

May 26, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tokyo Whisky & Spirits Competition 2022

Shochu Division Results Announcement

The “Tokyo Whisky & Spirits Competition 2022 (TWSC2022)” results from the Shochu Division have been announced on May 26, 2022. TWSC, first held in 2019 with just Western spirits, added a Shochu Division in 2020, making this the third year. Entries were accepted in autumn 2021, and judging was done remotely between February and May this year. 101 judges participated.

The Competition is held by the TWSC Executive Committee, and planned and executed by the Japan Whisky Research Centre.

- There were 281 entries this year, up 26 from last year
- 24 entries won Superior Gold, 134 won Gold, 77 won Silver, and 38 won Bronze
- First and second rounds of judging were remote, with 101 judges participating
- Awards for the Western Spirits Division were announced on May 18, and Special Awards will be announced in June

What is the Tokyo Whisky & Spirits Competition (TWSC)?

○Amongst Asia’s largest, and Japan’s only global spirits competition

TWSC is Japan’s only whisky, spirits, and shochu competition, and one of the largest in Asia. (4-year total TWSC entry count below)

2711 entries: 962 whisky, 955 spirits, 794 shochu

○Over 300 Western Spirits and Shochu experts from across Japan

Having built relationships of trust over the 20 years since the establishment of the Japan Whisky Research Centre, more than 300 judges from across Japan offer their expertise as judges. The judge pool consists of bartenders, manufacturers, importers, and more, as well as Whisky Connoisseur certification holders.

○Judging via blind tasting

By judging blindly, entries are evaluated without any influence from unnecessary information.



Superior Gold Award List



	Product Name	Alc.
Sweet Potato	Imo No Koutei Samurai No Mon	25%
Sweet Potato	Tensi No Yuwaku	40%
Sweet Potato	Tensei Hojun Red	42%
Sweet Potato	Ten No Kokuin Craft Imo	25%
Sweet Potato	Banreki	44.5%
Sweet Potato	Hinami	25%
Barley	Kogen	25%
Barley	Junga Mugi	28%
Barley	Hatsushio	25%
Barley	Ranbiki Shiny Gold Sherry Cask	42%
Rice	Gokuraku Shizuka 6 Years Old	42%
Rice	Gokuraku	25%
Rice	Takata No Hanatare	44%
Rice	Joatu Toyonagakura	25%
Kokuto	Jougo	25%
Kokuto	Hamachidori No Uta Gold	40%
Kokuto	Benisango	40%
Awamori	Uminokuni Kohaku 12 Years Old	43%
Awamori	Shoen No Sato	30%
Awamori	Sennen No Hibiki	43%
Sakekasu	Urakasumi	25%
Sakekasu	Yoroshiku Senman Arubeshi	40%
Other	Kodoku Na Tenssi	36%
Other	Mayan No Tsubuyaki	38%

※Please see the attached “TWSC2022 Shochu Division Award List” for all awards

Entry and Award Count by Type (Superior Gold, Gold, Silver, Bronze)

<Entry Count>

There were 281 entries, or 26 more than last year. The categories with significant entry count increases were Barley Shochu (+18 entries) and Rice Shochu (+12 entries). There was a decrease in Kokuto Shochu (-5 entries) and Awamori (-5 entries). Beginning in 2022, entries in Kourui Shochu/Blends were also accepted, adding 9 entries.

Category	2022 count	2021 count	YoY (count)	YoY (%)
Sweet Potato	98	102	-4	96.1%
Barley	68	50	+18	136.0%
Rice	44	32	+12	137.5%
Kokuto	12	17	-5	70.6%
Awamori	30	35	-5	85.7%
Kasutori/other	20	19	+1	105.3%
Kourui/Blends	9	-	+9	-
	281	255	+26	110.2%

<Award Count>

273 awards were given, where 24 were Superior Gold, 134 were Gold, 77 were Silver, and 38 were Bronze. Compared to last year, there were more Gold-winning entries.

Category	SGold	Gold	Silver	Bronze	No award
Sweet Potato	6	45	25	19	3
Barley	4	27	23	11	3
Rice	4	25	9	5	1
Kokuto	3	6	3	0	0
Awamori	3	20	7	0	0
Kasutori/other	4	9	6	0	1
Kourui/Blends	0	2	4	3	0
	24	134	77	38	8

Judging Methodology (Shochu Division)

<First round [Remote Judging]>

83 judges participated. These judges evaluated entries blindly, and assigned scores up to 100 points based on three aspects: 1) aroma, 2) flavor, and 3) overall. Entries to be rated were divided into mini bottles, then sent to judges along with designated tasting glasses. One judge was responsible for approximately 35 items, and each entry was evaluated by at least 10 judges. Results from the first round were tallied, and the Executive Committee awarded Superior Gold through Bronze.

<Second round [Remote Judging]>

In the second round of judging, after dividing the highest-scoring entries by abv, a special judge pool of 36 judges re-evaluated those entries. There were 14 entries at 25% abv or less, and 15 entries of higher abv, bringing the total to 29. These results determine the “Best of the Best” award. Scores are awarded using the same approach as the first round.

<Judging Standards>

Prior to judging, all judges view an explainer video and taste the same sample to align their judging standards. The video is available online and viewable by anyone. To maintain a high level of transparency and fairness, TWSC’s scoring standards and methodology are made public via the Official Guide Book and in Whisky Galore magazine.

Special Awards Announcement

At TWSC, in addition to the Superior Gold through Bronze awards, Special Awards are also given. These are awarded for aspects such as the product quality of the bottles, design, and activities of the distilleries. This year the “Best of the Best” awards has been expanded to three categories, and there will be a new “Design Award.”。

※The Special Awards announcements will be split across a press release (June 2022) and the TWSC2022 Awards Ceremony (July 2022). (The Awards Ceremony is scheduled to be held online)

Japan Whisky Research Centre

The Japan Whisky Research Centre is an enthusiast organization headed by whisky critic Mamoru Tsuchiya that disseminates information about whiskies from across the world. Since its inception in March 2001, the organization has been involved in a variety of projects such as publishing *Whisky Galore* whisky magazine, running “Whisky Festival,” the “Whisky Connoisseur Qualification Certification Exam,” and “Whisky Kentei.” (Homepage: <https://scotchclub.org/>)

TWSC Executive Committee Chair / Japan Whisky Research Centre Representative Director Mamoru Tsuchiya Profile

Born in 1954 on Sado Island, Niigata Prefecture, Japan. As a whisky journalist utilizing his experience as a UK-based reporter from 1987 to 1993, he was named one of the "World's Best Five Whisky Writers" by Highland Distillers in 1998. Upon return to Japan, he established the Japan Whisky Research Centre (Scotch Whisky Research Centre at the time), and he has been passionately involved in spreading whisky and its culture throughout Japan via lectures, writing, running the Whisky Connoisseur exam, Whisky Festival, and Whisky Kentei, as well as publishing a whisky magazine. He was also the whisky historical investigator for NHK's serialized TV drama "Massan," which started airing in 2014.

He has published several books such as *The Complete Guide to Single Malt Whisky*, *The Complete Guide to Blended Whisky* (Shogakukan), *Taketsuru's Life and Whisky* (Tokyo Shoseki), *The Literacy of Whisky* (Kadokawa), and *Whisky for a Richer Life* (MyNavi Books). He is the editor of the bimonthly "Whisky Galore" magazine.

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