

May 18, 2022

Tokyo Whisky & Spirits Competition 2022

Western Spirits Division Results Announcement

The “Tokyo Whisky & Spirits Competition 2022 (TWSC2022)” results from the Western Spirits Division have been announced on May 18, 2022. TWSC, first held in 2019, is now in its fourth year. Entries were accepted in autumn 2021, and judging was done remotely between February and May this year. 241 judges participated. Separately, judging and tallying results of the Shochu Division is underway, and results are slated to be announced at the end of May. The Competition is held by the TWSC Executive Committee, and planned and executed by the Japan Whisky Research Centre.

- There were 519 entries this year, up 75 from last year
- 23 entries won Superior Gold, 189 won Gold, 190 won Silver, and 82 won Bronze
- First and second rounds of judging were remote, with 241 judges participating
- Awards for the Shochu Division will be announced at the end of May, and Special Awards 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
Scotch Whisky	Bruichladdich The Organic 2010
Scotch Whisky	Loch Lomond Inchmurrin 12 Years Old
Scotch Whisky	24.140 Sublime Nectar
Scotch Whisky	76.146 Dancing Sevillanas in The Moonlight
Scotch Whisky	Blended Malt 2001 18 Years Old Butt#85 Frontispiece #01 for Whisky Talk Fukuoka 2021
Scotch Whisky	Johnnie Walker Black Label 12 Years Old
Scotch Whisky	Ballantine's 30 Years Old
Japanese Whisky	Kanosuke 2021 First Edition
Japanese Whisky	Yamazaki 18 Years Old
Japanese Whisky	Ichiro's Malt&Grain Blended Japanese Whisky 2022
Japanese Whisky	Hibiki 21Years Old
American Whisky	Ken's Choice Jazz Instrumental Trumpet
Taiwanese Whisky	Kavalan Solist Moscatel Sherry
Brandy	Chateau Garreau Folleblanche Cask Strength 2001
Brandy	Dartigalongue 1989
Brandy	Domaine De Pouteou Tarbe 1996 Baco Folle Blanche
Rum	Appleton Estate 21 Years Old
Rum	Rum Nation Panama 21 Years Old
Rum	Ron Zacapa X0
Agave Spirits	Cascahuin Tahona Reposado Cuatro
Agave Spirits	Don Julio 1942
Gin	Sakurao Gin Original
Gin	Roku

※Please see the attached “TWSC2022 Western Spirits Division Award List” for all awards.

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

<Entry Count>

There were 519 entries, or 75 more than last year. The categories with significant entry count increases were Japanese whisky (+10 entries), European whisky (+11 entries), Gin (+24 entries), and other spirits (+17 entries). There was a decrease in Irish whiskey (-14 entries). These figures include 15 overseas companies submitting 59 entries.

	Category	Subtot	2022 count	2021 count	YoY (count)	YoY (%)
Whisky	Scotch whisky	251	88	83	+5	106.0%
	Japanese whisky		50	40	+10	125.0%
	Irish whiskey		12	26	-14	46.2%
	American whiskey		30	29	+1	103.4%
	Taiwanese whisky		31	28	+3	110.7%
	European whisky		18	7	+11	257.1%
	Other regional whisky		5	1	+4	500.0%
	World blended whisky		17	12	+5	141.7%
Spirits	Brandy	268	27	25	+2	108.0%
	Rum		32	33	-1	97.0%
	Agave spirits		42	33	+9	127.3%
	Gin		113	89	+24	127.0%
	Vodka		14	15	-1	93.3%
	Other spirits		40	23	+17	173.9%
				519	444	+75

<Award Count>

484 awards were given, where 23 were Superior Gold, 189 were Gold, 190 were Silver, and 82 were Bronze. Compared to last year, there were more Gold-winning entries.

Category	SGold	Gold	Silver	Bronze	No award
Scotch whisky	7	33	31	16	1
Japanese whisky	4	18	23	4	1
Irish whiskey	0	5	7	0	0
American whiskey	1	15	10	4	0
Taiwanese whisky	1	22	5	3	0
European whisky	0	6	5	7	0
Other regional whisky	0	0	0	3	2
World blended whisky	0	5	7	3	2
Brandy	3	9	9	3	3
Rum	3	13	8	4	4
Agave spirits	2	14	15	8	3
Gin	2	39	42	16	14
Vodka	0	2	7	3	2
Other spirits	0	8	21	8	3
	23	189	190	82	35

Judging Methodology (Western Spirits Division)

<First round [Remote Judging]>

223 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 30 to 40 items, and each entry was evaluated by at least 12 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, a special judge pool of 37 judges re-evaluated 40 entries that scored highest in the Single Malt Whisky, Blended Whisky, and Japanese Gin categories during the first round. 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 Scotch 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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