

Amsterdam, June 20th 2019

CANADA WINS WORLD TITLE BOLS MASTER BAR TEAM 2019 IN AMSTERDAM

Last night during the finale of the international bartending competition 'Bols Around The World', Botanist Bar from Canada was crowned 'Bols Master Bar Team 2019'. After 10 editions of individual bartenders, this was the first edition that was all about team effort behind the bar. At the grand finale, which took place on Bols Cocktail Street (Reguliersdwarsstraat, Amsterdam), Canada competed against 5 other international bar teams for the world title and team trip to a city of their choice.



During the sold-out event, ticket holders for Bols Cocktail Street had the chance to visit 6 bars in which each bar team served their cocktail creation in a spectacular way. The competition was all about cocktails and the team spirit the participants showcased within their bar team. The teams had to go through two cocktail challenges; one of which was in the street, and a mystery challenge which was judged in the Bols

Bartending Academy earlier in the day. For this challenge, bar teams were appointed a Dutch master painting, and had to create a cocktail concept inspired by it.

Botanist Bar Team

Botanist Bar team from Vancouver consists of Grant Sceney, Jeff Savage and Max Curzon-Price. Since its foundation in 2017, the bar has been recognized internationally as one of the 'World's Best New Bars' by Condé Nast. The Canadians took over Lion Noir, serving their winning cocktail 'Into the Æther', which fits into Botanist's laboratory style cocktails, which all embody a specific element of nature (Earth, Air, Fire, and Water), and are all elaborate presentation pieces in their own right. Into the Æther raises the bar in terms of its show stopping presentation and attention to the primary ingredient, Bols Genever. Inspired by the fifth element, Spirit, the drink is clear, with an emphasis on bold and surprising flavors. Botanist Bar team's vision for the drink was to showcase how teamwork and team spirit is the underlying driving force behind the cocktails and experiences they leave their guests with. The Botanist Bar Team believe that though it takes one bartender to make a drink, it takes a team to create an experience. Watch their competition entry [here](#).

This edition, the jury consisted of different icons in the international bar industry, all of whom own bars from the prestigious 'World's 50 Best Bar' list. Led by Bols Master Bartender Ivar de Lange, this renowned jury decided that Botanist Bar was the proclaimed winner of Bols Around The World 2019.

- **Ryan Chetiyawardana**, World's Best Bartender 2015 + owner of World's Best Bar 2018 Dandelyan, London
- **Boudewijn Mesritz & Lydia Soedadi**, founders and owners of Tales & Spirits and The Jitterbug Saloon, Amsterdam
- **Steve Schneider**, partner and head bartender of Employees Only (NYC & Singapore) and co-owner of The Odd Couple in Shanghai and The Strangers Club in Panama.

Ivar de Lange: *"The Botanist Bar has won the Bols Around the World 2019 competition because they perfectly used the versatility and history of Bols Genever. By working as a team, they created a unique experience for the judges and the guests at Bols Cocktail Street. The 2019 edition of Bols Around the World was the first bar team edition. The Canadian team of the Botanist Bar in Vancouver showed that a true hospitality concept needs the best bar team. And that is what they are."*

There were 250 bar teams from 40 different countries participating in the competition which began in January. The finale saw Canada compete against South Africa, Colombia, England, Russia and South Korea. Every team got assigned a bar on the Reguliersdwarstraat in Amsterdam, which they transformed into their own style. The participating bars of Bols Cocktail Street this year were Duke of Tokyo, Lion Noir, Middl.Eat, Roses by Sal, Soho and Toppers.

Watch the after movie [here](#).

Fun Fact

For all 6 teams in the finals of the international bartending competition Bols Around The World, Genever was an all-time favorite as the base of their cocktail creations. Also in the preliminary round, 90% of all

international participants chose to use Bols Genever. This shows that Genever truly is working on a worldwide comeback and is the perfect base for cocktails. You can find all the recipes from the bar teams [here](#).

All proceeds from the ticket sales will be donated by Lucas Bols to non-profit organization Dance4Life.

About the Bols Around The World 2019 competition

Bols Around The World (BATW) is one of the leading bartending competitions worldwide and is organized by Lucas Bols in Amsterdam every two years. After 10 editions of individual BATW winners, this year the team behind the bar was honoured for the first time in order to recognize the team spirit and collaboration that determine the success of any bar. To get a place in the finals in Amsterdam, the bar teams were challenged to create a unique cocktail recipe and concept, and then bring it to life in a video. The recipe had to contain one or more products from the Lucas Bols Global Portfolio. Each participating team shared their video on social media with the hashtag #BATW2019. Watch the finalist videos on our [Bols Bartending YouTube Channel](#).

About Lucas Bols

Lucas Bols is the world's oldest distilled spirits brand and one of the oldest Dutch companies still in business. Building on its more than 444 year-old heritage dating back to 1575, the company has mastered the art of distilling, mixing and blending liqueurs, genever, gin and vodka. Lucas Bols owns a portfolio of more than 20 premium and super premium brands of different spirits used in cocktail bars worldwide. Its products are sold in more than 110 countries around the world.

Furthermore, Lucas Bols is a leading player in the bartending community. Through the House of Bols Cocktail & Genever Experience and Europe's largest bartending school, the Bols Bartending Academy, the company provides inspiration and education to both bartenders and consumers.

About Dance4Life

Unsafe sex is one of the top and fastest growing health risks for millions of young people globally. Dance4Life is a Dutch non-profit organization that is determined to change this, forever.

Dance4Life empowers young people, providing them with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to protect their health and promote safe sexual choices. We do that through a journey of self-discovery full of music and dance.

Want to know more about Dance4Life? Check the website www.dance4life.com.

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