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March 13, 2012

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2012 CT Specialty Food Product Awards Announced

Hartford, CT – The [CT Specialty Food Association](http://ctfoodassociation.org) (CSFA) held its eleventh Product Awards Competition on Thursday, March 8, 2012, at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville. Two hundred three specialty food items from Connecticut-based manufacturers were entered into 36 categories, with hopes of receiving the prestigious honor of CSFA Product Award Winner 2012. A complete list of Thursday's winners appears below.

A panel of 21 judges consisting of local media personalities, food writers, chefs from the CT Department of Agriculture's [Farm-to-Chef Program](#), and wine specialists scored products on overall taste/flavor, consistency/texture, appeal, and color. Each judge was assigned to specific categories, responsible for evaluating an average of approximately 35 different products.

Categories included breads, cheese, confections, CT Grown, gluten-free, organic, pasta sauces, salad dressings, savory condiments, snack foods, and many others. We also proudly included a variety of wines produced here in Connecticut. All wines were required to contain 100% CT grown fruit. The wide array of food products featured fresh breads, cheeses, many varieties of sauce, jams, relishes, flavored seeds, oils and vinegars, syrups and much, much more.

“It is always amazing to see the diversity and high quality of the foods and beverages made by producers right here in Connecticut,” said Tricia Levesque, CSFA Director. “This competition showcases the best of the best in the state. Each year we seem to find additional entrepreneurs looking to showcase

the outstanding products they produce. Not only are these products perfect for everyday meals and parties, they also make wonderful gifts. There is always something for every member of the family.”

“Purchasing products from Connecticut companies helps to fuel our local economy and create jobs here in our state, which is so important in today’s economy,” Ms. Levesque continued. “It really is a win-win for everyone – consumers get the best quality foods available and Connecticut companies stay strong.”

Consumers looking for CT specialty food products can visit www.ctspecialtyfood.org and ask for them at local markets and grocers.

CSFA is a subdivision of the [CT Food Association](http://www.ctfoodassociation.org) and is a non-profit organization that represents small food businesses based in the state. To learn more, visit www.ctfoodassociation.org or email ctfood@ctfoodassociation.org.

**THE CT SPECIALTY FOOD ASSOCIATION’S
2012 PRODUCT AWARDS COMPETITION WINNERS:**

2012 Product of the Year

**Chaplin Farms, LLC, Chaplin, CT
Apple Pie Jam**

Bread - Yeast

1st Place Michele’s Pies, Norwalk, CT
Cinnamon Bread with Streusel Topping

2nd Place Fairfield Bread Company, Fairfield, CT
The Flaxette

Certified Organic

1st Place Gourganics Salsa, LLC, Fairfield, CT
Gourganics Mild Salsa

2nd Place Wild Carrot Farm, LLC, Canton, CT
Wild Carrot Farm Salsa

Cheese - Aged

1st Place Cato Corner Farm, LLC, Colchester, CT

- Bridgid's Abbey
- 2nd Place Cato Corner Farm, LLC, Colchester, CT
Aged Bloomsday
- 3rd Place Cato Corner Farm, LLC, Colchester, CT
Dairyere

Chocolate

- 1st Place Bridgewater Chocolate, LLC, Brookfield, CT
Caramel Truffle with Sea Salt
- 2nd Place Bridgewater Chocolate, LLC, Brookfield, CT
Coconut Igloos
- 3rd Place Bridgewater Chocolate, LLC, Brookfield, CT
Sea Salt Caramels

Cooking Sauce

- 1st Place Giff's Original, LLC, Cheshire, CT
Hot & Spicy Cooking Sauce
- 2nd Place Passage Foods, Collinsville, CT
Honey Soy & Garlic Simmer Sauce – Passage to China
- 3rd Place Passage Foods, Collinsville, CT
Spiced Honey Tagine Simmer Sauce – Passage to Morocco

CT Grown

- 1st Place Killam & Bassette Farmstead, LLC, South Glastonbury, CT
Strawberry Jam
- 2nd Place Winding Drive Corp., Woodbury, CT
Peach Jam
- 3rd Place Killam & Bassette Farmstead, LLC, South Glastonbury, CT
Blueberry Jam

Dessert – Cookie

- 1st Place Rachel's Cookies & Treats, Southington, CT
Gingersnap
- 2nd Place Rachel's Cookies & Treats, Southington, CT
Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookie
- 3rd Place Rachel's Cookies & Treats, Southington, CT
Oatmeal Cranberry White Chocolate Chip Cookie

Dessert – Pie

- 1st Place Michele's Pies, Norwalk, CT
Chocolate Raspberry Pie
- 2nd Place Dondero Orchards, LLC, South Glastonbury, CT
Strawberry Rhubarb Pie
- 3rd Place Michele's Pies, Norwalk, CT
Mixed Berry Crumb Pie

Frozen Food

- 1st Place Michele's Pies, Norwalk, CT
Shepard's Pie
- 2nd Place Michele's Pies, Norwalk, CT
Chicken Pot Pie

Gluten Free

- 1st Place Lesser Evil, LLC, Wilton, CT
Classic Kettlekorn
- 2nd Place El's Kitchen, Weston, CT
Medleys Cheddar Snack Mix
- 3rd Place El's Kitchen, Weston, CT
Medleys Original Snack Mix

Herb, Spice or Seasoning

- 1st Place Passage Foods, Collinsville, CT
Honey Soy & Garlic – Passage to China
- 2nd Place Passage Foods, Collinsville, CT
Spiced Honey Tagine – Passage to Morocco

Honey

- 1st Place Tiezzi Imports, LLC, Chester, CT
Tutti Amici Acacia Honey
- 2nd Place Tiezzi Imports, LLC, Chester, CT
Tutti Amici Castagno Honey
- 3rd Place Tiezzi Imports, LLC, Chester, CT
Tutti Amici Millefiore Honey

Syrup

- 1st Place Turkeywoods Farm, Mystic, CT
Shagbark Syrup
- 2nd Place Turkeywoods Farm, Mystic, CT
Hickory Nut Syrup
- 3rd Place Turkeywoods Farm, Mystic, CT
Hickory Ginger Syrup

Hors d'Oeuvre

- 1st Place J.F. Food Concepts, Inc./Fortuna Food Products, Burlington, CT
Fresh Fortuna's Bruschetta – Mild
- 2nd Place J.F. Food Concepts, Inc./Fortuna Food Products, Burlington, CT
Fresh Fortuna's Bruschetta – Original
- 3rd Place J.F. Food Concepts, Inc./Fortuna Food Products, Burlington, CT
Fresh Fortuna's Bruschetta – Hot

Jam

- 1st Place Chaplin Farms, LLC, Chaplin, CT
Apple Pie Jam
- 2nd Place TIE
- Winding Drive Corp., Woodbury, CT
Raspberry Jam
- Winding Drive Corp., Woodbury, CT
Raspberry Chocolate Jam
- 3rd Place Norm's Best, Putnam, CT
Habanero Jam

Non-Alcoholic Beverage

- 1st Place Raus Coffee Company, Stamford, CT
Cold Roman Coffee Beverage

Oil

- 1st Place The Olive Oil Factory, Waterbury, CT
Sicilian Bread Dipping Oil
- 2nd Place Tiezzi Imports, LLC, Chester, CT
Tutti Amici Cold Pressed EVOO
- 3rd Place The Olive Oil Factory, Waterbury, CT
Tuscan Herb Dipping Oil

Package Mix - Baked

- 1st Place Civitello Biscotti, Hamden, CT
Original Orange Almond Anise Mix
- 2nd Place Civitello Biscotti, Hamden, CT
Cinnamon Pecan Mix
- 3rd Place Civitello Biscotti, Hamden, CT
Fig Walnut Mix

Packaging

- 1st Place Turkeywoods Farm, Mystic, CT
Shagbark Syrup – Fancy Bottle
- 2nd Place Ola! Foods, Norwalk, CT
Ola! Granola No Nut Vanilla
- 3rd Place Ola! Foods, Norwalk, CT
Ola! Granola Cranberry Orange Pecan

Pasta Sauce

- 1st Place Chef Silvio's of Wooster Street, Guilford, CT
Chef Silvio's Capricciosa Sauce
- 2nd Place Frank's Marinara, Amston, CT
Frank's Vodka Sauce
- 3rd Place TIE
- Capa di Roma, East Hartford, CT
Capa di Roma Marinara Sauce
- Capa di Roma, East Hartford, CT
Capa di Roma Fresh Basil Sauce

Salad Dressing

- 1st Place Kerry Wood Healthy Foods, Westport, CT
Taste of Tuscany
- 2nd Place Les Oliviers, LLC, Newtown, CT
Honey Dijon Vinaigrette
- 3rd Place Kerry Wood Healthy Foods, Westport, CT
Balsamic Vinaigrette

Salsa

- 1st Place Mama Manju's Salsa, Chester, CT
Mama Manju's Black Bean & Corn Salsa
- 2nd Place Mama Manju's Salsa, Chester, CT
Mama Manju's Hot & Zesty Salsa
- 3rd Place Warren's Foods, West Hartford, CT
Louie's Original Salsa - Hot

Savory Condiment

- 1st Place White Silo Winery, Sherman, CT
Rhubarb Mustard
- 2nd Place Les Oliviers, LLC, Newtown, CT
Harissa Ketsup
- 3rd Place White Silo Winery, Sherman, CT
Quince Mustard

Savory Condiment – Relish

- 1st Place TIE
- Dondero Orchards, South Glastonbury, CT
Green Tomato Relish
- Southern Relishes, LLC, West Haven, CT
Mariah's Chow Chow Relish – Sweet & Spicy
- 2nd Place Giff's Original, LLC, Cheshire, CT
Pomegranate Onion Relish
- 3rd Place Warren's Foods, West Hartford, CT
Warren's Original Pepper Relish - Medium

Savory Topping

- 1st Place Dondero Orchards, South Glastonbury, CT
Arugula Pesto
- 2nd Place The Gracious Gourmet, Bridgewater, CT
Spiced Sour Cherry Spread
- 3rd Place Winding Drive Corp., Woodbury, CT
Roasted Garlic & Onion

Snack Food

- 1st Place J.F. Food Concepts, Inc./Fortuna Food Products, Burlington, CT
Fortuna's Bruschetta – Hot – Jar

2nd Place J.F. Food Concepts, Inc./Fortuna Food Products, Burlington, CT
Fortuna's Bruschetta – Original – Jar

3rd Place J.F. Food Concepts, Inc./Fortuna Food Products, Burlington, CT
Fortuna's Bruschetta – Mild – Jar

Sweet Side

1st Place Kathie's Kitchen, Branford, CT
Cinnamon & Sugar Pumpkin Seeds

2nd Place Dondero Orchards, South Glastonbury, CT
Bread & Butter Pickles

3rd Place The Great New England Apple Company, New Canaan, CT
Red Barn Apple Sauce

Sweet Topping

1st Place TIE

The Purple Pear by Tina, Willington, CT
French Caramel Cream with Pecans

The Purple Pear by Tina, Willington, CT
Hot Fudge Cream

2nd Place TIE

The Purple Pear by Tina, Willington, CT
Buttered Almond Cream

The Purple Pear by Tina, Willington, CT
French Caramel Cream

3rd Place The Purple Pear by Tina, Willington, CT
Fresh Summer Berry

Vinegar

1st Place The Olive Oil Factory, Waterbury, CT
Blueberry Infused Balsamic Condimenti Vinegar

2nd Place The Olive Oil Factory, Waterbury, CT
Cherry Infused Balsamic Condimenti Vinegar

3rd Place The Olive Oil Factory, Waterbury, CT
Raspberry Infused Balsamic Condimenti Vinegar

Wine - Blush

1st Place Sunset Meadow Vineyards, Goshen, CT
Sunset Blush 2010

Wine - Dessert

1st Place Sunset Meadow Vineyards, Goshen, CT
Midnight Ice

2nd Place Sunset Meadow Vineyards, Goshen, CT
Pyrrha's Passion 2008

3rd Place Gouveia Vineyards, Wallingford, CT
Epiphany Reserve

Wine – Dry Red

1st Place Sunset Meadow Vineyards, Goshen, CT
St. Croix 2008

2nd Place Hopkins Vineyard, New Preston, CT
Cabernet Franc 2008

3rd Place Jones Winery, Shelton, CT
Cabernet Franc Vintner's Selection 2010

Wine – Dry White

1st Place Jones Winery, Shelton, CT
Pinot Gris Vintner's Selection 2010

2nd Place Gouveia Vineyards, Wallingford, CT
Seyval Blanc

3rd Place Jones Winery, Shelton, CT
Stonewall Chardonnay

Wine - Fruit

1st Place Jones Winery, Shelton, CT
Black Currant Bouquet

Wine – Other White

1st Place Hopkins Vineyard, New Preston, CT
Westwind 2010

2nd Place Gouveia Vineyards, Wallingford, CT
Cayuga White

3rd Place Sunset Meadow Vineyards, Goshen, CT
Cayuga White 2010

Wine - Rosé

- 1st Place Sunset Meadow Vineyards, Goshen, CT
SMV Rosé
- 2nd Place Gouveia Vineyards, Wallingford, CT
Whirlwind Rosé
- 3rd Place Jones Winery, Shelton, CT
Rosé of Cabernet Franc Vintner's Selection 2010

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Visit us at www.ctfoodassociation.org

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