



Beverage Standards Association

....dedicated to raising standards

The Tea Monkey in Milton Keynes scoops the Best Tea Award in the Beverage Standards Association (BSA) annual Awards – the Michelin stars of the coffee industry

The Tea Monkey (www.tea-monkey.com) in Midsummer Place, Milton Keynes, scooped the Best Tea Award in the annual Beverage Standards Association (BSA) Awards – the Michelin stars of the coffee industry.

Through these Awards, the BSA has introduced the first UK-wide national grading scheme in beverages from one to five cups. For the first time, the general public will be able to access coffee shops in the same way as restaurants by seeing how many coffee cups an outlet has been awarded or by seeing if they've won a Best Drink Award.



Proprietor Tracey Bovingdon, who runs Tea Monkey, says “I’m over the moon. This is a fantastic achievement especially as we’ve only been open since March.”

Tracey received an engraved plate and certificate for the Best Drinks Award.

There are over 40 varieties of tea on offer including more unusual teas such as Kyoto Cherry Rose, Liquorice and Organic King Tut Lemonade. Flowering teas are also available such as Volcano Flower Burst and Dragon 4 Flowers. Tea is mostly loose leaf and served in cafetiere’s. Speciality coffees and hot chocolate shots are also on offer. Along one wall are several iPad stations so customers can sit on a stool and have free use of an iPad to look at the newspapers, the Internet or download music from local bands. Food-wise Tea Monkey offers cakes, sandwiches, wraps and Paninis. Plain cupcakes are available for children to decorate and eat in or take home. There are gluten and dairy free products available.

Tracey has set up “Charitea Begins at Home” to raise funds for local based charities and support groups. The two charities being supported by the Milton Keynes shop are the Madcap Performing Arts Centre and The Food Bank, which delivers food parcels to people living below the poverty line.

Ranald Paterson, chairman of the judges of the Beverage Standards Awards says “Tea Monkey was described as superb by all four visiting judges. Outstanding was the range and quality of teas available, the presentation and the expert knowledge of staff. Their challenge for 2012 is to raise their other drink standards to that of tea. Do this and they will justify a 5 Cup Rating standard.”

About The Beverage Standards Awards

The aims of the Awards are to establish nationally recognised standards for independent owned cafés and restaurants, identify and recognise excellence of drinks quality in the café market, encourage best service standards and support good staff development and training. As with the famous Michelin Guides, judging for these Awards, organised by trade organisation the Beverage Standards Association was undertaken by anonymous trained experts providing accurate and impartial assessments.

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Sponsors of the Awards were: Kimbo, Bravilor Bonamat, Beverage Standards Association, Barry Callebaut UK Ltd, United Coffee Distributors and 3M.

About the Beverage Standards Association (BSA)

The Association is dedicated to fostering the growth of the UK out-of-home beverage market, to raising the quality of beverages produced and the standard of service provided. One way in which it achieves this is through education; training, information and communication. Another is through better standards of practice, honesty and integrity between all sectors of the industry with all members upholding and protecting these.

The Association provides a platform from which to address the government, legislative bodies and the media on matters which concern members.

www.beveragestandardsassociation.co.uk