

August 11, 2021

To whom it may concern,

Tokyo Whisky & Spirits Competition 2022

Western Spirits Division Official Announcement

Today the Japan Whisky Research Centre announces the holding of “Tokyo Whisky & Spirits Competition 2022.” TWSC was held for the first time in 2019, and despite the Coronavirus pandemic, the Competition has offered evaluation and announced results three times. The Competition is organized by the TWSC Executive Committee, with planning and operation by the Japan Whisky Research Centre. TWSC2022 will be the fourth holding of the Competition.

- Asia’s largest and Japan’s only Western spirits and shochu competition will be held for the 4th time
- New services for entrants / additional feedback from judges
- Category changes due to implementation of the Standards for Labeling Japanese Whisky



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

○ One of Asia’s largest, and the only in Japan

TWSC is Japan’s only whisky, spirits, and shochu competition, and one of the largest in Asia. (TWSC2021 figures) 699 bottles entered / 226 whisk(e)y bottles, 218 spirits bottles, and 255 shochu bottles

○ Over 280 experts from across Japan

Having built relationships of trust over the 20 years since the establishment of the Japan Whisky Research Centre, over 280 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.

○ **Evaluation via blind tasting**

Because entries are judged via blind tasting, entries can be evaluated directly without any influence from unnecessary information. Many standard items have received high scores.

TWSC Initiatives

○ **【NEW】 Early Bird Discount**

The Early Bird Period runs from September 1 to September 30, and entries made in this timeframe receive a 5% discount from entry fees. This can be combined with the bulk entry discount.

○ **【NEW】 Entry with just one bottle**

Entries are now accepted when sending just one bottle 700ml or more. However, entrants are requested to secure and store a backup bottle should it be required in the event of accident or disaster.

○ **【PICK UP】 Judges' feedback and commentary on entries**

Beginning last year, this new service provides feedback and commentary from judges to entrants after collection and selection by the TWSC office. This service is provided free of charge for all entries, regardless of whether or not they win awards. This year will feature even more comments provided to entrants, and the service will be further enhanced in response to additional requests.

* For details, please inquire to the TWSC office or refer to the Entry Handbook/

Japanese Whisky Labeling Standards

The Japan Spirits & Liqueurs Makers Association implemented their “Standards for Labeling Japanese Whisky” on April 1, 2021, creating an official definition of Japanese whisky. TWSC will accept entries based upon this standard.

“Single Malt Japanese Whisky,” “Blended Malt Japanese Whisky,” “Blended Japanese Whisky,” “Single Grain Japanese Whisky” etc. will be evaluated as Japanese whisky.

*Entries bottled in Japan but using whisky from other countries, new born, new pot etc. will be evaluated in different categories.

Schedule

- Entries Accepted: September 1 (Wed) to December 15 (Wed), 2021
- Judging Round 1 [Remote Judging]: Mid-January to mid-February 2022
- Judging Round 2 [Judging Session]: Scheduled to be held mid-March 2022 in Tokyo
- Results Announcement: Scheduled for May 2022
- Awards Ceremony: Late May or early June 2022

Entry Details (Western Spirits Division)

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Eligible for entry | Whiskies and spirits distributed in the Japanese market, and distilled beverages from around the world |
| Entry period | September 1 to December 15, 2021 |
| Early bird discount | September 1 to September 30, 2021 |
| Entry fee | 27,500 yen (tax inc.) per item |
| Bulk entry discount | 6-10 items: 5% discount / 11 or more items: 10% discount |
| Early bird discount | 5% off (can be combined with bulk entry discount) |
| Bottles required for entry | 700ml or more: 1 bottle / 500ml: 2 bottles / 200ml: 4 bottles *Please secure and store a backup bottle. Provided there are no accidents, only 1 bottle needs to be sent for judging. |
| Entry procedure | Download the Entry Sheet from the TWSC homepage, fill out the required items, and submit it by email. After the Entry Sheet is confirmed, entry submission is complete upon payment of the entry fee and shipping of the entry bottles. |

Judging Methodology (Western Spirits Division)

○Judging Round 1 [Remote Judging]

Entries to be rated are divided into mini bottles, then sent to judges along with designated tasting glasses. One judge is responsible for approximately 30 to 40 items. Each entry is judged by at least 10 judges.

Judges evaluate entries blindly, and assign scores up to 100 points based on three aspects: 1) aroma, 2) flavor, and 3) overall.

○Judging Round 2 [Judging Session]

This judging session invites judges from across Japan to a venue in Tokyo. High-ranked items from Judging Round 1 are evaluated again in Round 2. Each table has 8 judges that evaluate items via blind tasting, and like Round 1, items are given scores up to 100 points.

○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.

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/>)

Mamoru Tsuchiya Profile

TWSC Executive Committee Chair /Japan Whisky Research Centre Representative Director

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.

Inquiries

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