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28th INTERNATIONAL BEER FESTIVAL BUDWEIS 2018

International Beer Festival 2018 broke records

This year's, the 28th International Beer Festival took five days in total - from 12 to 17 February. With its scope and the high turnout, the Festival stands as the largest brewery contest in the Czech Republic.

The cultural centre "Gerbera" newly hosted **the public part of the Festival**, which was preceded by **professional tastings**. In the Malý pivovar Hotel, as many as 384 tasters evaluated samples of beers and ciders, registered in the contest for the **Gold Brewer's Seal** and the **Gold Seal**. By tradition, the Festival featured two contest categories for producers of mineral waters for the award **Bohemian Golden Spring 2018**.

The objectivity and fairness of the professional contests were guaranteed by international certification authorities **Bureau Veritas, TÜV SÜD Czech, 3EC International and the Czech Agricultural and Food Inspection Authority**. Anonymous tastings are therefore subject to strict objective supervision every year.

This year's contest for the prestigious **Gold Brewer's Seal** was attended by **245 breweries** coming from **20 countries** the world over **in 35 categories in total**. Renowned certification authorities supervised the competition of 1,145 various types of beer. We are delighted that an increasing number of not only Bohemian and Moravian breweries but also foreign breweries have entered tasting contests for the Gold Brewer's Seal. We noted a rapid growth also as regards domestic producers. This year is for the first time marked by the participation of breweries from Chile and Mexico in tastings.

Breweries from Spain, Holland, Belgium, Austria, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan and Eastern Europe travelled to České Budějovice to stand the test. Fifteen of these breweries came from the Russian Federation, five from the Ukraine, and there were also breweries from Belarus and other countries. The participation in the Festival on an international scale has an increasing tendency. A record number of participating breweries was noted this year. The total of 1,200 samples was registered in the contests. However, some of them arrived after the deadline or had to be excluded due to an erroneous assignment. The prestige of the contests is demonstrated also by the **participation of the world's largest brewery groups**.

The ceremonious announcement of results of the tasting contests was held on the last day of the Festival in the cultural centre "Gerbera". **The most prestigious award WORLD BEER SEAL 2018 was presented to pale lager Maxmilian 11° produced by Brewery Kroměříž.**

"The results are quite balanced, with a great increase in the number of participants who are given awards. Most often, each participant has an excellent product but it cannot be said that the whole of their production is successful. Leaving aside the awards granted to breweries Heineken Slovensko, Holba Hanušovice and Bernard Humpolec, the winners were given one or two awards only. A large number of awards were bestowed on breweries from Moravia and on rather unknown entities that succeeded in winning over those most experienced routine

contest participants. What is more, large breweries were swept over by small breweries in the final of the category World Beer Seal,” said the Festival Director with respect to this year’s results. **Winners of the individual award categories were granted the right to use the respective designations on their labels and for promotional purposes.**

Its concept makes the International Beer Festival unique on an international scale. No other city hosts a similar event composed of both professional tasting contests and a part opened for the public to enable people to taste the beer awarded.

The visitors to this year’s Festival were **offered as many as 200 types of beer, a half of which as beer on tap**, by world-famous multinational brewery groups, medium-sized domestic breweries as well as small artisanal breweries and microbreweries from the Czech Republic and abroad.

The Festival **has contributed to the development of tourism in the region of South Bohemia and promoted awareness of České Budějovice as a town of beer.** The support provided by the Chartered Town of České Budějovice and companies seated at České Budějovice brought in a tremendous impact on the development and future of the Festival.

The organizers greatly appreciate the extensive support provided during professional tastings by all participating **international certification authorities**, including the State Agricultural and Food Inspection Authority. Special thanks are extended to representatives of the **University of South Bohemia**, who arranged for professional lectures and showed the university brewery and technical workplaces to foreign guests. In addition, thanks go to the management of the **Chartered Town of České Budějovice** for welcoming foreign guests to the Town Hall and for organizing the side programmes, and the management of state-owned enterprise **Budějovický Budvar** for allowing tours of the brewery. The Festival was honoured with the visit of several ambassadors and the commercial attaché as well as the mayors of both partner cities, Linz and Passau.

The history of the International Beer Festival Budweis dates back to the year 1991, which saw the first Beer Festivities held in the Palcát Hotel in Tábor, with the participation of six breweries. During 1991 - 1996, the Festivities took place twice a year - with either the emphasis on foreign beer or domestic breweries. The daily turnout has repeatedly attacked the maximum capacity since 1995, with 5,000 people visiting the last year’s Festival. From its meagre beginnings as a local affair, the Festival has become **a high-ranking event with reputation on both national and international levels.**

Initially, beer tastings observed four categories initially, with nine categories in 2001, fourteen categories in 2006, and this year, beer producers contested in the staggering **32 categories**. While the event held in the first year was attended by only 6 breweries, there were 41 breweries ten years later in 2001, and 95 breweries in 2011, and this year saw a record high number of breweries - 245.

28th INTERNATIONAL BEER FESTIVAL BUDWEIS 2018 took place chiefly thanks to the support of the Chartered Town of České Budějovice, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice and Český rozhlas [Czech Radio] České Budějovice.

For more information about the Festival visit: www.pivnipecet.cz, and all results of tasting contests are available on: <http://www.pivofestival.cz/rocnik/2018/vysledky/finalove-vysledky.pdf>

The following personalities have assumed patronage over the Festival:

Milan Štěch, Chairman of the Senate, Parliament of the Czech Republic

Ing. Jiří Milek, Minister of Agriculture of the Czech Republic

Ing. Klára Dostálová, Minister of Regional Development of the Czech Republic

Mgr. Ivana Stráská, Regional Council President of the South Bohemian Region

Ing. Jiří Svoboda, Mayor of the Chartered Town of České Budějovice

Doc. Ing. Monika Palatková, Ph.D., Director, CzechTourism Agency

Ing. Vladimír Dlouhý, CSc., President, Economic Chamber of the Czech Republic

Ing. Miroslav Toman, CSc., President, Foodnet Chamber of the Czech Republic

Ing. Zdeněk Jandejsek, CSc., President, Agrarian Chamber of the Czech Republic

Mgr. Šárka Stegbauerová, Executive Director, Mutual Chamber of Commerce ČESTA

Doc. Tomáš Machula, Ph.D., Th.D., Rector, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice

Prof. ing. Karel Melzoch, CSc., Rector, University of Chemistry and Technology in Prague

Doc. Ing. Marek Vochozka, MBA, Ph.D., Rector, Institute of Technology and Business in České Budějovice