



**Private Brauereien**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

The winners of the 2016 European Beer Star competition:

# **US beers lead the medal table for the first time**

*In its 13th year, the European Beer Star, one of the most important beer competitions in the world, set a new record with 2,103 beers from 44 countries taking part.*

*The winners in 57 categories were picked by a 124-strong international jury of experts during a two-day blind tasting process.*

*For breweries, the gold, silver or bronze awards carry a prestige comparable to Michelin star awards in the restaurant business. The award ceremony will take place on 9 November as part of the BrauBeviale trade show.*

*The largest number of "stars" (69) was again awarded to German breweries, representing roughly 40% of the registered beers. For the first time, US-based brewers found their way to the top of the medal table with 17 gold medals. The most successful brewery of 2016 is the Ballast Point Brewing Company from San Diego (California), which has won three gold medals and one silver medal. Europe's most successful brewery with two gold and two silver medals is the Austrian Ottakringer brewery based in Vienna. The top spot among German breweries is shared by the Gold Ochsen brewery from Ulm (Baden-Württemberg) and the Erl-Bräu from Geiselhöring (Bavaria) with two gold medals each. Italy, with its lively brewing scene, won 10 categories and*

*rose to become the third most successful country of the 2016 European Beer Star competition.*

**Munich** - "The European Beer Star competition is a phenomenal success story", said Oliver Dawid, CEO of Private Brauereien Bayern, the association of Bavarian independent breweries, "the number of registered beers has doubled over the past six years!" While in the previous years, beers from German breweries accounted for roughly half of the participating breweries, this year the share of international beers rose to 60%. This year, the 2,103 beers tasted by 124 beer experts (previous year: 115) from 30 countries at the Doemens Akademie, Gräfelfing near Munich, Germany at the beginning of October originated from 44 countries. Following a two-day blind tasting, the jury comprising master brewers, beer sommeliers and journalists picked the winners of gold, silver and bronze awards in 57 categories (previous year: 55) based on the same criteria used by all beer consumers: colour, foam, aroma, flavour and type-specific characteristics.

### **Medals for brewers from 22 countries**

The results are quite spectacular: while German breweries won the most medals overall, they only managed to win 16 categories (previous year: 20). They were overtaken in the medal table by US brewers with 17 gold medals. In total, brewers from 22 countries won medals. Perhaps the biggest surprise, however, was the success of Italian breweries: while in 2015 they had to settle only for one gold medal, at this year's European Beer Star they swept the board in ten categories. This is a clear reflection of the popularity of beer on the Italian peninsula.

Another surprise was delivered by neighbouring Austria, which received five gold medals. The most successful European brewery of the 2016 European Beer Star is the Vienna-based Ottakringer Brauerei with two silver and two gold medals for the best German-style Pilsner and the best German-style Helles, two of the most competitive categories. For the first time, medals were also won by breweries in Hungary and Ukraine. Surprisingly in Taiwan is brewed the best amber wheat beer by Long Sun Brewing in New Taipei City!

"The results demonstrate that the European Beer Star has gained worldwide recognition" said Gerhard Ilgenfritz, President of the Private Brauereien Bayern, the association of Bavarian independent breweries "and it shows that great beers can be brewed in countries with little or no brewing expertise".

### **Familiar names on the list of winners**

The brewing expertise of innovative US brewers, which were particularly well represented this year, is beyond any doubt. The most successful brewery to emerge from the 2016 European Beer Star competition is the Ballast Point Brewing Company from San Diego, California, which earned one silver medal (in the Düsseldorf-style Altbier category) and three gold medals for its English-style Porter, Baltic-style Porter and Imperial India Pale Ale. Further gold medals were awarded to US breweries, which were among the winners over the past years i.a. for Traditional Style Pale Ale (Sierra Nevada Brewing), for Wood and Barrel Aged Strong Beer (Fifty Fifty Brewing), for Sweet Stout (Ska Brewing), for Dry Stout (Deschutes Brewery), for Imperial Stout (Epic Brewing Company), for New Style India Pale Ale (Reuben's Brews) for Bohemian-style Pilsener (Oskar Blues Brewery) or for Bohemian-style Schwarzbier (Lakefront Brewery).

Similar to their US colleagues, the Italian brewers also had success with mainly unusual beer styles. Birrificio Artigianale earned gold medals in the Belgian-style Witbier and Herb and Spice beer categories. Further gold medals were awarded to breweries in Northern Italy for Belgian Dubble (Birrificio del Forte), Sour Beer und New Style Pale Ale (both by Birra Perugia), Smoke Beer (Birrificio del Ducato) or Scotch Ale (Piccolo Birrificio Clandestino). As a newcomer to the European Beer Star, the most successful Italian brewery of the year is Birra Elvo in Graglia, which earned gold for both Schwarzbier and Heller Bock and a silver medal for Dunkler Bock.

According to Sebastian Wedekind, Competition Manager European Beer Star, the many new names that appear in the winners list are a testament to how fierce the competition has become: "The beer stars are among the most coveted awards in the international beer universe!" While with 69, the German breweries won the most medals (2015: 64),

German beers "only" topped 16 categories having won four gold medals less than in 2015. The two most successful German breweries are Gold Ochsen (Ulm, Baden-Württemberg) und Erl-Bräu (Geiselhöring, Bavaria). The brewery from Lower Bavaria, which made its way onto the European Beer Star winners list for the first time, won a gold medal for its Heller Doppelbock and Festbier; the Ulm-based brewery came out on top of the Export and Mild Lager categories.

### **Success for Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg**

While South German breweries continue to dominate the German market, the Baden-Württemberg-based breweries are rapidly catching up (7/8) with the help of some familiar names that have emerged from the European Beer Star competition, such as the Hirsch-Brauerei Honer from Wurmlingen. The wheat beer specialist earned a gold medal for Hefeweizen Hell, silver medal for amber wheat beer and Kristallweizen and a bronze medal for Leichtes Weizen, highlighting its particular expertise in fermented beers. The gold-medal winning Kronenbrauerei Alfred Schimpf from Neustetten impressed the jury with its dark Weizenbock.

The Bavarian breweries could not repeat the excellent result from the previous year, when they won 15 gold medals. The Franconian breweries secured a win in the regional Kellerbier categories: Gold was won by the breweries Zum Löwenbräu (Kellerbier Hell), and Bürgerliches Brauhaus Wiesen (Kellerbier Dunkel). The best light pale beer is from the Winkler brewery from Amberg; the best strong beer (Ultra Strong category) is from Brauhaus Faust in Miltenberg. Gold in the category Kellerpils wins the small brewery Winkler-Bräu in Lengenfeld in the north of Regensburg. Of the Upper Bavarian breweries flush with success only last year, the family-run brewery Müllerbräu from Pfaffenhofen was again able to impress the jury with their beers: they were awarded a bronze medal for the pale light, beer, silver for Hopfenland Pils and gold – for the third time – for the light wheat beer. The only gold medal outside South Germany was awarded to Bürgerliche Brauhaus Saalfeld (Thüringen) for its Märzen. For the first time, breweries from Frankfurt and Berlin won medals for their beers.

The fact that the European beer categories can no longer be clearly associated with

specific countries is illustrated by the following examples: The gold medal in the Düsseldorf-style Altbier category was awarded to a Japanese brewery, Warabiza; the best traditional pale is brewed by the Dutch brewery, Jopenkerk Bierbrouwerij. "With the European Star competition, we cover a wide range of the highest quality international beer specialities", summed up Oliver Dawid from Private Brauereien, "which is in keeping with our objective to give the European Beer Star award to exceptionally authentic beers, capable of impressing the jury both in terms of flavour and quality".

The European Beer Star Award of Private Brauereien (in cooperation with the Association of Small and Independent Breweries in Europe) established in 2003 is sponsored by the Barth-Haas Group, BayWa, Rastal and MicroMatic. Its partners are BrauBeviale, Doemens Akademie and Brauwelt.

For more information, please go to: [www.european-beer-star.de](http://www.european-beer-star.de)

Please observe blocking until 9 November 2016 (16:00)!

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Attached please find the list of all winners, including contact details for the breweries and various photographs and illustrations that can be used free of charge.

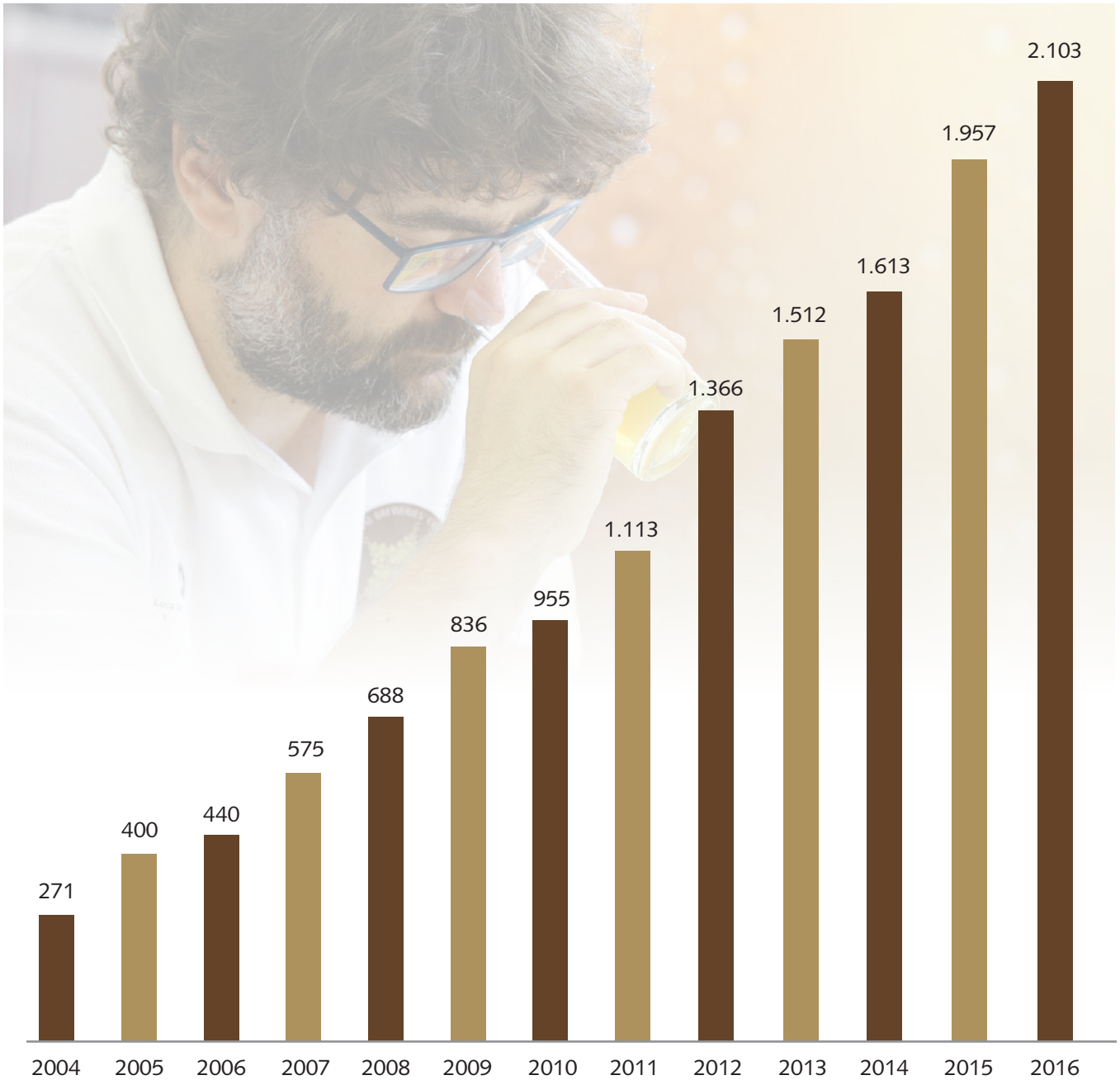
9 November 2016/ photographs and text: Private Brauereien Bayern e.V. (free of charge)



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**Private Brauereien**



Source: Private Brauereien

## Development of the Number of Registrations for the European Beer Star















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# International medals table 2016



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	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	Total
 USA	17	10	12	<b>39</b> 2015: 38
 Germany	16	26	27	<b>69</b> 2015: 64
 Italy	10	5	2	<b>17</b>
 Austria	5	5	1	<b>11</b>
 Netherlands	4	3	2	<b>9</b>
 Belgium	1	2	5	<b>8</b>
 Iceland	1	-	1	<b>2</b>
 Switzerland	1	-	1	<b>2</b>
 Japan	1	-	-	<b>1</b>
 Taiwan	1	-	-	<b>1</b>
 Canada	-	1	-	<b>1</b>
 China	-	1	-	<b>1</b>
 Czech Republic	-	1	-	<b>1</b>
 Danmark	-	1	-	<b>1</b>

# International medals table 2016



2/2

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	Total
 Malta	-	1	-	1
 Myanmar	-	1	-	1
 Brazil	-	-	1	1
 Great Britain	-	-	1	1
 Hungaria	-	-	1	1
 Namibia	-	-	1	1
 Poland	-	-	1	1
 Ukraine	-	-	1	1

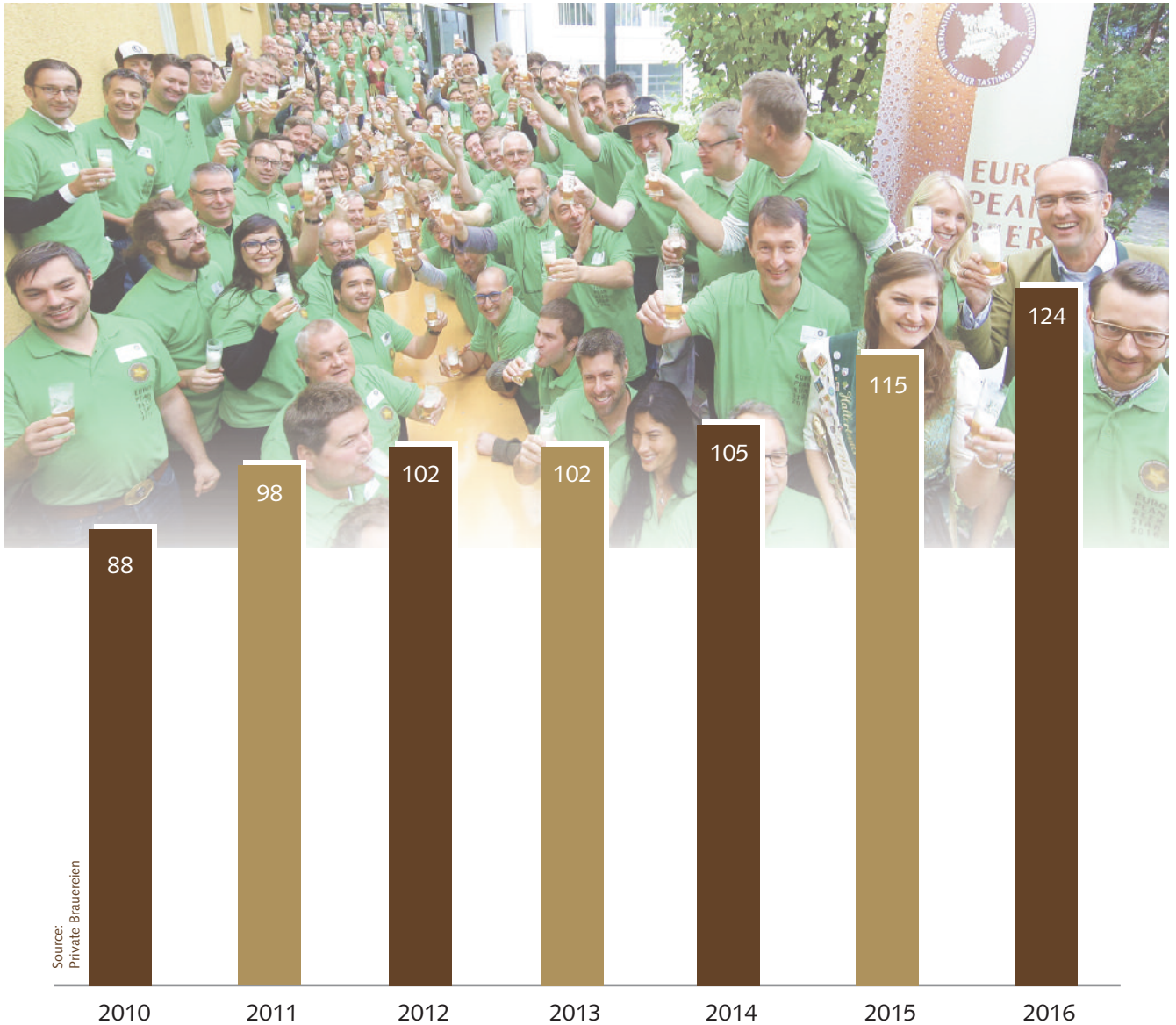




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Source:  
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**Development of the Number of Tasters at the European Beer Star**

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