

Global Finance picks CaixaBank as the Best Bank in Spain for the third consecutive year

- ***The award is based on key aspects such as growth, profitability, territorial footprint, strategic relations, new business development and product innovation.***
- ***The accolade follows the Bank of the Year 2016 award from The Banker, and the prize for Best Private Banking Provider in Spain awarded by British magazine Euromoney in January of this year.***

Barcelona, 22 May, 2017

CaixaBank, the leading financial group in the Spanish market, has been picked as the Best Bank in Spain 2017 by Global Finance, taking the crown for the third consecutive year. The accolade was based on CaixaBank's achievements in delivering on customer demands amid a challenging market and climate, while outperforming competitors and "laying the foundations for further success".

The bank, presided over by Chairman Jordi Gual and CEO Gonzalo Gortázar, outclassed competitors in terms of assets growth (total customer funds in the first quarter 2017 stood at 338,053 million, up 11.2%), profitability (with ROTE in the banking and insurance business of 9% at the end of the first quarter 2017), its nationwide footprint, strategic relations, new business development and product innovation.

"This award represents further recognition of our fresh approach to banking, as well as the bank's leadership. It has deftly navigated the challenges and opportunities that have presented themselves, again demonstrating robust solvency levels, and completing the BPI acquisition to extend its leadership to the entirety of the Iberian market", said CaixaBank Chairman Jordi Gual.

Meanwhile CaixaBank's CEO, Gonzalo Gortázar, pointed out that "despite fierce competition in the industry, CaixaBank continues to grow at a considerably faster pace than the market, thanks to its unique commercial capabilities, the finest consultancy provided by a highly capable team, and an extensive service offering tailored to each segment".

The choice of CaixaBank as the Best Bank in Spain was based on a survey conducted by *Global Finance* among financial and banking executives, global analysts and credit rating

analysts. A further a survey was also run among *Global Finance* readers.

Joseph Giarraputo, Editor and Editorial Director of *Global Finance*, said “the winning banks may not be the biggest or the most veteran, but their energy and adaptability ensures that they stand out on the playing field”.

Global Finance is a New York-based monthly magazine that was founded in 1987. It has a circulation of 50,050 copies (according to BPA) across 180 countries, and a readership of more than 200,000.

The New York magazine will host an awards ceremony as part of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington on October 14.

International accolades for CaixaBank

CaixaBank also won the Bank of the Year 2016 title from *The Banker*, as well as the award for Best Private Banking Provider 2017 from *Euromoney*.

The bank has likewise attracted awards for innovation, such as the *EFMA* and *Accenture* prize for the world’s most innovative bank, and the BAI awards for Innovation in Payment Services and Most Disruptive Innovation in Banking. *Global Finance* also honoured CaixaBank’s innovation strategy with the *Global Finance* award for the Best Retail Digital Bank in Western Europe.

The bank also recently won the European Retail Bank of the Year award, for its leadership of innovation in the European sector over the last year.