



TOP CHEF: Scenes from the North Norfolk Food Festival at Holkham Hall - Aurthur Howell and Chris Coubrough.

Picture: MATTHEW USHER

Award joy for county's food champions

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A master chef and restaurateur at the "forefront of food and drink in Norfolk" has won the Outstanding Achievement award at this year's EDP Norfolk Food and Drink Awards.

Chris Coubrough, whose Flying Kiwi Inns group includes the Crown Hotel in Wells and the Ship in Brancaster, was given the accolade at Tuesday evening's gala ceremony, run in association with the East of England Co-op.

Hundreds of guests from Norfolk's food and drink scene gathered at the Norfolk Showground Arena for a night showcasing the cream of the county's crop.

Judges in the Outstanding Achievement category, sponsored by Hansells Solicitors and Financial Advisers, praised Mr

Coubrough's high-profile contribution to the county's vibrant culinary scene, as patron of the Norfolk Food and Drink Festival.

They said: "Chris has been at the forefront of food and drink in Norfolk for a long time and in addition to making a huge contribution to the county's eating out scene, he has also been instrumental in helping to nurture and train some of Norfolk's best chefs.

"His North Norfolk Food Festival is one of the flagship events of the Norfolk Food and Drink Festival and he works hard to enthuse the younger generation about the benefits of eating local, healthy food. His work as a patron has been invaluable to the festival and he is a deserving winner of this award."

Among the other winners were M&M Rutland, a family-run butchers' firm in Melton Constable, which was named

as Best Independent Food and Drink Retailer.

Judges said: "M&M Rutland demonstrates perfectly that you do not have to be the biggest to be the best. The judge left the shop wishing there was a butchers like this around the corner from his home, as it was such a great shopping experience."

Guests heard a speech from EDP editor Nigel Pickover, who said: "These awards allow us to showcase the very best that Norfolk has to offer, from the food champions whose produce puts the county on the food map to farmers' markets and our range of incredible eateries to the hard work that goes on in schools to encourage children to 'eat local as well as our dedicated chefs."

"There are many reasons why Norfolk is a fantastic place to live in and to visit and our food and drink offer is very high on that list, which is thanks to you."