





# BREW GOOD THINGS AND TALK ABOUT IT!

Beer drinkers love their beer, which is commonly delivered through many distribution channels without being tasted. In restaurants and pubs, some guests have come to appreciate a little help when selecting a brew from the drinks menu. Producing a good brew is one thing, explaining its character and its compatibility another entirely. To boost credibility, it helps to have a knowledgable person at hand who does not work for any particular brewery.

This is where Finest Beer Selection comes in, a quality assurance test that enables brewers to present their beer quality across all distribution channels. If the Finest Beer Score is accompanied by an easily comprehensible evaluation of the product - and by a correct flavour profile - the consumer's needs are served to satisfaction because he or she now has a credible basis for making a decision.

In its first year, this new platform has already proved its worthiness: nearly 200 brewers from 18 countries entered 880 beers for the Finest Beer Selection premiere.

In 2023, Meininger Verlag and Doemens, two partners with outstanding sensory competence and experience, have joined forces. A quality seal has been developed in record time, consistently assessing the beer entries in all their facets from a beer drinker's point of view. 50 trained tasters evaluate the beers on the basis of a transparent, 100-point scheme so that the aroma profile of each brew is presented in a comprehensible way.

"Brew good things and talk about it": The "talk" then requires multimedia presentations across the spectrum. A bespoke pamphlet presents the award-winning beers of the Finest Beer Selection in an attractive and informative way, and full descriptions of individual award-winning beers can be easily found on the Finest Beer Selection website. Alongside marketing efforts by the brewers themselves, a network is created so that everyone involved across the supply chain has access to this quality seal and can link to the Finest Beer Selection for reference. As a result, trust is assured and information shared in a persuasive manner for the benefit of consumers everywhere!

Dr. Werner Gloßner, CEO Doemens, and Christian Wolf, Head of Tasting at Meininger Verlag GmbH

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Save the dates! The Finest Beer Selection will continue in 2024.

## DEM HIMMEL SO NAH.









## FOCUS ON QUALITY AND INDIVIDUALITY

With the newly designed Finest Beer Selection, founding partners Doemens and Meininger Verlag are establishing an innovative quality compass for beer.

The most important features at a glance.

It is no longer easy to surprise such an accomplished and well-travelled beer expert as Simonmattia Riva, World Champion Beer Sommelier 2015. But during the premiere tasting of the Finest Beer Selection from October 10th to 12th, 2023 at Doemens, the owner of the craft beer pub "Beer Garage" in Bergamo was visibly impressed by the new tasting concept: "The fact that each beer is tasted individually gives us judges more time to analyse and evaluate the contender. We're not forced to compare it with eight to ten other beers and rank them in order," he reported.

This feedback is at the heart of the new format, for which Doemens and Meininger Verlag, two absolute experts with years of experience in analysing and evaluating beers, have joined forces. The declared aim of the conceptualisation was not simply to add yet another beer competition to the existing mix, but to create an entirely new tasting format. A concept that, on the one hand, offers breweries real added value - over and above a possible award - and, on the other, serves as a guide to enjoyment and quality for retailers, the gastronomy and ultimately every consumer.

The reliable guide to excellent beer quality

In contrast to conventional beer competitions, Finest Beer Selection is not a competition in which beers are compared with other beers in each category and a ranking comparison is drawn up. Instead, the concept is a sensory excellence test and serves as a transparent quality guide for all market participants.

FINEST BEER SELECTION 2023 07

### INTRODUCING THE FINEST BEER SELECTION BY MEININGER & DOEMENS TEAM! (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT)



#### Dr. Michael Zepf...

Head of Doemens' Savour Academy,
Dr. Zepf helped develop the
registration and tasting system and
ensured that the jury was perfectly
trained in the Finest Beer Selection
tasting system.

#### Dr. Werner Gloßner...

As CEO of Doemens, he holds all the threads together as co-project manager and ensures, via the Doemens network, that Finest Beer Selection makes a name for itself in its first year as a new compass for excellent beer quality.

#### Christian Wolf...

As member of the Management
Board and head of tasting at
Meininger Verlag, Mr. Wolf manages
the overall process as co-project
manager together with
Dr. Werner Gloßner. Registration,
tasting documentation,
evaluation - there is no way around
"Director Deoustation".

#### Dr. Gerrit Blümelhuber...

As Deputy CEO and Head of Consulting, Seminars & Services Division at Doemens, this team player organised the highly professional beer logistics together with Raic Gröper (not pictured), from the arrival of the beers at Doemens to the poured glass at the jury table. Beer care is very important to him.

#### Benjamin Brouër...

As Deputy Editor-in-Chief of FIZZZ
and beer expert at Meininger Verlag,
Mr. Brouër developed the registration
and tasting system together with
Dr. Michael Zepf. Together with
Andreas Hofbauer from Doemens
(not pictured), he is responsible for
public relations, including social
media communication.

Proven national and international beer experts with many years of tasting experience analyse the beers from a sensory perspective, then evaluate them - individually, with no rigid category specifications and not in comparison with other beers.

Using numerous descriptors, the jury first creates a flavour profile in the form of a spiderweb diagram: the Finest Beer Profile. Based on the tried-and-tested 100-point tasting scheme known from the wine sector. Each beer also receives its own individual rating, the Finest Beer Score, which shows the classification in a transparent and comprehensible way (more on the tasting system from p. 12). All beers with a Finest Beer Score of 90 or more points are included in the exclusive circle of the Finest Beer Selection of a given year and are allowed to advertise with their individual medal and score. The high recognisability of

the medal is intended to help establish the Finest Beer Selection as a new, reliable quality seal for beer.

Take off the tight corset

According to Doemens CEO Dr. Werner Gloßner, this is a transparent format that can be used effectively not only by breweries, but also by restaurants, beverage wholesalers and retailers. "A real added value for quality beers with a clear focus on the beer consumer."

#### **FACTS & FIGURES**

880 beers...

- ... from 200 breweries
- ... and 18 countries

50 tasters

... from 6 countries

Dr. Michael Zepf, Head of the Doemens Savour Academy and our team member responsible for the tasting system, among other things, emphasises a further unique feature of the Finest Beer Selection: "Unlike the usual beer competitions, we don't have a beer style guide. We free ourselves, or rather the breweries and the jury, from the tight corset that most guidelines impose with their aromatic specifications and fixed values for colour, bitterness, original gravity and alcohol content. We are certain that our approach is absolutely in line with an unbiased tasting focussed on beer quality."

According to Dr. Zepf, it is now finally within reach to do justice to beers that do not fit exactly into a specific category. With this clear focus on quality and individuality, the Finest Beer Selection is breaking new ground and positioning itself completely independently on the market.

www.finest-beer-selection.com





#### STRENGTHS AT A GLANCE

- Independent analysis and evaluation by an international jury of experts.
- Creation of a flavour profile (Finest Beer Profile) in the form of a spiderweb diagram.
- Transparent evaluation using the Finest Beer Score.
- Free use of the Finest Beer seal upon successful inclusion in the Finest Beer Selection.
- Creation of a professional cut-out image of the beer for free use.





## STRONG SUPPORT

Committed partners from the supply industry as well as the beverage sector were enthusiastic right away about the Finest Beer Selection programme, supporting the concept in a variety of ways.

#### PLATINUM PARTNER:

#### WEYERMANN® MALZ

Weyermann® Specialty Malts is the world market leader in the field of brewing, roasted and caramel malts with a product portfolio of over 85 different varieties. Since 1879, the Bamberg based family business, which is currently

> run by the 4th and 5th generation, has combined history and future in an unique way. Today, creative beer is brewed with Weyermann® specialty malts in more than 135 countries on every continent. As a pioneer of the craft beer movement Weyermann® Malts has been at the side of the international US craft beer scene since 1994. 260 employees live their passion for malt

and beer at the four locations in Bamberg, Hassfurt (Lower Franconia), Leesau (Upper Franconia) and Clingen (Thuringia) every day.

www.weyermann.de



Owner family Thomas Kraus-Weyermann, Sabine Weyermann, Franziska Weyermann

"We see the organizer, the Doemens Academy, as a competent partner who has vears of experience in the field of tasting. This is further underlined with the new training facility of the Doemens Academy. In addition, of course, there is the excellent international connection. As the world market leader in the field of brewing, roasting and caramel malts, Wevermann® Malt cannot imagine a better partner!"

#### PREMIUM PARTNER:

#### **HOPSTEINER**

Hopsteiner is one of the largest manufacturers of hop products and a world leader in the development of innovative hop products. Brewers and growers worldwide rely on Hopsteiner's innovation, service and products - and have done so for over 175 years. Hopsteiner's' primary goal is to ensure consistent high quality. Our new varieties



must fulfil the requirements of our customers, as well as our hop growers. Our research and development teams are constantly working on new products, disease resistant hop

varieties, resulting in our hop varieties having lower carbon footprints. Our name is synonymous with hops, be that kettle, downstream or flavouring products. We provide full technical support for brewers worldwide. We will be happy to inform you about new products, developments in breeding and the current market situation. www.hopsteiner.com



Managing Director Joachim Gehde

"The concept of the "Finest Beer Selection" impressed us straight away. It revolutionizes the way beers are judged. The corresponding publication of the results by Meininger Verlag gives the beers the value they deserve. We are convinced that the Finest Beer Selection will become a new quality benchmark for breweries, the restaurant trade, retailers, and all beer lovers."

#### PREMIUM PARTNER:

#### **SIEMENS**

Siemens AG (Berlin and Munich) is a technology company focused on industry, infrastructure, transport, and healthcare. From more resource-efficient factories, resilient supply chains, and smarter buildings and grids, to cleaner and more comfortable

transportation as well as advanced healthcare, the company SIEMENS creates technology with purpose adding real value for customers. By combining the real and the digital worlds, Siemens

empowers its customers to transform their industries and markets, helping them to transform the everyday for billions of people. Siemens has been a reliable partner of breweries for decades and support the master brewer's art with state-of-the-art technologies and solutions - above all with Braumat, the innovative process control system for every brewery. www.siemens.com



Sascha Hoffmann (l.) and Stefan Scharpen

"Beer is a delight. But not all beers are created equal. The best beers are characterized by the perfect harmony of taste and quality. This is an art the finest art of brewing. Quality is also the top priority for us at Siemens. It is therefore a matter of course for us to support the Finest Beer Selection as a Premium Partner."



#### PREMIUM PARTNER:

#### **KRONES**

Valuable raw materials like water, plant proteins and oats; raw milk; or hops, malt and yeast go into the making of high-quality beverages and liquid foods. Before they are ready to leave the factory, they must pass through a number of individual steps. And the Krones Group offers the right solution for each one, from the making of the product itself to state-of-the-art filling and packaging sys-



tems right through to plastics recycling, intralogistics and digital technologies. Each day, millions of beverage

bottles and cans are processed on Krones equipment. Krones solutions are also used in the food and semi-luxury food industries as well as the chemical, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries. Headquartered in Neutraubling, Germany, Krones employs some 17,200 people around the world. The Krones Group includes the listed parent company, Krones AG, plus more than 100 subsidiaries and offices worldwide.

www.krones.com



Peter Gattermeyer, Head of Technology & Engineering, Steinecker/Krones

"As equipment provider for the Brewing and Beverage Industry, Krones naturally has great interest in continuous improvement of product quality, from production process up to the final consumer. Through their Finest Beer Selection Doemens & Meininger provide a independent and transparent platform built on highest quality standards, for exactly that purpose. This got Krones to support the Finest Beer Selection as premium partner."

#### PARTNER:

#### **RASTAL**

Since more than 100 years, Rastal as glass manufacturer has become a highly regarded partner to renowned clients operating in the beverage industry as well as in the hospitality and catering sector. The family-run enterprise manufactures around 120 million glasses per year. Numerous well-known brands across the globe rely on Rastal's experience and technological expertise in



all aspects of brand staging and branded consumer experience. With creative solutions that have been playing a key role in the world of modern glass design for many decades, Rastal design brings taste to life. With more than 200 design prizes, awards, and nominations the Rastal design studio is one of the most

renowned experts in the world today when it comes to glass design. The studio has developed – and continues to develop – legendary brand icons that have made design history. Based on comprehensive expertise and innovative technology, solutions are created that showcase brands in an independent and contemporary way. www.rastal.com



Owner Raymond Sahm

"At Rastal, we firmly believe that the key to success lies in the design and associated sensory qualities of our drinking glasses. The right glass can make all the difference in evaluating a beverage and better detect flavors of different types of beer.

With this expertise, we would like to support the Finest Beer Selection Jury in the best possible way by using Rastal glasses and we are looking forward to the collaboration."

#### PARTNER:

#### WINTERHALTER

Winterhalter was founded in 1947 by Karl Winterhalter in Friedrichshaften on Lake Constance. Now his son Jürgen and grandson Ralph are managing the fortunes of the company. More than 2,000 employees worldwide ensure that the highest quality standards are met, and the warewashing specialist has a turnover of 400 million euros (2022) with more than 40 branch offices world-

#### winterhalter

wide.At Winterhalter, advice and customer service don't just stop once a purchase has been made and the warewasher has been installed. "We don't simply want to satisfy

our customers' current requirements, we want to gain their confidence and loyalty in the long term. Service plays an important role here: our comprehensive network guarantees fast and professional on-site support. Worldwide", the company emphasizes. Winterhalter pursues the following philosophy: strength in innovation, consequent customer focus, quality and reliability, customised complete solution, commitment and reliability, environment and sustainability. www.winterhalter.com











"THE CONCEPT IS REALLY UNIQUE.
IT'S NOT JUST A COMPETITION,
BUT A REAL TEST OF QUALITY."

Holger Hoffmeister, beer sommelier





#### "A MILESTONE IN THE WIDE WORLD OF BEER AWARDS."

Matthias Willig, beer sommelier





### THE SLEUTHS

From October 10th to 12th, 2023, nearly 50 beer professionals from six countries applied all their senses in search of the best beers of the year. Impressions from the premiere tasting event at Doemens.

880 beers from 18 countries - maximum focus from the first to the last beer, from non-alcoholic beers to massive barrelaged specialities. A mammoth programme for the expert jury, which - divided into eight tasting groups – met the challenging task of the new tasting system. Chaired by a table captain, each group always tasted the beers in secret so that they never knew which product they were assessing.

In addition to the tasting glass, the Craft Master Bowl from Rastal, each beer was served in a special optical glass so that appearance and foam behaviour could be assessed accurately. The beers were served in thematically related flights (tasting rounds), one after the other.

This is because the Finest Beer Selection is not about a comparison of different beers and the question of which is the best in the series. Instead, each beer is tasted, analysed and evaluated individually. Thanks to this unique approach, each beer is given the attention it deserves.

The tasting system of the Finest Beer Selection stipulates that jury participants first analyses the aroma of the beer in detail. This analysis is carried out on the basis of individually defined flavour





"THE JURY TASTES THE BEER MORE FREELY AND CAN EVALUATE IT EXACTLY AS IT PRESENTS ITSELF IN TERMS OF CHARACTER AND FLAVOURS."

> Nicola Buchner, Managing Director Verband der Diplom Biersommeliers

"WE THINK TASTING WITHOUT A FIXED STYLE GUIDE IS EXCELLENT. IT CREATES SPACE FOR FREEDOM AND CREATIVITY."

Jens Reineke-Lautenbacher, Störtebeker Braumanufaktur







Bastian Leikeim, Altenburger Brauerei









attributes that match the respective beer characteristics. The descriptions for each beer result in a spider's web diagram, the Finest Beer Profile. Only after this aromatic description does the jury set about evaluating the beer in terms of appearance, aroma, flavour and overall impression - without having to be guided by a rigid style guide. The tight corset that that has been used up to now is removed, allowing for a more authentic tasting experience. Instead, the decisive factors in the Finest Beer

Selection are the facts provided by the brewery and the tasters' experiences palate.

A transparent, easy-to-understand 100-point system forms the basis for the final assessment, which leads to the awarding of the Finest Beer Score. All beers that achieve a Finest Beer Score of 90 points or more are among the best of the year and are included in the Finest Beer Selection.

We present the 2023 Selection on the following pages.

## THE JURY OF EXPERTS AND THE TEAM OF THE FINEST BEER SELECTION 2023:

#### Back row:

Ulrich Ferstl, Simonmattia Riva, Michael Trübswetter, Constantin Förtner, Alirio Caldera-Lopez, Nils Christen, Bruno Güntensperger, Matthias Willig, Mareike Hasenbeck, Tom Pauwels, Torsten Spörl, Michael Schmitt, Alessandro Schillaci, Marco Punke, Sascha Hoffmann, Dietmar Kaltner

#### Middle row:

Michael Zepf, Harald Schieder, Nicola Buchner, Jens Reineke-Lautenbacher, Michael Eder, Julia Steiner, Iris Eickert, Verena Ahmann, Bastian Klenke, Jihee Lee, Dennis Spahn, Michael König, Philipp Ketterer, Frank Peifer, Roland Andre, Stefan Grauvogl, Wolfgang Stempfl

#### Front row:

Simon Roßmann, Fabian Staudinger, Philipp Götz, Gerrit Blümelhuber, Werner Gloßner, Marlene Speck-Waller, Bastian Leikeim, Holger Hoffmeister, Jutta Knoll, Christian Wolf, Derek Walsh, Martin John, Andreas Gahr, Hans-Peter Drexler









**ALPAGOLD** LIECHTENSTEINER **LAGERBIER** 



**CHOPFAB LAGER IP-SUISSE** 

Chopfab Boxer Winterthur, Switzerland

www.chopfabboxer.ch





**FAUST BAYRISCH HELL** 

**Brauhaus Faust** Miltenberg, Germany

www.faust.de





H. Schneider Hachenburg, Germany

www.hachenburger.de



Schaan, Liechtenstein

www.brauhaus.li

#### **MORITZ FIEGE HELLES**

Privatbrauerei Moritz Fiege Bochum, Germany

www.moritz-fiege.de





#### STIEGL-HELL

Stieglbrauerei zu Salzburg Salzburg, Austria

www.stiegl.at





#### WIENINGER **TEISENDORFER** HELL

Privatbrauerei M.C. Wieninger Teisendorf, Germany

www.wieninger.de





**SCHWEDENPILS** Schwarzbräu Zusmarshausen, Germany

www.schwarzbraeu.de



90

#### DORFBRÄU **EXPORT**

Lammbrauerei Hilsenbeck Gruibingen, Germany

www.gruibinger.de





#### **SCHNEE-**FLÖCKCHEN

Schwarzbräu Zusmarshausen, Germany

www.schwarzbraeu.de





#### **SCHÜTZENGARTEN EDELSPEZ**

Brauerei Schützengarten St. Gallen, Switzerland

www.schuetzengarten.ch





#### **FALTER FESTBIER**

Privatbrauerei J.B. Falter Regen, Germany

www.jb-falter.de



#### **KARMELITEN FESTBIER**

Karmeliten Brauerei Karl Sturm Straubing, Germany

www.karmelitenbrauerei.de





#### **BIJOU**

Augarten AG Rheinau, Switzerland

www.braugarten.ch





#### WELTENBURGER **KLOSTER ANNO 1050**

Klosterbrauerei Weltenburg, Regensburg, Germany

www.weltenburger.de



WEIHERER URSTÖFFLA Brauerei-Gasthof Kundmüller Viereth-Trunstadt. Germany

www.brauerei-kundmueller.de



#### **ALPIRSBACHER KLOSTER** DUNKEL

Alpirsbacher Klosterbräu Alpirsbach, Germany

www.alpirsbacher.de





#### **AUER DUNKLES**

Schlosshrauerei Au-Hallertau Au-Hallertau, Germany

www.auerbier.de





#### **BERNARD DARK** LAGER

Rodinny pivovar Bernard Humpolec. Czech Republic

www.bernard.cz





**BITBURGER** 

WINTERBOCK Bitburger Braugruppe Bitburg, Germany

www.bitburger-braugruppe.de



#### SCHINDER-**HANNES BOCK**

Kirner Privatbrauerei Ph. & C. Andres Kirn, Germany

www.kirner-bier.de



**FAUST** 

**BOCK** Brauhaus Faust, Miltenberg, Germany

JAHRGANGS-

www.faust.de





#### WELTENBURGER **KLOSTER ASAM BOCK**

Klosterbrauerei Weltenburg, Regensburg, Germany

www.weltenburger.de





**ALTENBURGER** KARLI'S **KELLERBIER** Altenburger Brauerei

Altenburg, Germany www.brauerei-altenburg.de





WEIHERER KRÄUSEN HELL

Brauerei-Gasthof Kundmüller Viereth-Trunstadt. Germany

www.brauerei-kundmueller.de





**BRAUWERK B** Brauwerk Baden

Offenburg, Germany www.brauwerk-baden.de





#### **CRAFTCORE BREWING LAGER**

Berlin, Germany

www.updoot.de





HIRTER 1270 Brauerei Hirt Micheldorf, Austria





**MORITZ FIEGE BERNSTEIN** 

Privatbrauerei Moritz Fiege Bochum, Germany

www.moritz-fiege.de





#### **SCHLAPPESEPPEL SPECIALITÄT**

Eder & Heylands Brauerei Großostheim, Germany

www.eders.de





#### **BALTIC PORTER BROWAR PORT GDYNIA**

**Browar Portowy** Gdynia, Poland

www.browarportgdynia.com





SHISHIMAI **PORTER** Hino Brewing Shiga Gamo-gun, Japan www.hinobrewing.jp



**COEDO KYARA INDIA PALE LAGER COEDO Brewery** Kawagoe, Japan www.coedobrewery.com



**CRAFTWERK** DRY HOP'D LAGER Bitburger Braugruppe Bitburg, Germany www.bitburger-braugruppe.de



EX & HOP Schwarzbräu Zusmarshausen. Germany www.schwarzbraeu.de



**BENEDIKTINER** 

WEISSBIER NATURTRÜB Benediktiner Weissbräu Ettal, Germany www.benediktiner-weissbräu.de



90 **FÜRSTENBERG WEIZEN HEFE** HELL Fürstl. Fürstenbergische

Brauerei, Donaueschingen, Germany

www.fuerstenberg.de



**HEFE-WEISSBIER** Staffelberg-Bräu Bad Staffelstein, Germany





www.schuetzengarten.ch





KURPFALZBRÄU **UR-WEIZEN** Weldebräu Plankstadt, Germany www.welde.de



STIEGL-WEISSE NATURTRÜB Stieglbrauerei zu Salzburg Salzburg, Austria www.stiegl.at



WILDBRÄU **GRANDAUER** 

WEISSBIER Wildbräu Grafing Grafing, Germany

www.wildbraeu.de



**LEIKEIM** 

STEINWEIZEN-**BOCK** Brauhaus Altenkunstadt Altenkunstadt, Germany www.leikeim.de



**RASCHHOFER** LEBENSKÜNSTLER WITBIER Brauerei Raschhofer Altheim, Austria www.raschhoferbier.at



**RUBIU TRIGA** Rubiu Birrificio Artigianale Sant'Antioco, Italy www.rubiubirra.it



**COLLESI ROSSA** Fabbrica della Birra Tenute Collesi Apecchio, Italy www.collesi.com



**GOUVERNEUR** TRIPEL Lindeboom Bierbrouwerij Neer, Netherlands www.lindeboom.nl

#### **FINEST BEER SELECTION 2023**



**MALHEUR BIERE BRUT Brewery Malheur** Buggenhout, Belgium





MALHEUR 12 **Brewery Malheur** Buggenhout, Belgium www.malheur.be



KUKKO **CHALLENGER ALE** Laitilan Wirvoitusiuomatehdas Ov Laitila, Finland

www.laitilan.com





**SCHÜTZENGARTEN GALLUS 612** Brauerei Schützengarten St. Gallen, Switzerland www.schuetzengarten.ch





ZAPFENDUSTER Brauerei-Gasthof Kundmüller Viereth-Trunstadt, Germany

www.brauerei-kundmueller.de





**BERLINER BERG** PALE ALE Berliner Berg Berlin, Germany www.berlinerberg.com





**DIE FLEISCHERIN SESSION** Micha's Naturbackstube Lichtentanne, Germany www.gesundesbrot.de









**CRAFTWERK** HOP HEAD7 IPA Bitburger Braugruppe Bitburg, Germany www.bitburger-braugruppe.de





MAISEL & FRIENDS IPA Brauerei Gebr. Maisel Bayreuth, Germany www.maiselandfriends.com





7:45 ESCALATION - DOUBLE IPA **CREW Republic Brewery** Unterschleissheim. Germany www.crewrepublic.de









DAS FREIE **BLACK M Gutshof Rethmar** Rethmar, Germany www.gutshof-rethmar.de





**ESTRELLA** GALICIA 0,0 Hijos de Rivera A Coruña, Spain www.estrellagalicia.com



FREE DAMM DAMM S.A Barcelona, Spain

www.damm.com



FREE DAMM **TOSTADA** DAMM S.A Barcelona, Spain www.damm.com





**HEUBACHER SPORT WEISSE ALKOHOLFREI** Hirschbrauerei Heubach Heubach, Germany

www.heubacher.de



**HUTTHURMER BLEIFREI HEFE** 

WEISSE Brauerei Hutthurm Hutthurm, Germany

www.brauerei-hutthurm.de



#### **KETTERER WEIZEN ALKOHOLFREI**

Familienbrauerei M. Ketterer, Hornberg, Germany

www.kettererbier.de





#### **COCONUT GROVE JUICY PALE ALE ALKOHOLFREI**

Kehrwieder Kreativbrauerei, Hamburg, Germany

www.kehrwieder.beer







www.appenzellerbier.ch



#### **MAHOU BARRICA ORIGINAL**

Mahou Madrid, Spain

www.mahou-sanmiguel.com





#### **WEYERMANN®** NR.1. **SCHLOTFEGERLA®**

Mich. Weyermann® Bamberg, Germany

www.weyermann.de



#### **BALTIC GOSE**

Rügener Insel-Brauerei Rambin, Germany

www.insel-brauerei.de





**MEERJUNGFRAU** - NATURSAUER Rügener Insel-Brauerei Rambin, Germany www.insel-brauerei.de





**VINTAGE SOUR BEER MIT** HIMBEERE Brauerei Locher

Appenzell, Switzerland www.appenzellerbier.ch



#### **KIRSCHBIER**

Lahnsteiner Brauerei Lahnstein, Germany

www.lahnsteiner-brauerei.de





#### **PILGRIM IMPERIAL BELGIAN BLONDE**

Brauerei Kloster Fischingen Fischingen, Switzerland

www.pilgrim.ch/de/



**BRAUHAUS** WEIMAR **AUTUMN ALE** 

**Brauhaus Weimar** Weimar, Germany

www.brauhaus-weimar.de







#### **BAYREUTHER** HELL

Bayreuther Bierbrauerei Bayreuth, Germany

www.bayreuther-bier.de





#### FÜRST CARL URHELL

Fürst von Wrede Schlossbrauerei Ellingen Ellingen, Germany

www.fuerst-carl.de



FINEST BEER SELECTION 2023
WHITE SELECTION 2023

HELLES VOLLBIER Staffelberg-Bräu Bad Staffelstein, Germany www.staffelberg-braeu.de



FINEST BEER SELECTION 2023
WARRINGS 91

KUKKO HELLES
Laitilan
Wirvoitusjuomatehdas Oy
Laitila, Finland
www.laitilan.com



KURPFALZBRÄU HELLES Weldebräu Plankstadt, Germany www.welde.de



STERNQUELL VOGTLÄNDER HELLES Sternquell-Brauerei Plauen, Germany www.sternquell.de





URTYP HELL
Bayerische Löwenbrauerei
Passau, Germany
www.loewenbrauerei.de



FINEST BEER SELECTION 2023

AVERTHERS 91

BITBURGER PREMIUM PILS Bitburger Braugruppe Bitburg, Germany www.bitburger-braugruppe.de



DISTELHÄUSER PILS Distelhäuser Brauerei Ernst Bauer TBB-Distelhausen, Germany

www.distelhaeuser.de



KARLSBERG URPILS Karlsberg Brauerei Homburg, Germany www.karlsberg.de





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FINEST BEER SELECTION 2023

NUMBER SELECTION 2023

GÖLLER DUNKEL Brauerei Göller Zeil am Main, Germany www.brauerei-goeller.de



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FINEST BEER SELECTION 2023 912

WELTENBURGER KLOSTER BAROCK DUNKEL

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www.weltenburger.de





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Bürgerliches Brauhaus Wiesen Wiesen, Germany

www.brauhaus-wiesen.de









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www.lindeboom.nl





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www.brauerei-kundmueller.de





KAISER KELLER-PILS Kaiser Brauerei Geislingen an der Steige,

www.kaiser-brauerei.de





www.bernard.cz





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www.bitburger-braugruppe.de



**GANGNAM-STYLE** Artmonster Brewery Gunpo-si,

www.artmonster.co.kr

South Korea





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Brauerei Gebr. Maisel Bayreuth, Germany

www.maiselandfriends.com



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BLOCKBRÄU **HAFEN ALTBIER** Blockbräu Hamburg, Germany

www.block-braeu.de



**KETTERER UR-WEISSE HELL** Familienbrauerei M. Ketterer Hornberg, Germany

www.kettererbier.de





www.jb-falter.de



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**DUNKLES WEIZEN** Distelhäuser Brauerei **Ernst Bauer** TBB-Distelhausen. Germany

www.distelhaeuser.de





FIRST LOVE'S SCENT Artmonster Brewery Gunpo-si. South Korea



**ULLIS DUBBEL** Lahnsteiner Brauerei Lahnstein, Germany

www.lahnsteiner-brauerei.de



#### **GOUVERNEUR** BLOND

Lindeboom Bierbrouwerii Neer, Netherlands

www.lindeboom.nl





Evergem, Belgium

www.biereduboucanier.be



MALHEUR 10 **Brewery Malheur** Buggenhout, Belgium www.malheur.be





**CHOPFAB DRAFT** Chopfab Boxer

Winterthur, Switzerland www.chopfabboxer.ch





**FAUST BRAUERRESERVE** 1237

**Brauhaus Faust** Miltenberg, Germany

www.faust.de





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One Pint Handewitt, Germany www.onepint.de



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#### ROUNDHOUSE KICK – IMPERIAL STOUT

CREW Republic Brewery Unterschleissheim, Germany

www.crewrepublic.de





### SAMUEL SMITH IMPERIAL STOUT

One Pint Handewitt, Germany

www.onepint.de





#### KOBRA Pale ale

Degenbier Zofingen, Switzerland

www.degenbier.ch





## MAISEL & FRIENDS PALE ALE

Brauerei Gebr. Maisel Bayreuth, Germany

www.maiselandfriends.com



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#### SIERRA NEVADA PALE ALE

One Pint Handewitt, Germany

www.onepint.de





#### ASTRA INKASSO IPA

Astra Brauerei St. Pauli Hamburg, Germany

www.astra-bier.de





#### HOP JUNKIE – SESSION IPA

CREW Republic Brewery Unterschleissheim, Germany

www.crewrepublic.de





HOIABLIA Wolfgang Hartl Seekirchen Austria





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**CREW Republic Brewery** Unterschleissheim. Germany

www.crewrepublic.de



**GIANT STEP** IPC srl

Camposampiero, Italy www.crakbrewery.com



**GUERRILLA** IPC srl Camposampiero, Italy www.crakbrewery.com





60° MANGO IPA Bierwerkstatt NordSud Rheinfelden, Switzerland www.nordsudbier.ch



**COSMOS NEIPA** Chopfab Boxer Winterthur, Switzerland

www.chopfabboxer.ch





**BREWING IPA** Updoot Berlin, Germany www.updoot.de









WEIHERER / FATHEAD'S **IMPERIAL IPA** Brauerei Kundmüller Viereth-Trunstadt. Germany

www.brauerei-kundmueller.de



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**Brauhaus Weimar** Weimar, Germany

www.brauhaus-weimar.de



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www.waldhaus-bier.de





**SCHÜTZENGARTEN GINGER BEER** ALKOHOLFREI

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Ü.NN IPA **ALKOHOLFREI** 

Kehrwieder Kreativbrauerei Hamburg, Germany

www.kehrwieder.beer





MARTINATOR SC Lahnsteiner Brauerei Lahnstein, Germany

www.lahnsteiner-brauerei.de





COSMOS **BARREL AGED 05** Chopfab Boxer Winterthur, Switzerland www.chopfabboxer.ch



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www.chenvanloon.ch





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www.stiegl.at







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www.aldersbacher.de





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www.alpirsbacher.de





#### **EIFELBRÄU HELLES LANDBIER**

Bitburger Braugruppe Bitburg, Germany

www.bitburger-braugruppe.de





**BRENDEL HELL** Schwarzbräu Zusmarshausen,

www.schwarzbraeu.de



#### **VELDENSTEINER VOLLBIER HELL**

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www.barre.de





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www.jb-falter.de





**KULMBACHER EDELHERB** Kulmbacher Brauerei Kulmbach, Germany

www.kulmbacher.de



STERNQUELL **PILSNER** Sternauell-Brauerei Plauen, Germany www.sternquell.de



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**STÖTTNER EXPORT "HELL"** Privatbrauerei Stöttner Pfaffenberg/Ndb., Germany www.stoettner.de





**HACKLBERGER FESTBIER** Brauerei Hacklberg Passau, Germany www.hacklberg.de



**SCHMATZ** 

LAGER Kaiser Kitchen Beer KK Tokyo, Meguro-ku, Japan www.schmatz.jp



**BAYERISCH** DUNKEL Schwarzbräu Zusmarshausen, Germany www.schwarzbraeu.de



**COEDO** SHIKKOKU **BLACK LAGER COEDO Brewery** Kawagoe, Japan www.coedobrewery.com







**SCHLAPPENBIER HELLER BOCK** Scherdel Bier Hof, Germany www.scherdelbier.de



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HIRTER RUBIN **BOCK** Brauerei Hirt Micheldorf, Austria www.hirterbier.at



MAISACHER **KELLERBIER** UNFILTRIERT Brauerei Maisach Maisach, Germany www.brauerei-maisach.de



WEIHERER ZWICKERLA HELL Brauerei-Gasthof Kundmüller Viereth-Trunstadt, Germany www.brauerei-kundmueller.de



KÖSTRITZER **KELLERBIER** Bitburger Braugruppe



**WALDHAUS OHNE FILTER** DUNKEL Privatbrauerei Waldhaus Joh. Schmid, Waldhaus, www.waldhaus-bier.de





**GIESINGER FEINES PILSCHEN** Giesinger Biermanufaktur. München, Germany

www.giesinger-braeu.de



**SCHÜTZENGARTEN** SÄNTISBIER Brauerei Schützengarten





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Svijany, Czech Republic

www.pivovarsvijany.cz



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www.stoertebeker.com



TROOPER -**PROGRESSIVE** LAGER **CREW Republic Brewery** Unterschleissheim, Germany www.crewrepublic.de



**PROTOTYP** Kehrwieder Kreativbrauerei Hamburg, Germany www.kehrwieder.beer



HOFMÜHL **HEFEWEIZEN LEICHT** Privatbrauerei Hofmühl Eichstätt, Germany

www.hofmuehl.de



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WEIHERER WEIZENBOCK Brauerei-Gasthof Kundmüller Viereth-Trunstadt. Germany www.brauerei-kundmueller.de





**ENDLESS LOVE** Artmonster Brewery Gunpo-si, South Korea

www.artmonster.co.kr



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**CRAFTCORE BREWING** PALE ALE Updoot Berlin, Germany www.updoot.de









GIESINGER RED ALE Giesinger Biermanufaktur München, Germany

www.giesinger-braeu.de



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REST IN PEACE -BARLEY WINE CREW Republic Brewery Unterschleissheim, Germany

www.crewrepublic.de



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WEIHERER





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NUMBERS 92

SCOTCH-ALE HOLZFASSGEREIFT Störtebeker Braumanufaktur, Stralsund, Germany www.stoertebeker.com



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www.chenvanloon.ch





SOUR BARLEY WINE Hino Brewing Shiga, Gamo-gun, Japan www.hinobrewing.jp





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HELLES Kaiser Brauerei Geislingen an der Steige, Germany

www.kaiser-brauerei.de





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Lahnstein, Germany www.lahnsteiner-brauerei.de



SVIJANY 450 -**PREMIUM LAGER** Pivovar Svijany

Czech Republic www.pivovarsvijany.cz



**TRAD GOLD PILSNER** Baeren Brewery Iwate, Morioka-shi,

www.baerenbier.co.jp







**MONK FOOD** 

**Artmonster Brewery** Gunpo-si, South Korea

www.artmonster.co.kr





STIEGL-GOLDBRÄU Stieglbrauerei zu Salzburg Salzburg, Austria

www.stiegl.at



MAISEL'S **WEISSE LEICHT** Brauerei Gebr. Maisel Bayreuth, Germany

www.maisel.com





**HEFEWEIZEN** NATURTRÜB Weldebräu

Plankstadt, Germany

www.welde.de





One Pint Handewitt, Germany www.onepint.de





**EXTREME PRIDE** Artmonster Brewery Gunpo-si, South Korea

www.artmonster.co.kr





**COLLESI NERA** Fabbrica della Birra Tenute Collesi Apecchio, Italy

www.collesi.com





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Bitburger Braugruppe Bitburg, Germany

www.bitburger-braugruppe.de





#### **ALWAYS BIRDIE**

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www.artmonster.co.kr



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MAISEL & FRIENDS CHOCOLATE BOCK Brauerei Gebr. Maisel Bayreuth, Germany www.maiselandfriends.com



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INDIA PALE ALE ALKOHOLFREI Brauerei Locher Appenzell, Switzerland www.appenzellerbier.ch









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Bozen, Italy
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www.lahnsteiner-brauerei.de





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www.wieninger.de



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Brauerei Göller
Zeil am Main, Germany
www.brauerei-goeller.de



HESERS NATURTRÜB KELLERBIER Hesers Naturtrüb Eisenach, Germany





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Viereth-Trunstadt, Germany













**FAUST EISBOCK Brauhaus Faust** Miltenberg, Germany www.faust.de







GÖLLER **RAUCHBIER** Brauerei Göller Zeil am Main, Germany www.brauerei-goeller.de



#### GFRMAN BFFR OF THE YFAR:

#### LASSER ADAMS BOCK, PRIVATBRAUEREI LASSER/LÖRRACH



The Lasser private brewery in Lörrach, Germany, has been brewing beer in the family tradition since 1850. The mahogany-coloured Urbock with 6.6% alcohol by volume is dedicated to the company founder Adam Lasser and is matured in bourbon and oak wood. The jury was impressed by the brew's intense flavour with lots of caramel malt, dried fruit, nuts and hints of chocolate. No less harmonious are the gently effervescent first taste and the rich, yet smooth, malt-dominated body. A lingering, wood-aromatic finish crowns this special beer-drinking experience for gourmets, ideal as a digestif, emphasised the jury.

Further information:

www.lasser.de/unsere-biere/lasser-adamsbock/



#### INTERNATIONAL BEER OF THE YEAR:

#### SCHWARZ, BAEREN BREWERY/JAPAN



The very name of the Baeren Brewery, founded in 2001 in the Japanese prefecture of Iwate, indicates that the brewers there have a particular penchant for German (lager) beer styles. In the brewhouse, which is over 100 years old and imported from Germany, the "Schwarz" is brewed and developed in a manner which ties in with the (East) German black beer tradition. The jury awarded top marks for the extremely successful interpretation full of rich malt, roast and chocolate/coffee flavours, which unfold perfectly at 5.5% alcohol by volume. The soft texture and crisp finish contribute to its high drinkability and make you want to take the next sip, according to the jury's sensory judgement.

Further information:

www.baerenbier.co.jp/en/ourbeer/



### WHO RECEIVES THE TITLE "BEER OF THE YEAR"?

he "Beer of the Year" (German and international) is awarded the beers that receive the highest Finest Beer Score from the jury over the entire competition. In the event of a tie,



#### GERMAN BREWERY OF THE YEAR:

#### BRAUEREI GEBR. MAISEL/ MAISEL & FRIENDS, BAYREUTH

The Maisel brewery occupies an exceptional position in the German brewing landscape. Hardly anyone has managed to combine the traditional and modern worlds of beer so convincingly. Known for generations for its Bavarian wheat beer specialities, brewery

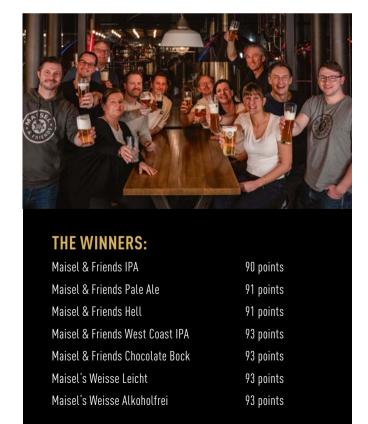


owner Jeff Maisel has also played a key role in driving the development of the craft beer scene in Germany. His "Maisel & Friends" brand, founded in 2012, continues to be one of the pioneers in the creative beer segment. Along with the neighbouring Bayreuther Bierbrauerei, the Maisel brewery now offers a variety of Bavarian, Franconian and modern beer speciali-

ties from a single source. The secret of success? The company's managers have always understood how to respond to the wishes and desires of beer lovers.

No fewer than seven Maisel beers have made it into the Finest Beer Selection 2023, including two wheat beer specialities and five modern representatives of Maisel & Friends. The variety ranges from a light wheat beer to a rich chocolate bock. An average Finest Beer Score of exactly 92 points has earned the Bayreuth brewery the award "German brewery of the Year"..

Further information: www.maisel.com / www.maiselandfriends.com



#### INTERNATIONAL BREWERY OF THE YEAR:

#### ARTMONSTER, SOUTH KOREA

Founded in 2017, Artmonster Brewery from South Korea has already caused quite a stir on the international beer scene despite. The brewery has collected no fewer than 277 international awards on



four continents for its beers. 7+1 have now been added. This is because the team led by owner and master brewer Andrew Park succeeded in placing seven of its beers in the Finest Beer Selection in its first year (see overview below). On average, these beers achieved a Finest Beer Score of 92 points,

with which Artmonster was able to secure the title of "Brewery of the Year / International".

This marks another milestone in the career of Andrew Park, who completed his master brewer training at Doemens in Gräfelfing near Munich, Germany, and the Siebel Institute in Chicago, USA. He then honed his skills for five years before opening his own brewery, Artmonster, in 2017. The name is no coincidence, as the crew's work follows the slogan "Beer tastes like art". The brewery currently produces eleven different standard beers plus six seasonals throughout the year, from a Fruit Sour in February to a Coffee Kölsch in August and an Imperial Stout in November. Expect more innovative, artistic beers from Artmonster in the future, as Andrew Park and his team run eight taprooms in the Seoul area. Why? To receive constant feedback from customers.

Further information: www.artmonster.co.kr







## WHO GETS THE AWARD "BREWERY OF THE YEAR"?

This title is awarded to those German and international brewery that make it into the Finest Beer Selection with at least five beers and achieve the highest average Finest Beer Score among the successfully placed beers. In the event of a tie, the higher number of awards is decisive

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# A PLATFORM FOR THE WINNERS

The first edition of the Finest Beer Selection ended with a festive awards ceremony in Neustadt an der Weinstraße, Germany.



Travelling from Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland and all parts of Germany, 100 brewery representatives accepted the invitation to the awards ceremony on November 6th, 2023 in Neustadt an der Weinstraße to receive their awards in person.

An exciting evening unfolded in the atmospheric setting of the Neustadt Saalbau, culminating in a presentation of the special awards for the best

breweries and beers of the year. After the awards ceremony, the guests enthusiastically took the opportunity to taste all the beers included in the Finest Beer Selection and discuss them in depth.

The awards ceremony thus merged seamlessly into a communicative industry get-together.
The general consensus: We'll be back next year!



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The proud crew of the German Lahnsteiner brewery, with brewery owner Dr. Markus Fohr (left) show off their five certificates.

THE STATE OF THE S

The tasting of all the winning beers was just one more highlight of the evening event.



The final event was not just an awards ceremony, but also a social get-together.



Tom Pauwels from the Bitburger Brewery Group, Germany, took to the stage several times, for the Crew Republic beers, for example.



Brewery Faust from Miltenberg, Germany, enters the Finest Beer Selection 2023 with five beers.



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#### **FINEST BEER SELECTION 2024**

#### SAVE THE DATES!

After the successful premiere in 2023, Finest Beer Selection will continue next year.

Note: We are moving up some of the dates. Here are the most important ones at a glance:

#### Start of registration:

February 1st, 2024

End of early bird discount:

March 15th, 2024

Registration deadline:

May 3rd, 2024

Start of submission of beers:

May 6th, 2024

Closing date for entries for beers:





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