



TWSC2021 Shochu Division Best of the Best

The #1 Shochu selected from 255 bottles!

The Tokyo Whisky & Spirits Competition, operated by the TWSC Executive Committee, is Japan's first whisky and spirits competition. Beginning with the second holding of the competition last year, a new Shochu Division was created. This year saw 255 entries from across Japan, where the rigorous judging process yielded in 17 Superior Gold winners, 64 Gold winners, 100 Silver winners, and 40 Bronze winners. After that first round of judging, a list of the 25 highest-scoring entries was created to determine the "Best of the Best," whereby a special tasting team of 15 judges once again rated entries. The "Best of the Best" award is presented to the single best shochu across all categories.

Results

**Amami's Kokuto Sugar Shochu wins for the second time in a row
Western spirits professionals have chosen the oak cask-aged "Benisango" as #1**

【1st】 Benisango (Kokuto Sugar)

【2nd Place – 10th Place】



- 【2nd】 Kodai Ikko (Rice)
- 【3rd】 Den-en Envelhecida 40% (Sweet Potato)
- 【4th】 Hyakunenno Kodoku (Barley)
- 【4th】 Yaesentaruchozo (Awamori)
- 【6th】 Tenshi-No-Yuwaku (Sweet Potato)
- 【7th】 Sato No Akebono Gold (Kokuto Sugar)
- 【7th】 Shasharakuraku Kin (Sweet Potato)
- 【9th】 Barrel Long-Term Storage Barley Shochu Owl (Barley)
- 【9th】 Sennen No Hibiki 43% (Awamori)

※Only Top 10 Shown. Including Best of the Best

Best of the Best Judging Process

The process begins with the creation of list of the highest-scoring 25 shochu within the TWSC2021 Shochu Division. Then, a special tasting team of 15 judges is assembled to decide the Best of the Best. Like the standard judging round, entries are divided into mini bottles, and blind tasting is conducted remotely. Judges rate each items up to a maximum of 100 points, then scores are tallied. The entry with the highest average score is crowned 2021's "Best of the Best."

What is TWSC?

In recent years, whisky and spirits have attracted unprecedented levels of attention. In Japan, 2016-18 saw the birth of several distilleries throughout the country, marking the start of the "Japan Craft Distillery Era." This phenomenon is not limited to Japan: it is also observed in Scotland, Ireland, Europe, the US, Canada, and even in Asian countries such as Taiwan and India.

Whisky and spirits from throughout the world congregate in Japan, and Japan domestically produces high quality whisky and other spirits. Thanks to winning awards at spirits competitions held in the UK and the US, "Japanese Whisky" and "Japanese Spirits" are internationally recognized categories. However, up until now, these competitions were "the world rating Japan" rather than "Japan rating the world." With the goals of further improving Japanese liquor and supporting drinking culture, TWSC was first held in 2019, garnering international attention by judging spirits here in Japan.

The rigorous judging process requires ratings be given based on blind tasting, where judges are not informed of the name of each spirit. Each entry is given a score of up to 100 points by 11-14 judges, and the final result is the average of the judges' scores.

【TWSC2021 Information】

■Official Homepage	http://tokyowhiskyspiritscompetition.jp/
■Judges	84 specialists, makers, salespeople, and members of the media in shochu, sake, and wine, as well as Western spirits experts
■Categories	96 total categories were assigned based on raw ingredients such as rice, barley, sweet potato, awamori, kokuto sugar, or others, then further broken down by maturation container and alcohol by volume
■Entries	Western spirits division: 444 entries, Shochu division: 255 entries
■Organizer	Tokyo Whisky & Spirits Competition Executive Committee
■Executive Committee Chair	Japan Whisky Research Centre President Mamoru Tsuchiya
■Planning/Operation	Japan Whisky Research Centre
■With Support From	Japan Tequila Association / R.U.M. JAPAN Association / Japan Vodka Association / Association Japonaise de Cognac / Japan Pisco Association / Japan Spirits & Liqueurs Makers Association / Japan Wines and Spirits Importers' Association / Women's Association for Japanese SAKE & WINE lovers / Cheese Professional Association / Hotel Barmen's Association / Embassy of Ireland / U.S. Agricultural Trade Office, American Embassy / Embassy of Armenia / Welsh Government Japan Representative Office / Embassy of Canada / Embassy of Jamaica / Scottish Development International / Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office / Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany / Embassy of México / National Tax Agency / Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

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