

NEWS FROM LEWIS & COOPER

• PURVEYORS OF FINE FOOD AND WINE SINCE 1899 •

Top wine retailer sets sights on more awards

AN AWARD-WINNING wine department within one of the region's best known food stores has been short-listed for two of the wine industry's most prestigious gongs. Lewis & Cooper, in Northallerton, has made it to the finals in the International Wine Challenge Awards – which bills itself as the world's most prestigious and influential independent wine competition – to compete for the titles of Regional Wine Merchant of the Year and Small Independent Merchant for the whole of the UK. If Lewis & Cooper is successful in carrying off the awards, they will sit alongside its 2007 prize for Independent Wine Merchant of the Year in the Drinks Business Awards – for which it beat off Harrods of London in the final – and the *Off License News* Independent Wine Retailer award for 2006 – one of the most hotly-contested and respected awards for the UK off-trade.

Lewis & Cooper's wine consultant, Danny Cameron, said: "Over the last three years we have become one of the most talked about wine merchants in the UK, increasingly known for a truly bespoke range of wines and spirits, as well as events featuring visiting winemakers.

"But to be even shortlisted for these awards is very special. Some people may not immediately think of Lewis & Cooper as a wine merchant, but the company has been selling wines since its doors opened in 1899.

"In the last few years we have been taking things up to another level."

Mr Cameron will travel to London's Grosvenor Hotel in Park Lane on September 2 for the IWC Awards dinner, which attracts more than 800 guests from the cream of the UK wine trade, as well as producers from around the world.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- Please find attached jpg pictures showing Danny Cameron, and some shots from the wine department at Lewis & Cooper in Northallerton.
- For press inquiries, please contact Gareth Dant at *maximedia* on 01609 760059 or 07929 869269.
- The Northallerton store is at 92 High Street, telephone 01609 772880; a second, new store is 109 High Street, Yarm, telephone 01642 784158. The Northallerton store is open 8.30-5.30 Monday-Friday, 8am-5.30pm on Saturday and 11am-4pm on Sunday. The Yarm store opens at 9am, Monday-Friday, otherwise its hours are the same.
- Lewis & Cooper stocks thousands of lines, including its multi-award winning hand-made plum puddings, luxury fruit cakes and massive range of world-famous hampers. For more details of these, and of their many awards, please visit www.lewisandcooper.co.uk.

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