, Manchester, M2 4DW

WOOD - Jack Rosenthal Street, First Street, Manchester, M15 4RA

The Rabbit - Cathedral Gardens, Corporation Street, City Centre, Manchester, M4 3BG

Adam Reid at The French - Peter Street, Manchester, M60 2DS

Hispi - 1C School Ln, Manchester M20 6RD

20 Stories - NO. 1 Spinningfields 1 Hardman Square, Manchester, M3 3EB

LAST YEAR'S WINNER: Hawksmoor

STREET FOOD TRADER OF THE YEAR

Awarding one of the Greater Manchester-based street food legends that are gracing our kerbs with an ever-increasing plethora of gastro goods.

THE WINNER

Oh Mei Dumpling

Oh Mei Dumplings

THE SHORTLIST

Firebird Hope

Yadda Yadda

Nasi Lemak

Wholesome Junkies

El Marchador Taco

Oh Mei Dumpling

LAST YEAR'S WINNER: Hip Hop Chip Shop

BEST SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Recognising commitment to environmental and ethical practices within Greater Manchester's restaurant industry. Restaurants are asked to put themselves forward for this award via submission of a sustainability

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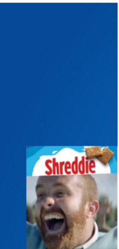

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THE WINNER

The Creameries

The Creameries

THE HOWARD AND RUTH AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

Recognising individuals who contributed something outstanding to the food and drink industry in Greater Manchester over the last 21 Festivals.

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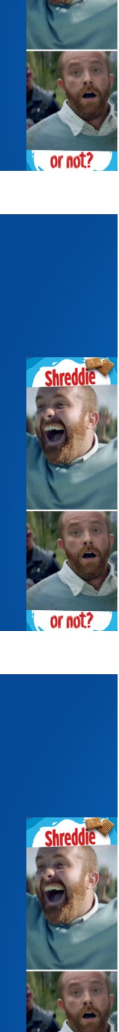
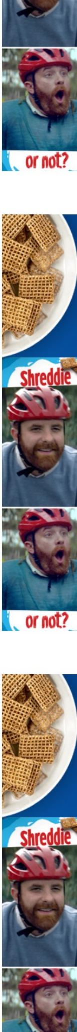
THE WINNER

Jeremy Roberts, CEO, Living Ventures

LAST YEAR'S WINNER: Joel Wilkinson and Adelaide Winter of Trof Group.