



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

**Kurosawa
Junmai Kimoto Sake**

87 Points

"Highly Recommended"



Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Bright straw color. Aromas and flavors of dried mango banana and papaya, waxy honeycomb, yogurt almonds, and lychee with a silky, vibrant, dry-yet-fruity light-to-medium body and a tingling, engaging, medium-length melon, coconut water, and nectarine finish. A rock-solid sake with lively structure and flavors; drinks a bit like an Alsatian white wine."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

**Kurosawa
Daiginjo Sake**

94 Points

"Exceptional"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Bright silver color. Attractive aromas and flavors of ripe pineapple and apples, spiced baked peaches, black walnut nougat, and bread and rice puddings with a silky, bright, dry-yet-fruity medium body and a seamless, interesting, snappy fruit salad, banana and fig, and hint of spice nuts finish. A stylish sake with a great dichotomy of richness and ethereal lightness."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

**Hananomai
Junmai Ginjo Sake**

80 Points

"Recommended"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Clear silver color. Curious aromas and flavors of plastic wrapped and fermenting tropical fruits and gooseberries, stale cashews, and old opened pineapple can with a supple, soft, dry-yet-fruity light-to-medium body and a tingling, brisk overripe papaya in Greek yogurt, bamboo shoots and leaves, artichoke hearts, and coconut husk finish. A funky earthy sake for the table."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

Hatsumago
Kimoto Junmai Sake

89 Points

"Highly Recommended"



Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Clear silver color. Fruity, creamy aromas and flavors of white cake with delicate almond frosting and coconut cream pie with a silky, bright, fruity light-to-medium body and a smooth, amusing, buoyant apple pudding, melon and grape, and delicate spiced nuts finish. A very tasty and gratifying sake that would be a nice introduction to sake."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to
Shichiken
Junmai Ginjo Sake

92 Points

"Exceptional"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Emerald straw color. Tropical aromas and flavors of banana custard, melon-apple sorbet, and seaweed salad with a supple, bright, off-dry medium body and a tingling, medium-long coconut milk, almond nougat, and spiced papaya and pear finish. A crisp, very fruity and easy drinking Junmai ginjo."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

**Okunomatsu
Tokubetsu Junmai Sake**

92 Points

"Exceptional"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Pale straw color. Fruity, green aromas and flavors of asian pear and pineapple husk with a velvety, bright, fruity medium-to-full body and a seamless, complex, long melon, tapioca, strawberry rice candy and yogurt, and chamomile tea with cream finish. A rich, rewarding Junmai with lots of clearly delineated flavors, character and impact."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

Okunomatsu
Daiginjo Shizukuzake 18th
Generation Sake

93 Points

"Exceptional"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Clear silvery straw color. Fruity, attractive aromas and flavors of asian pear, ripe pineapple, anise, and candied lavender with a silky, bright, fruity medium-to-full body and a warming, elaborate, very long sweet peach tea, almond nougat, coconut milk, and delicate spices finish. A fantastically flavorful and inviting sake with remarkably deep fruit and spice flavors."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

**Hananomai
Katana Ginjo Sake**

86 Points

"Highly Recommended"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Silvery emerald straw color. Aromas and flavors of tapioca pudding, rice flour, brown sugar sprinkled pear, and bamboo leaves with a silky, bright, dry-yet-fruity light-to-medium body and a smooth, interesting, medium-long coconut water and saline, honeyed fig, bamboo, and pepper finish. A lively, juicy ginjo sake."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

Ichishima
Ginnoyorokobi Competition
Daiginjo Sake

94 Points

"Exceptional"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Clear silvery straw color. Fruity aromas and flavors of honeyed melon, cinnamon spiced asian pear, lily and blueberry scone, and marinated mushrooms with a silky, bright, fruity medium body and a smooth, intriguing, medium-long coconut milk, tapioca, and spiced mangos and pears in cream finish. A rich, complex and serene sake that is a pleasure to drink."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to
**Ichishima
Junmai Sake**
85 Points

"Highly Recommended"



Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Bright silver color. Aromas and flavors of toasted nuts, baked potato and sugar cane, honey rice cake, and fruity aloe drink with a supple, bright, dry-yet-fruity medium body and a smooth, interesting, brisk young coconut and milk, plantain chip, and bark finish. A crisp, refreshing sake for carefree sipping."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

Ichishima
Junmai Daiginjo Sake

92 Points

"Exceptional"



Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"White gold color. Aromas and flavors of cashew fruit and nougat, apples in vanilla cream, melon rind, and coconut custard tart with a satiny, vibrant, dry-yet-fruity medium body and a polished, interesting, medium-length nectarine and starfruit, golden beet, honeyed nuts, and bibb lettuce finish. A nice balance of fruit and savory vegetable tones make this a natural choice for the table."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

**Ichishima
Seishu Sake**

88 Points

"Highly Recommended"



Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Brilliant silver color. Aromas and flavors of jicama and bananas in cream, doughy biscuit, hint of potato skin and walnut, and vanilla candle paper wrapper with a silky, soft, dry light-to-medium body and a tingling, crisp vegetable broth, coconut custard, white cherry, and hint of pepper finish. A fresh and cleansing futsu-shu."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

Ichishima
Silk Deluxe Junmai Sake

88 Points

"Highly Recommended"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Pale silvery straw color. Aromas and flavors of honeyed pear, plantain, and almond mint cookie with a soft, bright, off-dry light body and an effortless, interesting, easy sugared honeydew melon, starfruit, and white strawberry finish. A pleasant fruity Junmai crowd pleaser."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

Yaegaki
Mu Junmai Daiginjo

91 Points

"Exceptional"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Pale emerald straw color. Aromas and flavors of honey roasted apple and pear, white chocolate macadamia cookie, sun-dried tomato, and cheese puff with a satiny, vibrant, fruity medium body and a smooth, distinctive, medium-long spiced watermelon and mango, water chestnut and bamboo shoot, yellow pepper, and cedar finish. A lively and engaging Junmai Daiginjo with a chewy appetizing texture."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

Yaegaki
Kurobin Black Bottle Sake

90 Points

"Exceptional"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Dull silver color. Aromas and flavors of melon and peach balls, mashed potatoes, honey buttered biscuit, and white flowers with an bright, dry-yet-fruity medium body and a polished, appealing, medium-length coconut and almond milks, banana and persimmon, cashew brittle wrapper, and lime spritzed honeydew finish. A pretty Junmai with acidity that dances on your tongue."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to
**Yaegaki
Cloud Nigori Sake**

85 Points

Best Buy

"Highly Recommended"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Cloudy silver color. Aromas and flavors of banana-lime keffir, warm rice pudding, macadamia nougat, and buttercream frosting with a supple, vibrant, fruity medium body and a tingling, stimulating, medium-length spiced jicama and honey roasted nuts finish. A pleasant Nigori for desserts."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to
SakéMoto
Junmai Sake
90 Points
Best Buy

"Exceptional"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"White gold color. Aromas and flavors of ripe pineapple, apple, and papaya with a satiny, bright, fruity medium-to-full body and a smooth, captivating, long melon balls, almond milk, banana chips, and birch bark finish. A rich, round, flavorful Juneau with great style and balance."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

**Yoshinogawa
Gokujo Ginjo Sake**

92 Points

"Exceptional"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Pale silvery straw color. Aromas and flavors of pineapple, melon, and honeycrisp apple with a silky, dry-yet-fruity medium body and a smooth, medium-long chestnut honey on pistachios, banana-papaya sorbet, and sweet pepper and white mushroom finish. A very tasty, elegant and nuanced jingo with wide appeal."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

Yoshinogawa
Gensen Karakuchi Sake

88 Points

"Highly Recommended"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Pale silver color. Fresh aromas and flavors of pineapples in cream, peach and guanabana, oatmeal and sesame with honey, and floral honeycomb with a silky, soft, dry-yet-fruity medium body and a silky, intriguing, medium-length tapioca pudding, coconut milk, and cantaloupe finish. A satiny, pure sake with attractive flavor and balance—this sake over-delivers for its category."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

Murai Family
Tanrei Junmai Sake

85 Points

"Highly Recommended"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Pale silver color. Aromas and flavors of pineapple-banana relish, milk and honey, shrink-wrapped pear, and floral talc with a silky, bright, dry-yet-fruity light-to-medium body and a polished, engaging, crisp yellow apple, melon in cream, jicama, and walnut finish. A charming Junmai with appealing balance and fruitiness."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to
Murai Family
Daiginjo Sake

94 Points

"Exceptional"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Silvery emerald straw color. Fruity, spicy aromas and flavors of spiced caramelized apple, banana raisin muffin, hint of anise, and brown sugar with a round, bright, dry-yet-fruity medium-to-full body and a tingling, complex, long melon in sweet cream, toasted coconut, rain water, and spiced almond nougat finish. An elegant, beautifully poised Daiginjo that is a pleasure to drink."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

Kasumi Tsuru
Kimoto Extra Dry Sake

92 Points

"Exceptional"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Bright silvery straw color. Aromas and flavors of toasted nut pastry and white chocolate strawberry with a silky, bright, dry-yet-fruity light-to-medium body and an even, captivating, medium-long tapioca and dried fruits finish. An elegant, nuanced sake that has a come-hither style."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

Kasumi Tsuru
Yamahai Junmai Ginjo Sake

92 Points

"Exceptional"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Pale white gold color. Complex, earthy aromas and flavors of bison grass, honeyed corn bread, green pineapple, banana and papaya, and floral talc and pomade with a satiny, bright, fruity medium body and a silky, delightful, long spiced pear, almond cookie, and pineapples and kiwis in sweet cream finish. A delicious, appetizing sake with great flavor and poise."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

**Hakutsuru
Toji-Kan Sake**

84 Points

"Recommended"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Bright silver color. Aromas and flavors of milk soaked raisin toast, sweet potato fries, starfruit and cashew fruit, and floral talc with a supple, bright, dry-yet-fruity light-to-medium body and a polished, interesting, breezy powdered milk, pineapple-plantain relish, and pepper finish. A bright and robust futsu-shu."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

Hakutsuru
Superior Junmai Ginjo Sake

93 Points

Best Buy

"Exceptional"



Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Silvery straw color. Fruity aromas of pineapple and papaya in cream, green apple, and cashew nougat with a silky, vibrant, fruity medium body and a seamless, engaging, breezy fruit salad, banana, and pickled melon rind finish. A wonderfully bright and appetizing Junmai ginjo sake."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

Suisen Shuzo
Kibo Sake

85 Points

Best Buy

"Highly Recommended"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Bright silver color. Curious, vegetal aromas and flavors of soy soaked vegetables, chives, and mushrooms, roasted root vegetables, chlorine pool concrete, and bit o honey candy with a supple, soft, dry-yet-fruity light body and a warming, odd, medium honey roasted apples and nutshells, bamboo and tree bark, pepper, and paper finish. A savory, earthy mash-up of umami and fruit that will be fun to pair with."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

Momokawa
Dry Crisp Silver Junmai Ginjo
Sake

84 Points

"Recommended"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Clear silver color. Aromas of almond cookie, banana-pepper relish, crayon, and hair with a light-to-medium body and a smooth, brisk honeyed cashews, lemon spritzed melon, keffir, and peppered grape leaves finish. A snappy, peppery sake for spicy sushi."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

Momokawa
Lightly Sweet Ruby Junmai
Ginjo Sake

90 Points

Best Buy

"Exceptional"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Light silver color. Inviting aromas and flavors of banana yogurt, spiced melon and tangerine, and cinnamon rice pudding with a silky, bright, dry-yet-fruity light-to-medium body and a graceful, delightful, medium-long coconut water and milk, white strawberry, and almond brittle finish. An attractive, well-composed sake that is sure to please."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

Momokawa
Medium Dry Diamond Junmai
Ginjo Sake

89 Points

Best Buy

"Highly Recommended"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Light silver color. Interesting aromas and flavors of ironed linen, floral tropical fruits, tamarind and edamame, and molded wax or plastic toy with a satiny, bright, fruity medium-to-full body and a smooth, appealing, cheery taro root pudding, melon, coconut rice cake, and mushroom finish. A dry, understated sake that will shine at the table."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to

Moonstone
Coconut Lemongrass Nigori
Sake

86 Points

Best Buy

"Highly Recommended"



Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Hazy silver color. Aromas and flavors of piña colada, lemongrass tea, and rice pudding with a satiny, bright, fruity sweet medium body and a polished, easy coconut custard finish. A fun flavored sake with a sweet tropical twist, try in piña coladas, with juices, or on ice."



TASTINGS

2017 World Sake Challenge
is pleased to award



to
G Joy
Genshu Sake
85 Points

"Highly Recommended"

Jerald O'Kennard, Director - Tastings.com



"Bright silver color. Aromas of cashew nougat, white cake box, banana yogurt, and sticky rice with a velvety, bright, medium-to-full body and a warming, interesting, medium-long banana bread pudding, melon in coconut milk, mushroom consommé, and water chestnut finish. A rock-solid, full-strength sake that will shine at the table."