AUSTRALIA’S BEST GELATO THE ICE CREAM OF THE CROP

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 Floridia pecorino pepato.