

# PRESS RELEASE

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**\*\*\* Embargoed until 12:00 on Thursday 3rd April 2025\*\*\***

## **BRAVO BRIGHTON! Over 72,000 Votes Cast in City's Favourite Restaurant Awards**

The Brighton Restaurant Awards Vote Online (BRAVOS) have smashed all previous records in 2025. With a whopping **72,911 votes** cast by food lovers across the city and beyond – this makes it the **biggest BRAVOS yet**.

Now in its eighth year, the BRAVOS have once again shone a spotlight on the incredible diversity and quality of Brighton and Sussex's hospitality scene, with **724 venues** participating across **18 categories**, and **190 different venues** placing in the Top 20s.

The 2025 winners were announced today, with **Burnt Orange** reclaiming the **Best Brighton Restaurant** crown and **CrabShack** retaining the top spot as **Best Sussex Restaurant**. See below for the full list of winners and link to the Top 20 in each category.

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### **Fresh Format, Fresh Faces**

This year also marked a step towards sustainability and simplicity, as BRAVO voting moved entirely online, ditching printed voting cards in favour of **unique QR codes** for each venue. The move didn't slow down engagement – quite the opposite. More people than ever got involved, with **83,500 unique visitors** and over **202,000 page views** recorded on the voting site during the 39-day campaign.

A standout new element of the 2025 campaign was a creative collaboration with local illustrator **Kirsti Davidson**, whose distinctive helter-skelter design – inspired by Brighton's iconic Palace Pier – was used throughout the campaign. Her artwork gave this year's BRAVO a fresh visual identity rooted in the city's character.

*"We've been blown away by the energy around this year's BRAVOS," said **Ivanka Majic**, Director at Restaurants Brighton. "The BRAVOS are a true celebration of everything that makes Brighton's hospitality scene special. The number of votes and the enthusiasm we've*

*seen both online and across the city shows how much people care about supporting their favourite places – and discovering new ones. ”*

The new for 2025 **Brews and Bakes** category was topped by **Flour Pot Bakery**, a well-loved independent staple in the city’s café scene, celebrated for its consistent quality and community feel.

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## **Choose Local – and Keep Choosing Local**

Running throughout the campaign was a clear message: **Choose Local**. BRAVO 2025 encouraged people across Brighton and Sussex to support their favourite neighbourhood cafés, pubs, restaurants, and takeaways – the independent venues that make the city such a vibrant and original place to eat and drink.

It’s a message the BRAVO team hopes will last well beyond the awards season.

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## **Raising the Bar on Sustainability**

In a BRAVO first, the **Most Sustainable** category came with stricter entry criteria, open only to venues that had completed the city’s new **Sustainability Checklist**, developed in collaboration with the University of Brighton. The winner, **TERRA Restaurant Sussex at Tottington Manor Hotel**, topped the category for its commitment to thoughtful, local and environmentally conscious dining.

*“We introduced the Sustainability Checklist to make sure this award is more than just a label – it’s about meaningful action,”* said **Nick Harvey**, BRAVO founder and director of Restaurants Brighton. *“The venues who made it into this category are showing what the future of hospitality can look like – and we’re proud to recognise that.”*

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## **Supported by Brighton Businesses**

This year’s awards were made possible by generous support from local and national sponsors, including headline sponsor **Uber Eats**, who also backed the **Best Restaurant** and **Best Takeaway** categories.

The BRAVOS are designed to support the sector, celebrate success, and bring positive attention to the people and teams who make Brighton and Sussex such exciting places to eat and drink. With **16% of the city's workforce** employed in the visitor economy, the sector is a vital part of the city's economy and culture – and this year's BRAVOS were a heartfelt thank you to everyone involved.

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**Councillor Birgit Miller, Cabinet member for Culture, Heritage and Tourism at Brighton & Hove City Council, said:**

*"This is a great initiative celebrating the amazing restaurants found throughout this city."*

*"The visitor economy, of which the hospitality sector is incredibly important part, generates £1.2 billion of economic impact each year and supports 16% of all local jobs."*

*"Brighton & Hove simply would not be the city we all know and love without it."*

*"My congratulations and thanks go to all the restaurants which not only provide local people with fantastic places to eat but play such a key role in helping our city sustain its reputation as a leading visitor destination."*

## **BRAVO 2025 – Winners by Category**

- **Best Restaurant** – Burnt Orange
- **Best Roast** – Embers
- **Best Cafe** – Starfish & Coffee
- **Best Brunch** – Oeuf Cafe
- **Best Lunch** – Fourth and Church
- **Best Wine List** – Wild Flor
- **Best Takeaway** – Majahma
- **Plant Champions** – Bonsai Plant Kitchen

- **Best Value** – Nanima Asian Kitchen & Café
- **Most Sustainable** – TERRA Restaurant Sussex at Tottington Manor Hotel
- **Best For the Family** – Jo & Co
- **Best Sussex Restaurant** – CrabShack
- **Best International Cuisine** – Il Bistro
- **Best Team** – Lost in the Lanes
- **Best Brighton Pub** – The Robin Hood
- **Best Cocktails** – Blossoms Cocktail Bar
- **Best Sussex Pub** – The Jolly Sportsman
- **Best Brews and Bakes** – The Flour Pot Bakery

[View all Top 20 placements from Thursday 3rd April, 12pm:](https://restaurantsbrighton.co.uk/brighton-restaurant-awards)  
[restaurantsbrighton.co.uk/brighton-restaurant-awards](https://restaurantsbrighton.co.uk/brighton-restaurant-awards)

#### **PRESS PACK:**

1. [BRAVO 2025 winner photos](#)
2. [Restaurants Brighton Press Material](#) (logos, images)

#### **QUOTES**

*“We are all absolutely thrilled to win and achieve the hat trick for Best Sussex Restaurant! It means so much to us as it is added confirmation that our customers still love what we do and our team continues to serve consistently great food alongside fabulous service.*

*What sets us apart I think is our consistency of food quality and great service, good value, and great location.”* – **Sarah Tinker-Taylor, CrabShack Worthing, Winner Best Sussex Restaurant**

*“Winning is a great feeling, the result of a lot of hard work and early starts! I think Embers offers a unique concept, serving great quality food, cooked simply over wood fire. To take*

*this concept and make a roast out of it was a no brainer!" – Benjamin Arthur, Embers, Winner Best Sunday Roast*

### **Nish and Roo Fatania, Majahma, Winners Best Takeaway**

*"We're honestly so touched. It means everything that our little family-run kitchen is being celebrated—thank you to everyone in Brighton & Hove who's supported us and shared in what we love doing." - Nish*

*"Majahma is all about nourishing, feel-good food rooted in South Asian traditions. With over 30 plants in every meal, no nasties, and tiffin-tin deliveries, it's home cooking with heart—made to care for you and the planet." – Roo*

*"Winning this BRAVO Award is an incredible honour, and we couldn't be more excited to continue doing what we love – welcoming you to The Jolly Sportsman for exceptional food, great company, and unforgettable moments. We're passionate about delivering outstanding service every day, striving for quality and creativity in everything we do—from our food and drink to the warm, inviting atmosphere we create. Set in the heart of the countryside, our charming and characterful venue ensures that every visit is a unique experience.*

*Thank you for your support – we can't wait to see you soon!" – Ashlee Piggott, The Jolly Sportsman, Winner Best Sussex Pub.*

*"It feels so amazing to win the BRAVO award for best international cuisine.*

*With so many fantastic restaurants and cuisines to choose from in Brighton & Hove it's such a privilege and an honour to be announced the winner.*

*We can't thank our loyal guests enough for selecting us as their winners.*

*I think what sets us apart is we have been trading in the same location for 49 years making us one of the longest serving restaurants in the city and we are Brighton's first Mediterranean steakhouse.*

*People should visit us for our homemade limoncello, amazing negronis, homemade authentic food and our attentive and friendly service. We were also last year's BRAVO Best Team winners." – Abe Garman, Il Bistro, Winner Best International Cuisine.*

*"I am truly honoured and grateful to receive the BRAVO Plant Champions Award for Bonsai Plant Kitchen. This recognition reaffirms our commitment to sustainable, plant-based cuisine and innovative Southeast Asian flavours. What sets us apart is our Japanese grill's unique flavour, handcrafted cocktails, and ever-changing specials that perfectly pair yakitori-style dishes with drinks." – Dominic Sherriff, Bonsai Plant Kitchen, Winner Plant Champions.*

*"We're absolutely thrilled to win the BRAVO award for Best Brews & Bakes! At The Flour Pot Bakery, we're passionate about crafting artisan breads, pastries, and coffee, and this recognition means so much to our hardworking team. With fresh bakes made daily and locally roasted coffee from our sister company, The Milk Shed Coffee Roasters, we take pride in being a welcoming neighbourhood bakery. A huge thank you to our incredible*

*customers - your support means everything!" – Phoebe Simmonds, The Flour Pot Bakery, Winner Best Brews & Bakes*

*"We're so proud to win the BRAVO award for Best Cafe, as it represents everything our customers love – our service, ambience, coffee, and brunch menu. As a small team, it feels incredible to be recognised by the people of Brighton & Hove for the sixth time in seven years. Our success shows you don't need to be on the busiest street or have the bougiest decor – getting the fundamentals of hospitality right is what keeps people coming back." – Tony Marks, Starfish & Coffee, Winner Best Cafe*

*"Sustainable Hospitality has been part of our DNA from the beginning of our journey. Not only has our sustainability values allowed us to work with the best local producers, it also makes us work smarter and makes a difference to our bottom line which is an important issue for all businesses in hospitality right now, more so than ever before. Being recognised by receiving this incredible award makes us realise our sustainable hospitality choices are valued and appreciated by the guests who choose us and it also rewards all the team who have been part of the change we have made. Thank you all so much." – Helen Pomery, TERRA, Winner Sustainability Champion*

*"What sets us apart is our unique brand of hospitality that comes from the heart delivered by a team who are naturally warm, genuinely welcoming and want to be part of our team. As a venue who champions all things Sussex, our stunning location literally at the foot of the South Downs is so memorable with the view mirroring the quality on the plate. Four years into our journey at Tottington Manor and being up against some absolutely outstanding restaurants literally blows us away and we send our congratulations to all the other winners and nominees...on our days off, we are coming to visit you!" – Helen Pomery, TERRA, Winner Sustainability Champion*

## IMPORTANT LINKS

### **BRAVOS Social Channels**

Instagram: [@BrightonRestaurantAwards](https://www.instagram.com/BrightonRestaurantAwards)

Facebook: <https://web.facebook.com/brightonrestaurantawards>

### **Restaurants Brighton Social Channels**

Instagram: [@RestaurantsBrighton](https://www.instagram.com/RestaurantsBrighton)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RestaurantsBrighton>

TikTok: [https://www.tiktok.com/@restaurants\\_brighton](https://www.tiktok.com/@restaurants_brighton)

## **BRAVO SPONSORS 2025**

**Headline Sponsor**

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**UBER EATS**

1. Best Restaurant	-	Uber Eats
2. Best Roast	-	Woodhouse Butchery
3. Best Cafe	-	Woodfire Camping
4. Best Brunch	-	American Express Stadium
5. Best Lunch	-	Alliance South East
6. Best Wine List	-	The List by Tom Surgey
7. Best Takeaway	-	Uber Eats
8. Best Vegan Food	-	Recorra
9. Best Value	-	Love Food Share Food
10. Most Sustainable	-	Designs Woodcraft
11. Best For the Family	-	Prept
12. Best Sussex Restaurant	-	The Menu Partners
13. Best International Cuisine	-	Cecily English at Hays Travel
14. Best Team	-	Preston Insurance Brokers
15. Best Brighton Pub	-	The Cheese Hut
16. Best Cocktails	-	Goldstone Rum
17. Best Sussex Pub	-	Restaurants Brighton
18. Best Brews and Bakes (new)	-	City Girl Network

**ENDS**