

BARCELONA BEER CHALLENGE

PRESS DOSSIER 2026



New edition Barcelona Beer Challenge:



We bring you the eleventh edition of the Barcelona Beer Challenge, a competition of international scope that has contributed to, along with other initiatives, bringing a new level of recognition and visibility to quality beer. This new edition is born out of the desire to continue the task that we began to promote and give visibility to this industry.

Impact of the previous edition

The tenth edition of the ***Barcelona Beer Challenge*** (2025) was attended by **170 breweries** from across **16 countries**, which submitted **984 beer** references to the competition. The previous edition generated an international, competitive, and representative context of the current brewer scene that has not gone unnoticed by the national and foreign media (links to a press release).



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Organization of the Barcelona Beer Challenge:

The ***Barcelona Beer Challenge*** (BBC) is an initiative of the company **Beer Events**, who are dedicated to the organization of various events related to the world of beer, with highlights including the Barcelona Beer Festival.

Beer Events was founded in 2012 by 4 partners linked to the craft beer sector since the 90s; which has gradually specialized in the management of events and projects for third parties, always linked to craft and quality beer, at all levels.

Little over ten years, Beer Events (BE) has positioned itself as a leading company and a reference on a national scale in the creation of beer events. As examples of its work, we could highlight recent projects such as: collaboration in the development of various studies on craft beer: Catalonia, Euskadi and Spain, the creation of the first convention of brewers in the state, the InnBrew, among others... "BE" is always present in the main national and international forums related to the sector. [+ more information.](#)

Barcelona Beer Festival/InnBrew:



The Barcelona Beer Festival offers an integral vision of the sector through a plural and careful selection of beers, the organization of an important meeting forum for the sector in the InnBrew, the Brewer's Convention and the great work of diffusion that develops in the field of consumers.



The contest was created under the organizational umbrella of the Barcelona Beer Festival, the main event of the sector in Spain and one of the most important in southern Europe. Its latest edition attracted 15,000 unique visitors over a single weekend and brought together some of the best breweries in the world.

Currently the awards ceremony takes place during the InnBrew, the brewery convention, unique in the state, which is held during the same dates as the Festival, to create synergies between the InnBrew competition and the Festival, a meeting point for industry professionals from around the world, giving an outstanding media impact to the sector; thus getting the message of the event to reach society through the notoriety achieved in the press.



The Barcelona Beer Festival and InnBrew, The Brewer's Convention are making a decisive contribution:

- To the dissemination and visualization of quality beer, both through the large attendance and through the appearance of content about the festival in national news and news in the main newspapers and radios.
- To contribute to the professionalization of the sector by facilitating networking spaces between top-level national and international brewers, as well as organizing professional conferences and speed meetings within the framework of Innbrew. The aim is to promote the exchange of knowledge and enhance the business opportunities currently offered by the sector.
- To provide a comprehensive vision of the beer sector through two major, fully interconnected events—linked by the beer selections served at the annual event, the networking forum it represents within the industry, and the outreach efforts it carries out toward the final consumer.



Main objectives of the Barcelona Beer Challenge:

Highlights of the BBC's objectives include:

- To highlight and recognize beers that adhere to the highest quality standards while remaining true to the styles they represent.
- To guide consumers in choosing from the current range of both national and international beers available.
- To contribute to the promotion of beer culture by showcasing awarded beers across the wide range of styles available, while highlighting the qualities and possibilities of beer in new and diverse contexts.
- The BBC Awards also aim to support the professionalization of the beer sector by featuring a jury of qualified experts and adhering to internationally certified tasting protocols. Barcelona Beer Challenge website: www.barcelonabeerchallenge.com

Professional Standards of the Jury: Beer Judge Certification Program



requirement for selecting judges at the most prestigious international beer festivals.

One of the major advancements—and a key differentiator of the Barcelona Beer Challenge compared to other national contests—is the establishment of a jury recognized by the BJCP ([Beer Judge Certification Program](#)). This means the jury is composed of certified BJCP judges. The BJCP certification process includes both theoretical and practical examinations and is a mandatory



The BJCP certification program is the program of reference regarding beer classification that has been in development since 1985. It originates from the USA.



The program also certifies a judge's ability and judgment in evaluating and scoring beers in a competitive context. In this way, the BBC ensures the participation of a professional jury, lending the competition unquestionable credibility and authority, which contributes to the ongoing professionalization of the beer sector. The selection of the jury and the oversight of the tasting procedures are conducted by an experienced judge with extensive international judging and beer tasting expertise.

Components for the evaluation of beer:

The evaluation and tasting of beer are made up of various elements. The most important are:

During the evaluation phase for the beer's APPEARANCE, the elements evaluated include*:

Colour	Turbidity
Presence of impurities	Foam (head retention and colour)

During the evaluation phase of the beer's AROMA different aspects are assessed, including:

Characteristics of some ingredients on the nose

Range of nuances	Power of the aromas
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Both flavours and nuances on the palate are assessed, such as the MOUTHFEEL of:

Astringency	Body
Effervescence	Taste of Alcohol

*Possible technical errors are taken into account in the generation of the final evaluation.

All these parameters are evaluated with consideration for the diverse characteristics of the wide range of beers. Since many styles include sub-styles, a beer must not only have good taste, aroma, and appearance, but also meet the defining characteristics of the specific style to which it belongs.

Awards and Recognitions:

Breweries will receive recognition for their outstanding beers through various awards, carrying the legitimacy of a jury selected and recognized internationally. The BBC Awards also aim to promote beer culture among consumers and guide them in choosing high-quality beers from the wide



range available on the market. To support this goal, each winning beer will be granted a distinctive logo that can be used on labels, digital platforms, promotional materials, packaging, websites, and more—a mark that informs consumers and increases the visibility of award-winning beers.

The Barcelona Beer Challenge Awards are divided into **6 categories**:

- A) Awards for the Best Beers in Each Style Category:** These consist of gold, silver, and bronze medals. Awards are based on the overall quality of the beer, taking into account parameters such as aroma, flavor, mouthfeel, appearance, and absence of defects, as well as how well the beer aligns with the characteristics of its designated style.
- B) Awards to the best brewery.** This prize will be awarded the set of beers presented by the same brewer, and who obtains more points among all the beers, at the rate of: 2 points for a bronze medal, 3 for a silver medal and 5 for a gold medal.
- C) Best Rookie brewery:** This award recognizes and visualizes the best Rookie Brewery Brewery that starts the commercialization of its beer after January 1, 2023. It will be awarded the Rookie Brewery who obtains more points among all beers presented in this order: 2 points per bronze medal achieved, 3 points per silver medal achieved, 5 points per gold medal achieved.
- D) Mr Malt Innovation Award:** An award that wants to inspire the brewer to explore new work territories as we present a prize in **recognition of innovation** in the creative process of beer making
- E) Brewing Hope for a Better Future Award:** New award, second edition, aimed at recognizing and celebrating craft breweries that are leading the shift toward a more sustainable and inclusive future.
- F) Platinum Award:** A special prize, the **Platinum Medal**, will be awarded to beers that achieve a medal for the fifth time in the current edition, regardless of the type of medals or the editions in which the previous four were won.

The awards will be announced and presented at a ceremony held within the framework of Innbrew, The Brewers convention, during the Barcelona Beer Festival, ensuring the awards receive the media exposure provided by the Festival. For further information or any questions, please write to:

info@barcelonabeerchallenge.com

ANNEX:

GUIDE STYLE BBC 2026



1. STANDARD AMERICAN BEER

- 1A. American Light Lager
- 1B. American Lager
- 1C. Cream Ale
- 1D. American Wheat Beer

2. INTERNATIONAL LAGER

- 2A. International Pale Lager
- 2B. International Amber Lager
- 2C. International Dark Lager

3. CZECH LAGER

- 3A. Czech Pale Lager
- 3B. Czech Premium Pale Lager
- 3C. Czech Amber Lager
- 3D. Czech Dark Lager

4. PALE MALTY EUROPEAN LAGER

- 4A. Munich Helles
- 4B. Festbier
- 4C. Helles Bock

5. PALE BITTER EUROPEAN BEER

- 5A. German Leichtbier
- 5B. Kölsch
- 5C. German Helles Exportbier
- 5D. German Pils

6. AMBER MALTY EUROPEAN LAGER

- 6A. Märzen
- 6B. Rauchbier
- 6C. Dunkles Bock

7. AMBER BITTER EUROPEAN BEER

- 7A. Vienna Lager
- 7B. Altbier

8. DARK EUROPEAN LAGER

- 8A. Munich Dunkel
- 8B. Schwarzbier

9. STRONG EUROPEAN BEER

- 9A. Doppelbock
- 9B. Eisbock
- 9C. Baltic Porter

10. GERMAN WHEAT BEER

- 10A. Weissbier
- 10B. Dunkles Weissbier
- 10C. Weizenbock

11. BRITISH BITTER

- 11A. Ordinary Bitter
- 11B. Best Bitter
- 11C. Strong Bitter

12. PALE COMMONWEALTH BEER

- 12A. British Golden Ale
- 12B. Australian Sparkling Ale
- 12C. English IPA

13. BROWN BRITISH BEER

- 13A. Dark Mild
- 13B. British Brown Ale
- 13C. English Porter

14. SCOTTISH ALE

- 14A. Scottish Light
- 14B. Scottish Heavy
- 14C. Scottish Export

15. IRISH BEER

- 15A. Irish Red Ale
- 15B. Irish Stout
- 15C. Irish Extra Stout

16. DARK BRITISH BEER

- 16A. Sweet Stout
- 16B. Oatmeal Stout
- 16C. Tropical Stout
- 16D. Foreign Extra Stout

17. STRONG BRITISH ALE

- 17A. English Strong Ale
- 17B. Old Ale
- 17C. Wee Heavy
- 17D. English Barley Wine

18. PALE AMERICAN ALE

- 18A. Blonde Ale
- 18B. American Pale Ale
- 18X. Hazy Pale Ale
- 18Y. Other Specialty Pale Ale (Milkshake, fruit & other)

19. AMBER AND BROWN AMERICAN BEER

- 19A. American Amber Ale
- 19B. California Common
- 19C. American Brown Ale

20. AMERICAN PORTER AND STOUT

- 20A. American Porter
- 20B. American Stout
- 20C. Imperial Stout
- 20X. Pastry Stout

21.IPA

- 21A. American IPA
- 21B. Specialty IPA
- Specialty IPA (A): Belgian IPA
- Specialty IPA (B): Black IPA
- Specialty IPA (C): Brown IPA
- Specialty IPA (D): Red IPA
- Specialty IPA (E): Rye IPA
- Specialty IPA (F): White IPA
- Specialty IPA (K): Brut IPA
- Specialty IPA (L) Other Specialty IPA (Milkshake, Fruit & Other)
- 21C. Hazy IPA
- 21X. Session IPA

22. STRONG AMERICAN ALE

- 22A. Double IPA
- 22B. American Strong Ale
- 22C. American Barleywine
- 22D. Wheatwine
- 22X. Hazy DIPA

23.EUROPEAN SOUR ALE

- 23A. Berliner Weisse
- 23B. Flanders Red Ale
- 23C. Oud Bruin
- 23D. Lambic
- 23E. Gueuze
- 23F. Fruit Lambic
- 23G. Gose

24.BELGIAN ALE

- 24A. Witbier
- 24B. Belgian Pale Ale
- 24C. Bière de Garde

25.STRONG BELGIAN ALE

- 25A. Belgian Blond Ale
- 25B. Saison
- 25C. Belgian Golden Strong Ale

26. MONASTIC ALE

- 26A. Belgian Single
- 26B. Belgian Dubbel
- 26C. Belgian Tripel
- 26D. Belgian Dark Strong Ale

27.HISTORICAL BEER

- Historical Beer (A): Kellerbier
- Historical Beer (B): Kentucky Common
- Historical Beer (C): Lichtenhainer
- Historical Beer (D): London Brown Ale
- Historical Beer (E) Piwo Grodziskie
- Historical Beer (F): Pre-Prohibition Lager
- Historical Beer (G): Pre-Prohibition Porter
- Historical Beer (H): Roggenbier
- Historical Beer (I): Sahti

28.AMERICAN WILD ALE

- 28A. Brett Beer
- 28B. Mixed-Fermentation Sour Beer
- 28C. Wild Specialty Beer
- 28D. Straight Sour Beer

29.FRUIT BEER

- 29A. Fruit Beer
- 29B. Fruit and Spice Beer
- 29C. Specialty Fruit Beer
- 29D. Grape Ale

30.SPICED BEER

- 30A. Spice, Herb, or Vegetable Beer
- 30B. Autumn Seasonal Beer
- 30C. Winter Seasonal Beer
- 30D. Specialty Spice Beer

31.ALTERNATIVE FERMENTABLES BEER

- 31A. Alternative Grain Beer
- 31B. Alternative Sugar Beer

32.SMOKEDED BEER

- 32A. Classic Style Smoked Beer
- 32B. Specialty Smoked Beer

33.WOOD BEER

- 33X. Wood-Aged Beer
- 33Y. Imperial Stout Wood-Aged Beer

34.SPECIALTY BEER

- 34A. Commercial Specialty Beer
- 34B. Mixed-Style Beer
- 34C. Experimental Beer

X .LOCAL STYLES

- X4. Catharina Sour (Brazilian)**
- X5. New Zealand Pilsner**

Y. Non Alcoholic Beer