



THE HIGHWAYMAN  
*A Ribble Valley Inn*

## Even more top awards on the menu for Ribble Valley Inns

### *The Highwayman's Michael Ward scoops the UK's Pub Chef of the Year*

RVI yet again seems to have found the recipe for success as two of its chefs dominated the awards at this year's PubChef Food Excellence Ceremony in London.

These 'Oscars' for the industry attract hundreds of entries from some of the most talented chefs in the country and taking home the top accolades involves a lengthy judging process including national 'cook-offs'.

This year, Michael Ward, Head Chef of The Highwayman at Burrow, won the award as Game Chef of the Year for his dish of Partridge with Black Budding Croquette, Creamed Mash, Foragers Bacon and Juniper Sauce. And in a double-header for RVI, his counterpart at Mitton's Three Fishes, Thomas Pickering, was named Poultry Chef of the Year for his Devilled Breast of Cornfed Goosnargh Chicken.

But the best was yet to come as Michael picked up the night's top honours as UK PubChef of the Year...yet another award for a Northern chef, proving again that this area is now firmly established as the food capital of the country. Born in Pontefract, Michael perfected his art as Sous Chef in some of the nation's finest establishments including Oulton Hall, The Devonshire Arms and the Yorke Arms, before joining Michelin Star Chef, Nigel Haworth at the Northcote Group... owners of Ribble Valley Inns.



“It was fantastic news to hear about all three awards”, says Nigel. “We’re immensely proud of both chefs and their talented kitchen brigades. For Michael, it’s great to see him recognised nationally with this award. He’s a quiet man, dedicated to his craft, and he puts in an enormous amount of hard work.”

Presenting the awards, Jo Bruce, editor of PubChef magazine commented, “The Standards of this year’s entries was the highest we’ve seen in the five years of these awards and choosing a winner in each category was difficult. So Thomas and Michael should be very proud of taking the tops accolades.”

But perhaps the real winners are the visitors to a Ribble Valley Inn...where the food and the hospitality just keep on picking up award after award.

16 March 2009

For pictures or more information contact  
Kaye Mathew - Group Sales & Marketing Director  
[kaye@northcotegroup.com](mailto:kaye@northcotegroup.com)  
Tel 07760 176434



The Highwayman, Burrow, Kirkby Lonsdale LA6 2RJ  
Tel 01524 27338 Email [enquiries@highwaymaninn.com](mailto:enquiries@highwaymaninn.com)  
[www.highwaymaninn.co.uk](http://www.highwaymaninn.co.uk)