

'Fairytale' hotel and holiday park restaurant named the best in North Wales

Go North Wales Tourism Awards celebrated the sector's high flyers

[Comments2](#)

[News](#)

[Owen Hughes](#) Daily Post chief reporter

05:13, 21 Nov 2025Updated 10:32, 21 Nov 2025



[View 3 Images](#)

Chateau Rhianfa, Menai Bridge, Anglesey(Image: Ian Cooper/North Wales Live)

A grand hotel on Anglesey and a celebrated holiday park restaurant were among those named the best in North Wales at the region's tourism awards.

Article continues below

The annual event at Venue Cymru was organised by North Wales Tourism to celebrate the dedication, skill and achievements of the region's tourism and hospitality industry.

Article continues below

If You Need To Kill Time On Your Computer, This Popular Strategy Game Is A Must

This game will keep you up at night. No download needed

Forge Of Empires|

Sponsored

It was hosted by former [BBC](#) journalist Sian Lloyd and the headline sponsor were Harlech Foodservices.

Article continues below

138437485146

The event saw a teenager who fled the war in Ukraine crowned as the rising star of the tourism industry in North Wales. Yuliia Batrak, 19, a student at Coleg Llandrillo, won Young Person in Tourism and Hospitality prize at the prestigious Go North Wales Tourism Awards.

Body found near North Wales Travelodge

I visited the most northerly village in Wales and found a coastal walk worth travelling for

At the other end of the age spectrum, the blue riband Service to Tourism Award went to Geoff Lofthouse, 70, who retired recently after more than 40 years as manager of the four star Imperial Hotel in [Llandudno](#).

Among the other big winners on the night was fairytale 19th century hotel Chateau Rhianfa, spectacularly located overlooking the Menai Strait and across to breathtaking views of Eryri ([Snowdonia](#)).

You May Like

All Yours - Get Up To 70 Free Spins In Rhy!No Deposit, No Wagering. 18+ Full T&Cs Apply. www.gambleaware.org.

StrikeWild|

Sponsored

Get the latest North Wales Live breaking news on WhatsApp

Our community members are treated to special offers, promotions and adverts from us and our partners. You can check out at any time. [More info](#)

[Join us on WhatsApp](#)

The 26-bedroom, Grade II listed chateau on the outskirts of Menai Bridge was named Hotel of the Year, having built a reputation as one of the most iconic places to stay in Wales.

A very different business, located nearby on the shoreline in Menai Bridge, also came out on top.

RibRide, which offers high-speed boat trips around the [Anglesey](#) coastline, was named as Activity or Experience of the Year – 20 years after they launched their first rib into the Menai Strait.

Article continues below

138437485146

The business has also been recognised on Trip Advisor as the best boat tour operator in the UK and carries over 20,000 passengers a year.

Back on dry land, Gimblet Rock in [Pwllheli](#) was named as Holiday Park of the Year after investing in eco-friendly initiatives, including electric buggies, energy efficient upgrades and planting Marram Grass to stabilise dunes and protect habitats.

A giant of the adventure tourism industry, Zip World, won the Visitor Attraction of the Year accolade, confirming its place as one of North Wales' greatest success stories.

Article continues below

Meanwhile, the acclaimed Signatures restaurant, based at the Aberconwy Resort and Spa in [Conwy](#) also tasted success.



[View 3 Images](#)

(Image: North Wales Live)

The eatery headed up by chef Jimmy Williams and his wife, Louise, was honoured as Restaurant of the Year.

Article continues below

0

It's also been named Wales' Best Restaurant at the World Culinary Awards three times.

Emlyn's Coppice in Gwespyr, near [Holywell](#), won the Self Catering Accommodation Award. The luxury glamping and camping retreat, featuring bespoke pods, private hot tubs and a handcrafted sauna, was praised for its sustainability, quality and guest experience.

Originally from the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv, 'rising star' winner Yuliia came to the UK with her mother, Liudmyla, and younger sister Alona after Russia invaded their homeland.

Article continues below

138437485146

Yuliia has been a student at Coleg Llandrillo since 2022 and is studying for a Level 3 Diploma in Food and Beverage Service Supervision. She also works part time at the George Hotel in Llandudno

She is part of the UK skills food service team representing the UK and Wales at European and world competitions.

Earlier this year she was awarded the Medallion for Excellence at the EuroSkills 2025 competition in Denmark.

Article continues below

138437485146

Yuliia's personal tutor Mike Garner, a hospitality lecturer at Coleg Llandrillo, said: "From the very first training sessions I spent with Yuliia, you could see she had the dedication and focus to achieve great things and gain great success.



[View 3 Images](#)

Yuliia Batrak with her mother Liudmyla and their Welsh sponsor Helen Moore at the Coleg Llandrillo awards

“I am incredibly proud of Yuliia and all that she has achieved so far. She has also been a has been a positive influence on her peers and become a real example of what hard work and dedication can achieve.

Article continues below

138437485146

“She is consistently cheerful and always embraces her challenges and opportunities with a big smile and cheerful demeanour.”

According to head judge, Jim Jones, the chief executive of North Wales Tourism, Geoff Lofthouse was a very worthy winner of the Service to Tourism Award.

He said: “What Geoff has achieved over more than four decades at the helm of the Imperial Hotel has been remarkable and has helped cement Llandudno’s reputation as the Queen of Resorts.

Article continues below

138437485146

“He is a real role model to those following in his footsteps, including the truly inspirational Yuliia Batrak who is already making her mark in the industry and has an incredibly bright future ahead of her.

“I would like to congratulate both Geoff and Yuliia and every single one of the winners but I would also like to stress that all the nominees are the heroes of our tourism and hospitality industry.

“This event really showcases the very best of North Wales and we have seen so many amazing entries, all of which underlines why this is a truly world class destination for visitors.”

Article continues below

138437485146

Harlech Foodservice Sales director Mark Lawton said: “We’re thrilled to continue our support for the North Wales Tourism Awards so we can celebrate the people and businesses who help make North Wales one of the UK’s top visitor destinations.

“This event has become a real highlight in the region’s calendar and plays a vital role in recognising a sector that’s at the heart of the North Wales economy.

“We’re incredibly lucky to live and work in such a beautiful part of the world. Visitors come here for the scenery and adventure, but great food and drink are a huge part of the experience too. That’s why we always try to source as much as possible from local producers — it’s something we’re passionate about.

Article continues below

138437485146

“North Wales is a world-class destination — diverse, innovative and full of character.. After everything the industry has been through, particularly during the pandemic, it’s fantastic to be able to give something back and celebrate the success of our core customers.”

Full list of winners at Go North Wales Tourism Awards

New Tourism Business of the Year sponsored by Lanyon Bowdler: Cae Môr Hotel, Llandudno

Article continues below

138437485146

Pet Friendly Award sponsored by Snuggles Doggy Daycare and Boarding: The Stella Historic, Llandudno B&B

Bro a Byd Award for Ethical, Responsible and Sustainable Tourism sponsored by Development Bank of Wales: Hafan y Môr Holiday Park, Pwllheli

Restaurant of the Year sponsored by Pario Leisure Group: Signatures, Conwy

Article continues below

138437485146

Bistro, Café and Coffee Shop of the Year sponsored by Business in Wales: Providero,
[Llandudno Junction](#) and Llandudno

Activity Experience of the Year sponsored by Snowdonia Hospitality and Leisure: RibRide,
Menai Bridge

Visitor Attraction of the Year sponsored by SF Parks: Zip World

Article continues below

138437485146

Hotel of the Year sponsored by Condor Hotels: Chateau Rhianfa, Menai Bridge,

Self Catering of the Year sponsored by Carbon Zero Group: Emlyn's Coppice, Gwespyr,
Holywell

B&B, Inn and Guest House of the Year sponsored by Castell Howell Foods: Black Boy Inn,
[Caernarfon](#)

Article continues below

138437485146

Glamping, Camping and Caravan site of the Year sponsored by PODS Cymru: Rhaeadr Nantcoll Waterfalls, Llanbedr, [Gwynedd](#),

Holiday Park of the Year sponsored by Voel Coaches: Gimblet Rock Holiday Park, Pwllheli

Event of the Year sponsored by Copa Training: Supercar Sunday North Wales, Llandudno

Article continues below

138437485146

Marketing & Media Recognition Award sponsored by Heart North and Mid Wales: Oyster Holiday Cottages, Menai Bridge

Tourism Service/Product Supplier of the Year sponsored by Hafan y Môr Holiday Park: Llanfairpwll Distillery

Young Person in Tourism and Hospitality sponsored by Coleg Llandrillo: Yuliia Batrak,