

# regional round-up

## Foodies' delight

Top celebrity chefs, including Clarissa Dickson Wright, Rachel Green and Anjum Anand from the BBC's *Indian Food Made Easy*, will be hosting talks and demonstrations throughout the award-winning two-day East Midlands Food and Drink Festival at Brooksby Hall near Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire from 4-10 October.

The theme for this year's festival is Diversity: Food and Cultures of the East Midlands. Besides traditional delicacies such as Melton Mowbray pork pies, Bakewell Pudding and Stilton, the East Midlands has a wealth of foods from communities that have settled in the region since the Second World War, so expect curry (Leicester was voted Curry Capital of the UK last year) and Polish dishes. Art, dance, music and crafts complete the menu.

Visit [www.goleicestershire.com](http://www.goleicestershire.com) to book advance tickets.

 BIRMINGHAM



## ROCK ON

You've got to be fast to grab tickets for Bestival, the annual music festival at Robin Hill Countryside Adventure Park on the Isle of Wight. This year's event – from 5-7 September – has sold out so you'll be missing indie giants My Bloody Valentine, queen of soulful pop Amy Winehouse and techno titans Underworld in the headline slots. To make sure you don't miss out in 2009, keep an eye on [www.bestival.net](http://www.bestival.net) for updates.

 SOUTHAMPTON



## Blooming Edinburgh

Edinburgh-based painter Kirsty Lorenz will be the featured artist at The Airport Gallery at Edinburgh airport from 30 September until 11 November. Kirsty has developed a strong reputation for her oil-on-canvas pictures of flowers and will be displaying 12 new paintings at The Airport Gallery.

"I paint flower portraits, much as a portrait artist will paint heads and figures, and through them feel I express something fundamental about life and living," says Kirsty.

"I love to paint a wide range of flowers, from formally-cultivated varieties with great poise and drama such as dahlias, peonies and lilies to wild flowers such as daisies and clovers."

 EDINBURGH



## Lights, camera...

Film fans are in for a treat with this year's Times BFI 52nd London Film Festival, which runs from 15-30 October. For two weeks the capital turns into a veritable red carpet catwalk of international film stars – it was where Halle Berry unveiled her baby bump last year in a stunning Versace dress, and other glamorous guests included Naomi Watts and Tom Cruise.

Films are open to the public, with cheap tickets for the weekday daytime screenings of all the big films at Leicester Square available for just £7.

See [www.bfi.org.uk](http://www.bfi.org.uk)

 GATWICK



## Spooky!

Head to Oxford Castle – one of the most haunted buildings in the UK – from 17-25 October for a celebration of all things paranormal. At this ghost festival you can take part in scary overnight ghost hunts around the castle – including one with ex-Most Haunted medium David Wells, find out how paranormal investigators track down those elusive ghosts, and take part in ghost vigils and séances. There's plenty of entertainment too, including a comedy show by psychic Becky Walsh, and magic from Paul Bell.

Find out more at [www.frightnights.co.uk](http://www.frightnights.co.uk) or call 0114 251 3232

 LUTON

