

# IGCAT

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
GASTRONOMY, CULTURE, ARTS AND TOURISM



## IGCAT Voice

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What an amazing year it has been! In particular we would like to congratulate Hauts-de-France, European Region of Gastronomy 2023 for organising over 700 events to celebrate the region's local cuisine and culture. The World Region of Gastronomy Platform had a chance to sample some of these events during a field visit to share good practises in June and also when the region hosted IGCAT's 7th European Young Chef Award in November (watch the [official video](#)).

On both occasions our international guests were deeply impressed with the regions stakeholders be they private, third sector, public or academic - they are all working together to preserve and promote their region's culinary assets.

IGCAT welcomed new experts and regions into our family proving that our efforts to improve the visibility of those embracing food and cultural diversity is appreciated. We know that there are still so many wonderful regions that are contributing to food sovereignty, better health and well-being of citizens and in thus doing are strengthening their circular economies. We need your help to identify them.

IGCAT is grateful to EUHT STPol for providing a new base for IGCAT in Sant Pol de Mar, Catalonia World Region of Gastronomy 2025.

In just a few days Saimaa, will start their year as European Region of Gastronomy 2024 and Aseer as World Region of Gastronomy 2024. We wish them the best of luck and we wish you a peaceful, joyful and tasty new year!

**IGCAT's Secretariat**

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## News from IGCAT & the World Regions of Gastronomy

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### An outstanding year for Hauts-de-France 2023

12 December 2023 - As its title year as European Region of Gastronomy 2023 comes to an end, Hauts-de-France takes stock of the powerful dynamic brought about by the Award that, on the one hand, raised the region's profile as an internationally recognised gastronomic destination ... [Read More](#)



### Open call for World and European Regions of Gastronomy 2027

Join IGCAT's growing Platform and work with us to protect and promote your cultural and food diversity! Deadline for joining the Platform: **30 Jan. 2024** | Deadline for applications: **31 May 2024**  
For more information please visit [IGCAT website](#).

### Winner of the European Young Chef Award 2023 announced!

22 November 2023 - Boštjan Volk from Slovenia, European Region of Gastronomy awarded 2021 was announced European Young Chef for 2023 on 22 November. With his dish Honey Hug, he captivated the international jury chaired by Michelin-starred chef Alexandre Gauthier, official ... [Read more](#)



### Winners of the Food Film Menu 2023 revealed

11 November 2023 - Harvesting Memories, a short film sharing culinary traditions from the eyes of a child, won the 1st Prize in IGCAT's International Food Film Menu 2023 competition. The winner from Saimaa, European Region of Gastronomy awarded 2024, was announced together with 2nd Prize, Latitude Iche Route: A Journey Through the Flavors of M ... [Read more](#)

### Talented young chefs are advocates for sustainability

21 November 2023 - The network of IGCAT's Regional Chef Ambassadors keeps growing, as finalists of the European Young Chef Award 2023 have joined their colleagues from previous editions in the endeavour to support more sustainable food futures. By signing an agreement with ... [Read more](#)





## Get ready for the new Saimaa 2024 revolution!

12 December 2023 - Included in National Geographic's Cool List 2024 and listed by The Wall Street Journal among the top destinations Where to Find the Most Stunning Fall Foliage, Saimaa region is definitely the place to be next year, when they will celebrate their title as European Region of Gastronomy 2024! An official calendar of events will soon be av ... [Read more](#)

## Building connections at the Aseer Culinary Arts Symposium

12 December 2023 - A new exciting chapter is opening for Aseer (Saudi Arabia) as the region prepares to celebrate its title year as World Region of Gastronomy 2024! The first to receive this accolade outside Europe, Aseer has prepared a yearly programme of events and initiatives to r ... [Read more](#)



## Sicily officially awarded European Region of Gastronomy 2025

15 December 2023 - Sicily was officially awarded the title of European Region of Gastronomy 2025 by the International Institute of Gastronomy, Culture, Arts and Tourism (IGCAT) in recognition of their sustainable approach to agriculture and strong commitment to protecting ... [Read more](#)

## Catalonia officially awarded World Region of Gastronomy 2025

8 November 2023 - Catalonia was officially awarded the title of World Region of Gastronomy 2025 by the International Institute of Gastronomy, Culture, Arts and Tourism (IGCAT) for their commitment to work across sectors to ensure a healthy, safe and resilient food future thro ... [Read more](#)



## A growing world movement for a sustainable food future

12 December 2023 - 2023 represented a resounding success for the World Regions of Gastronomy Platform that in the past year welcomed four new members applying for the 2026 title. Gozo (Malta), Kvarner (Croatia), and Crete (Greece) have recently presented their bid books for the ... [Read more](#)

## Current news from around the globe

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### NEMOS: An ambitious and transformative project

27 December 2023 - An educational innovation project, NEMOS encourages the adoption of service-learning as a green pedagogy to integrate sustainability in the higher education curricula. With the aim to include a social element in the students' learning path, NEMOS introduces service-learning as an experiential methodology by which students get ... [Read more](#)

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### New research urges data-driven action for agriculture and food systems change

By FAO

21 December 2023 - "The state of food systems worldwide in the countdown to 2030", published by The Food Systems Countdown to 2030 Initiative (FSCI), provides the first science-based monitoring to guide dec ... [Read more](#)

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### Reef Saudi launches bee clinics in major cities in Kingdom

By Dhah Al-Mutairi - Arab News

23 November 2023 - The Sustainable Agricultural Rural Development Program, or Reef Saudi, has launched bee clinics in Jeddah, Jazan, Madinah and Abha, providing examination, diagnosis, guidance and aids ... [Read more](#)

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IGCAT carries out research, collects knowledge and develops projects to support creative solutions in regional and local development. This newsletter is just a small selection of news from the past three months. IGCAT compiles trends and facts from around the world.

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