



IWC2026
Sake Judging in JAPAN

HIROSHIMA



Photo credit: Keisuke Irie (IWC "SAKE Division" Judging Session)

THE INTERNATIONAL WINE CHALLENGE "SAKE DIVISION" JUDGING IN HIROSHIMA

May 18 (Mon)—May 21 (Thu) 2026 Judging Location: Higashihiroshima City

The IWC "SAKE Division" judging is considered one of the largest and most influential events held both in Japan and internationally.

20th Anniversary



Public tasting events will be held across Hiroshima Prefecture from late May onward!

Why is a world-renowned sake competition held in Hiroshima?

Saijo in Hiroshima is one of Japan's three major sake brewing regions, alongside Nada in Hyogo and Fushimi in Kyoto. Hiroshima is also the birthplace of Ginjo-shu.

Moreover, the National Research Institute of Brewing, Japan's only national research institution dedicated to alcoholic beverages, is located in Hiroshima. In recognition of Hiroshima's rich sake brewing culture, the 2026 judging was chosen to be held there.

Find out more



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