

# AUSTRALIA'S BEST GELATO THE ICE CREAM OF THE CROP

## DAN STOCK

THEY had the competition licked and scooped the pool.

Melbourne's Fritz Gelato has been named grand champion for their hazelnut gelato at this year's Australian Grand Dairy Awards.

Victoria took home the most awards at this year's national event, with eight products named as

champions of their categories.

Celebrating its 20th year, the Australian Grand Dairy Awards celebrated the best cheeses, ice creams, yoghurts, milks and butters in the country — with the grand champion being awarded to the "best of the best".

Fritz Gelato founder Andrew Johnston said it was a great thrill to win, especially as hazelnut was such a tricky gelato flavour to perfect.

"I've experimented with roasting and grinding nuts, with using my own nut paste, using other pastes, and I like the one I'm using now. I just reckon it tastes good. You've got to go with what you think is right, and obviously the judges agree," he said.

Mr Johnston said the recent spate of hot weather had been a boon for the three Fritz Gelato stores at the South Melbourne and Prahran markets, as well as Bridge Rd, Richmond.

"When it's above 34

degrees, everyone stays indoors but under that everyone's out eating gelato," he said.

Other Victorian grand champions include That's Amore buffalo ricotta, Dooley's chocolate ice cream, Jalna biodynamic natural yoghurt and Florida pecorino pepato.



Fritz Gelato owner/head gelato maker Andrew Johnston is awarded the grand champion at the Australian Grand Dairy Awards. Picture: NICOLE CLEARY