

NEWS FROM LEWIS & COOPER

• PURVEYORS OF FINE FOOD AND WINE SINCE 1899 •

Winning wine retailer makes it a hat trick

A WINE retailer with a growing reputation has added one of the drinks industry's biggest prizes to its bulging trophy cabinet.

Lewis & Cooper is the only independent in the UK to have carried off awards at all three of the country's most prestigious wine competitions.

The family-run firm, which has stores in Northallerton and Yarm as well as a booming on-line business, was named Regional Wine Merchant for the North-East and Yorkshire in the International Wine Challenge Awards, the world's biggest wine competition.

Billed as the highest accolades in the wine world, the 26th IWC awards were announced at an awards dinner at London's Grosvenor House Hotel on Wednesday [3] night. International producers and winemakers were among the 800 guests hearing the results of a year of planning and judging by more than 300 experts from 19 countries.

Lewis & Cooper's wine consultant, Danny Cameron, shared the winners' platform with the likes of Majestic Wine, Marks & Spencer and wine writer Oz Clarke.

In addition to the regional trophy, the North Yorkshire retailer was also highly commended in the category for the country's top Small Independent Wine Merchant, a trophy carried off by an outlet in Islington.

Charles Metcalfe, IWC Awards co-chairman and judge, said: "Lewis & Cooper has a wonderful list with an innovative layout and presentation of wines and a brilliant philosophy on buying power."

The latest achievements sit alongside Lewis & Cooper's 2007 prize for



Independent Wine Merchant of the Year in the Drinks Business Awards – for which it beat off Harrods in the final – and the *Off Licence News* Independent Wine Retailer award for 2006 – one of the most hotly-contested and respected awards for the UK off-trade.

Danny Cameron said: “This is the first time we’ve entered the International Wine Challenge Awards, so to come away with one of the top prizes was a great result.”

Lewis & Cooper chairman, Dr David Gearey, said: “Well done to Danny, our wine and spirits adviser Angela Searl and the rest of the team on a fantastic achievement.

“We measure our success by our customers’ satisfaction, but it’s always delightful to prove our worth on the national – and in this case, the international – stage, proving that we punch well above our weight to offer a first-class service.”

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- Please find attached a jpg picture showing Danny Cameron and Angela Searl, wine and spirits adviser, toasting the latest award.
- For press inquiries, please contact Gareth Dant at *maximedia* on 01609 760059 or 07929 869269; or Danny Cameron on 07887751687. For the full list of winners, visit www.internationalwinechallenge.com.
- 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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