

## INTERNATIONAL BEER CHALLENGE 2026 WINNERS ANNOUNCED

### Belgian hoppy blonde ale chosen as Supreme Champion Beer

The results for this year's International Beer Challenge (IBC) have now been revealed, with Huyghe Brewery's Averbode from Belgium winning Supreme Champion in the Taste Awards, a title which it also secured two years ago. Meanwhile, the UK-based Hogs Back Brewery was awarded a trophy for Best Label Design in the Design & Packaging Awards for its beer, Little Swine Alcohol Free Pale Ale.

For The Brewer of the Year Awards, which ran alongside the IBC, the Supreme Champion for 2026 was Hofmeister Brewing Company.

This year the IBC received entries from dozens of countries, including Peru, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Brazil, Spain and Luxembourg, as well as more established beer heartlands such as Belgium, Germany and the USA.

An impressive 39 gold medals were awarded in the Taste Awards, alongside a number of awards in the Design Packaging category.

### Taste Awards

The Supreme Champion for taste was chosen from the gold medal winners by the senior judging panel, chaired by Jeff Evans.

Commenting on this year's awards, Evans said: 'This year's IBC was one of the most enjoyable ever. The standard of beers was terrific, and our expert judges awarded a total of 39 gold medals to beers from a wide range of countries, which underlines why this is truly the International Beer Challenge.'

Our judges also selected some outstanding trophy winners – the best of the best, if you like – with awards going to be breweries such as Mahou, Damm and Hijos de Rivera in Spain, Eisenbahn and Denker in Brazil, Hofmeister in Germany and Harvey's here in the UK. Then they chose the overall supreme champion beer. It was a very close call, because the standard was just so high, but eventually they plumped for Averbode from the Huyghe brewery in Belgium which, remarkably, was also judged supreme champion two years ago.

I d like to thank all our judges for their hard work and congratulate all our medal and trophy winners. I m sure the awards will help their beers succeed in what has become a very complex beer market here in the UK and around the world.”

## **Trophies**

### **Supreme Champion**

Averbode, Brouwerij L Huyghe - Belgium

### **Best Lager up to 5%**

Dunkel, Eisenbahn - Germany

### **Best Lager above 5%**

1906 Black Coupage, Hijos de Rivera - Spain

### **Best Flavoured Beer**

Mahou Cinco Estrellas Radler, Mahou - Spain

### **Best Speciality Beer**

Denker Praia Negra, Cervejaria Denker - Brazil

### **Best Ale up to 5%**

Lewes Castle Brown Ale, Harvey & Sons (Lewes) - United Kingdom

### **Best Ale above 5%**

Averbode, Brouwerij L Huyghe - Belgium

### **Best Stout or Porter**

Prince of Denmark, Harvey & Sons (Lewes) - United Kingdom

### **Best Wheat Beer**

Hofmeister Weisse, Hofmeister Brewing Company - Germany

### **Best No or Low Alcohol Beer**

Estrella Damm 0,0, S. A. Damm - Spain

## **BREWER AWARDS**

The IBC also selected several breweries for Brewer Awards based on a company's accumulation of medals.

### **Brewer of the Year: Asia**

Saigon Beer Alcohol Beverage Corporation (SABECO) - Vietnam

### **Brewer of the Year: Europe**

Hofmeister Brewing Company - Germany

### **Brewer of the Year: North America**

Samuel Adams - United States

### **Brewer of the Year: South America**

Cervejaria Denker - Brazil

### **Brewer of the Year: UK**

Round Corner Brewing - United Kingdom

### **Supreme Champion Brewer:**

Hofmeister Brewing Company - Germany

For the full list of medal winners, visit [internationalbeerchallenge.com](https://internationalbeerchallenge.com)

Link of IBC Logo [Here](#)

### **Notes to editors:**

The IBC is organised in association with Drinks Retailing magazine, and the full results are published in the September/October print and digital editions.

For information about judging process and the IBC competition please visit

[www.internationalbeerchallenge.com](https://www.internationalbeerchallenge.com)

For further detailed information please contact Samantha Halliday at Agile Media on

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**About the International Beer Challenge:**

The International Beer Challenge rewards and promotes excellent beers. Beers of all styles and strengths are entered into the IBC, with entries received from no fewer than 30 countries, including both acknowledged brewing heartlands and advancing beer countries.

Judges include some of the shrewdest beer judges in the land – retailers, importers, publicans, brewers, writers and flavour analysts.

Judges study each beer in turn, considering the appearance, the aroma, the taste and the finish, before discussing their findings in detail with other table members and finally agreeing which medal to award to each beer that has been entered.