

To All Members of the Press
Press Release

28 October 2025
SSA / Sake Sommelier Association Luxembourg

“Spirit of Japan” Introduced for the First Time at Gault & Millau Gala Luxembourg 2026

— Niizawa Brewery Awarded the BEST AWARD —



At the **Gault & Millau Gala Luxembourg 2026**, the *Spirit of Japan* category was introduced for the first time to celebrate the beauty, craftsmanship, and cultural depth of Japanese sake within Luxembourg’s gastronomy scene.

The **BEST AWARD**, selected through the *Luxembourg Sake Challenge* and *Japan Life* events and awarded in parallel to the Gala, went to **Niizawa Brewery** for its *Junmai Daiginjo Zankyo Super 7 2024*. Its refined clarity, delicate elegance, and innovative brewing technique earned high praise from experienced Sake Sommelier Judges as well as leading chefs and sommeliers of Luxembourg’s fine dining community.





During its sister event *Japan Life*, the finest chefs and sommeliers from Luxembourg's **Horesca** sector were invited to the **Residence of the Ambassador of Japan** to taste and evaluate 25 of the top sake from the *Luxembourg Sake Challenge*. Their collective evaluation determined the **BEST AWARD**, symbolizing the essence of the *Spirit of Japan*.

During the Gala Dinner, *Atago no Matsu Junmai Ginjo Sasara* was paired with the main course for nearly 300 distinguished attendees. The pairing captivated the audience, showcasing the remarkable potential of sake in haute cuisine.



In parallel with the Gala, the **Best Design Award** was revealed and presented to *Ishizuchi Junmai Daiginjo Vanquish* for its stunning aesthetics and innovative design, which embody the harmony between Japanese artistry and modern refinement.



GLOBAL LINK SARL, organiser of the *Luxembourg Sake Challenge* since 2022, also promotes sake education, Japanese craftsmanship, and culture through their label **House of Japan** (www.houseofjapan.lu). Their expertise and passion, combined with deep market knowledge, have been key to the success of the 2025 edition.

The **SSA / Sake Sommelier Association Luxembourg** would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to all participating breweries, partners, and guests who made this milestone possible.

The Association will continue to promote and educate about sake, while looking forward to further collaboration with the world of international gastronomy.

< **Gault & Millau Gala Luxembourg 2026** >

Find out more:

<https://www.gaultmillau.lu/en/news/le-chef-de-lannee-gaultmillau-luxembourg-2026-est-consacre>

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