Afternoon Tea Awards 2026 Winners Announced

Thursday 11 June, 2026

The best places in the UK to enjoy a sumptuous afternoon tea have been named in the Afternoon Tea Awards 2026, sponsored by AfternoonTea.co.uk.

This prestigious annual event was held at Raffles London at The OWO.

Representatives from the top three venues gathered to receive their awards and to hear the announcement of the winners of the 'Award of Excellence', which recognises the best in afternoon tea service and creativity.

Three main category awards were presented:

- Best Themed Afternoon Tea - Raffles London at The OWO
- Best Traditional Afternoon Tea - The Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh
- Best Contemporary Afternoon Tea - Jumeirah Carlton Tower, London

A team of independent judges looked at all aspects of the afternoon tea experience, from making a booking, to paying the bill, with a strong focus on the presentation and service.

An 'Award of Excellence' was also presented to 28 venues that the judges considered to have delivered the highest standards in afternoon tea service.

Keith Newton, Managing Director of AfternoonTea.co.uk said "What strikes me every year is how diverse afternoon tea has become. There is something for all tastes, from the timeless elegance of a classic traditional afternoon tea to the bold creativity of a contemporary or themed experience."

He added, "Behind every award is a team of people who genuinely care about what they do, and it's a privilege to be able to recognise that on a national stage."

Raffles London at The OWO - Best Themed Afternoon Tea

The judges said: "The 'Secrets & Spies' concept was well communicated and consistently carried through the experience, from the menu design to the presentation of the food. Particularly noteworthy were the chocolate pastries, which immediately caught the eye and delivered a true 'wow' factor."

The Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh - Best Traditional Afternoon Tea

The judges said: "The Palm Court delivered a polished and memorable afternoon tea experience, combining quality food, impressive tea expertise and attentive service within a refined setting. The staff are well trained - you can see they have hospitality in their blood."

Jumeirah Carlton Tower, London - Best Contemporary Afternoon Tea

The judges said: "This is how afternoon tea should be. I don't think I've ever experienced such perfect service. Even with other diners in the room, it felt like private dining."

The 'Award of Excellence' was presented to the following venues:

• Beaumont Mayfair, London
• Brown's Hotel, London
• The Chesterfield Mayfair, London
• Coworth Park, Berkshire
• Roseate Villa, Bath
• Boringdon Hall Hotel, Devon
• Sheraton Grand Park Lane, London
• Hotel Cafe Royal, London
• InterContinental London O2, London
• The Rex, Manchester
• The Chancery Rosewood, London

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• Twenty8 NoMad, London
• The Lanesborough, London
• King Street Townhouse, Manchester
• Ugly Butterfly by Adam Handling, Cornwall
• Theatre Royal Drury Lane, London
• Great Fosters, Surrey

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Notes To Editors:

AfternoonTea.co.uk is the UK's premier Afternoon Tea guide, featuring over 800 venues across the UK & Ireland.

More information about the award winners can be found at afternoonteaawards.co.uk

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