

Léon Rodenburg from the Netherlands is the new World Champion Beer Sommelier

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It was a neck-and-neck race: the high-caliber jury certainly did not have an easy time choosing the new Beer Sommelier Champion. In the end, however, the result was close: Léon Rodenburg from the Netherlands impressed the jury in Munich on September 14th, 2025, with his outstanding stage presence and excellent communication and sensory skills – and was crowned the eighth world champion of beer sommeliers..

For the 2025 World Championship, 93 beer sommeliers from 18 nations and four continents traveled to Munich to determine the best of the best. It became clear early on that victory and defeat would be decided by nuances, as the level of performance was extremely high. The competition began on September 13, 2025, at Doemens with two preliminary rounds (recognizing beer flavors and beer styles) and continued the next day at the Munich Exhibition Center with the semifinals and finals.

The ten best participants from five countries qualified for the semi-finals, which were held in a knockout format, with the six best advancing to the grand final. The audience created a fantastic atmosphere in the packed hall. A high-caliber jury consisting of former world beer sommelier champions evaluated the finalists based on clear criteria: sensory assessment of the beer, in-depth background knowledge (storytelling), appropriate food pairings, and overall performance on stage.

Each finalist was assigned a blind beer. The challenge was to present this beer in a competent and exciting way – including a sensory description and a common thread in the presentation. In a thrilling final, Léon Rodenburg from the Netherlands ultimately

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emerged as the deserved winner. He succeeded most impressively in inspiring the jury and audience with his profound knowledge of La Trappe Tripel, coupled with presentation skills and emotion. Second place went to Dennis Kort, also from the Netherlands, and third place went to Oliver Klamminger from Austria..

Jens Luckart, organizer and head of the world championship, was also impressed by the finalists' performances: "The presentations are impressive proof of the consistently high level of quality; the finalists were beer sommeliers of the highest caliber."

At the same time, the director of the Doemens Genussakademie praised the support of the sponsors: The main sponsors drinktec (Yontex) and BarthHaas, as well as the co-sponsors Siemens, Rastal, Camba Bavaria, Anton Paar, the Association of Austrian Breweries, and the Swiss Brewers Association. "Without this commitment, it would not have been possible to hold the event in this form—nor would it have been possible to hold the 9th World Championship, which will take place in Austria in 2027," emphasized Luckart.



The eighth world champion beer sommelier: León Rodenburg from the Netherlands (photo: Doemens)



León Rodenburg (center) with runner-up Dennis Kort (right) from the Netherlands and third-place finisher Oliver Klamminger (photo: Doemens)

ABOUT DOEMENS

Doemens is an internationally recognized professional development and training institute for the brewing, beverage and food industries. Theory and practice are closely aligned and integrative thinking is supported through cooperation and constant communication among the various divisions. Our professional development programs within the Doemens school address a wide variety of educational needs and feature the Savour Academy, which trains beer, water, fruit juice and distillate sommeliers alongside a number of seminar offerings in-house as well as those open to the public.

Our "Services" division further supports industrial operations by offering consultation as well as laboratory services.

Dr. Albert Doemens founded the institute in 1895, which employs 40 staff and faculty and has its headquarters in Munich-Gräfelfing.

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