



lunch! wins Best UK Trade Show Award for second year

Diversified UK's lunch! food to go trade show has won Best Trade Show Exhibition – under 2,000m² for the second consecutive year at the Association of Event Organisers' annual Excellence Awards, which are widely regarded as being the Oscars for the live events and exhibition industry.

lunch! scooped the prestigious award ahead of rivals E-Health Media and Ocean Media at the AEO's annual awards ceremony, which was attended by more than 1,200 industry professionals on Friday 1st July at ExCeL London.

Carsten Holm, Diversified UK's managing director, said: "We always felt we had hit on something special with lunch! and it's fantastic, if a little humbling, to see it being recognised by the rest of the exhibition industry for two years running. Even in our wildest dreams, we never expected this!"

The Association of Event Organisers Excellence Awards celebrate achievements by organisers, venues, suppliers and contractors throughout the exhibition and event industry. The judges were particularly impressed by lunch!'s distinctive style, commenting: "The winning show has really attacked a very difficult marketplace and established itself as a leading niche show. We especially liked the unique and personal approach to their market."

"It is such a wonderful achievement to win this prestigious award, not just once but two years in a row!" added Grace Pinder, lunch!'s marketing manager. "It really reflects how lunch! has gone from strength to strength over the last few years and what an important show it has become for the entire out of home food and drink industry. We would like to thank the exhibitors, visitors and partners for making it so special. We share this honour with them."

Now in its fourth year, lunch! will return to Old Billingsgate, London, on 29th and 30th September and is free to attend for pre-registered trade visitors. For further information and to register, go to www.lunchshow.co.uk.

£42bn

The amount UK consumers are set to spend on eating out in 2011, according to industry analysts Allegra Strategies' new report 'Eating Out in the UK 2011'

Consumption "trumps consumerism" on high street

Independent and start-up hospitality businesses, such as cafés, restaurants and pubs are trumping independent retail stores on the high street, according to research by Simply Business, the largest business insurance provider in the UK. A study of 75,000 high street businesses quoted by Simply Business since 2008 shows that last year 31% were cafés, restaurants or pubs, an increase of 2% since 2008.

Jason Stockwood, CEO at Simply Business, commented: "The business climate has clearly been more favourable for some retail businesses than others and this has influenced the make-up of high streets across the UK. While it's great that food and drink businesses are doing well, it's worrying to see that certain sectors, such as fashion and newsagents, are in the decline, with competition from the big high street brands a likely cause."

The findings are timely given the recently announced review into the decline of the high street headed by 'Queen of Shops', Mary Portas. Portas has said that she aims to reduce the number of "clone towns" and increase diversity in town centres, with fewer big chains and more independent businesses.

"With the government currently focused on increasing the number and diversity of independent retailers in Britain's towns, it's crucial that start-ups don't fall at the first hurdle and have every opportunity to compete with the big boys," added Stockwood. "This means favourable planning laws, affordable business rates and easily accessible advice, support and finance."

The study also revealed the South West, Wales and the North East to be the top spots to get a caffeine hit, with 12% of shops being taken up by cafés or coffee shops – 1% higher than the average.



BSA Awards judging begins

The organisers of the BSA (Beverage Standards Association) Awards have revealed that their judges have been out and about visiting the outlets nominated by suppliers and the customers for this year's gongs. The nominees include independent cafés and mobile coffee outlets, as well as restaurants and pubs. Those being scrutinised were revealed to cover the full breadth of the UK, including outlets in Aberdeen, Llandudno, Brighton and Padstow in Cornwall.

Ronald Paterson, chairman of the judges, said: "I would like to record my pleasure at the good number of first time entries from independently owned cafés and restaurants who value the objective expert advice they get through the judging process. This second opinion is more important to many than a plaque on a window, winning an award or achieving a five cup grading standard. Their prime concern is to learn to do better and being part of the Beverage Standards Awards process is seen by them as helping to achieve this."

The first round of judging closed in mid-July and the Awards committee will meet again to evaluate the judge's reports. From there a second round of judging will be undertaken to ensure that the sites nominated for Awards are offering "excellent beverage and services throughout the year". The Awards Ceremony will then be held in London on 29th September.