



Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago

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Czech Beer Festival Chicago 2017

*The annual Czech Beer Festival Chicago 2017 presents typical Czech beverages that have become an indispensable part of the Czech culture and are known all around the world. The festival will feature the legendary beers, **Pilsner Urquell** and **Czechvar**, as well as **Bernard**, **BrouCzech** and **Praga** that have also marked significant international success. **R. Jelinek's Moravian Plum Brandy**, as well as "treasures" of the world-renowned spa town of Carlsbad, **herbal liqueur Becherovka** and **Mattoni Mineral Water** will be part of the menu as well. **The main event takes place at the Sokol Tabor Hall (1602 Clarence Ave, Berwyn) on Saturday, April 29, 12 pm – 12 am.** The event will also offer live rock & pop, world music, polka and country & folk. **Jan Vančura & Plavci, one of the most successful bands in the history of Czech country & pop music** will be the main guest performer. The downtown restaurant **BOHO – Bohemian House (11 W Illinois St, Chicago)** will serve a special evening menu to complement the beverage selection on **April 27 - 28, 2017.** A special evening at the **Ambassador Public House (310 S Halsted St, Chicago)** with Jan Vančura & Plavci will close the program on **May 3, 7:30 pm.***

Beer in Czech lands has a long history, with brewing taking place in Brevnov Monastery in Prague already in 993. Two Czech cities world-known for their beer – Plzeň (Pilsen) and České Budějovice (Budweis) – had breweries from the 13th century. The brewing method has been passed through generations.

"There is no wonder that Czechs who came to the United States did not leave this heritage behind," says Bořek Lizec, Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago. "The Czech history in Chicago, which includes Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak, "Papa Bear" George Halas, McDonald's Guru Ray Kroc, Silver Screen Star Kim Novak, the Last Man on the Moon Eugene Cernan, Hero of Apollo 13 Jim Lovell, Political Lioness Judy Baar Topinka and many others, does have a chapter on beer. Two major Czech – Bohemian breweries were founded here: Pilsen Brewing Company (est. 1903) and Atlas Brewery (est. 1891). The Pilsen Brewery Park was an important center of the Czech cultural, social and political life for decades. One of the very first rallies calling for Czechoslovak independence took place here in 1914. The Atlas Brewery also has an interesting connection to public life. Its owner, Czech immigrant Charles Vopicka was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson the U.S. Ambassador to Romania, Serbia, and Bulgaria in 1913. One of the greatest Czech artists of all time, Alphonse Mucha helped another Chicago beer producer of Czech origin. In Chicago, the co-founder of Art Nouveau taught at the Art Institute and created several beautiful posters. Two of them presented products of Joseph Triner whose two factories were located in the Pilsen neighborhood."

The Festival is organized by the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago and the Chicagoland Czech-American Community Center in cooperation with the Prague Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, BOHO – Bohemian House, The Ambassador Public House, Sokol Tabor, Sokol Spirit, Sokol Stickney, Theater Bohemia, Bohemian Wings, Chicago Chapter of the Czech – North American Chamber of Commerce & Culture and other Czech-American organizations of Chicagoland. LOT – Polish Airlines is the Festival's official airline.

Additional Information:

Booklet: http://www.mzv.cz/file/2347414/Booklet_5_4_2017.pdf

Poster: http://www.mzv.cz/file/2355616/Plakat_1.pdf

www.mzv.cz/chicago/en/beerfest

SPECIAL MEDIA EVENT:

Representatives of the media are invited to a special presentation & tasting on **Thursday, April 27, 4 – 6 pm at BOHO – Bohemian House restaurant (11 W Illinois St., Chicago).** RSVP at rsvp.cgchicago@gmail.com or 312 861 1037, ext. 100

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