



# INTERNATIONAL CONTEST REGULATIONS VINEGARS 2026

## ARTICLE 1 – ORGANIZER

The International Vinegars Competition – CINVE is organized by the company INVERSIONES SOBRECASES, S.L. (InsocFerial).

Tax ID (CIF): B82335753

Address: Calle Fuentes 3  
28013 Madrid (Spain)

## ARTICLE 2 – SCOPE

\_The competition is open to all bottled and labeled vinegars, whether produced by national or international companies, that meet the conditions established in these rules to be eligible for the awards of the International Vinegar Competition – CINVE.

\_Submitted vinegar samples must comply with the food regulations of their country of origin.

\_The Technical Committee reserves the right to perform analytical testing of vinegars by sending a sample to a laboratory to certify that it meets all the characteristics indicated in its original analysis.

\_Samples must come from a batch that is marketed or prepared for marketing during the current year.

\_The organization may request documents that verify such marketing.

\_They must be bottled or packaged in containers equivalent to three (3) bottles of 0.75 liters each.

## ARTICLE 3 – OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the competitions are:

\_To reward the best vinegars submitted to the competition.

\_To promote the wide variety of high-quality vinegars, both national and international.

\_To raise awareness among consumers and potential clients about the healthy culture of vinegar.

\_To support production, its improvement, and the quality of its elaboration, as well as sustainability and commercialization, through the dissemination of awards obtained in the competition.

\_To highlight the international market, emphasizing the exceptional qualities of vinegars produced in different countries.

\_To contribute to the increase of Spanish vinegar consumption in the international market.



## ARTICLE 4 – REGISTRATION

The registration of each sample shall be completed by the company or business entity, through an authorized representative, on the official competition website: [www.cinvegroup.org](http://www.cinvegroup.org)

The registration form shall include the following information:

### 1) Company details:

- a) Tax Identification Number (CIF)
- b) Postal address
- c) Telephone number
- d) Email and website
- e) Contact person details

### 2) Product Characteristics:

1. Country of origin
2. Brand
3. Indication of Designation of Origin or other quality indications according to the specific regulations of the country of origin
4. Acetic degree
5. Sugar content (g/l)
6. Vintage
7. Stock
8. Indicative price
9. Category in which it participates

The representative of the aforementioned company or legal entity assumes responsibility for the statements contained in the registration and for compliance with the present regulations.

## ARTICLE 5 – CATEGORIES

The categories are established according to the CATEGORIES list, which is available on the official competition website: [www.cinvegroup.org](http://www.cinvegroup.org).

## ARTICLE 6 – SUGAR CONTENT

- DRY (<5 g/l)
- SEMI-SWEET (between 5 and 60 g/l)
- SWEET (>60 g/l)

## ARTICLE 7 – AGEING

- UNAGED
- WOOD-AGED < 2 YEARS
- WOOD-AGED > 2 YEARS
- WOOD-AGED > 6 YEARS
- WOOD-AGED > 10 YEARS
- OTHER (Specify)

## ARTICLE 8 – FEES & PAYMENT METHODS

The official competition fees are:

- General fee: €150.00 (taxes not included)
- Reduced fee: €140.00 for more than 4 samples (taxes not included)

Payment can be made by:

- Credit card at the time of registration.
- PayPal (invoice must be requested in advance; a 4% surcharge will apply).
- Bank transfer to any of the account numbers specified on the invoice.

**Participation must be paid at the time of registration.**

**If the payment is not received on time, the sample will not be eligible to participate in the competition.**

## ARTICLE 9 – SHIPMENT OF SAMPLES

\_Three (3) bottles or other containers of 0.50/0.75 liters, or six (6) bottles of 0.25 liters (the total quantity must not be less than 1.50 liters) must be sent for each entry in the competition.

-Samples must be received within the deadline established by the organization.

\_The deadline and shipping details will be published and communicated to participants in advance.

**For shipments from outside the European Union:**

\_A proforma invoice must be included specifying the number of bottles per type, net weight, content, and total weight per type.

\_Boxes must be labeled: "SAMPLES WITH NO COMMERCIAL VALUE – International Vinegar Competition – CINVE" to avoid potential customs charges.

\_Samples must be shipped with transportation, delivery, and customs formalities (if required) fully prepaid.

\_The competition will not be responsible for retrieving samples from customs if all costs are not paid upon arrival in Spain.

\_All freight charges, taxes of any kind, and transfers must be borne by the sender.

\_The competition organization will not cover any additional charges arising from the shipment of samples.

\_Samples that arrive late, whose registration fees have not been paid, whose registration is incorrect, or whose product does not match the registration will not be evaluated and will not be returned.

\_Registration requests and samples arriving after the deadline will not be refunded or compensated.

## ARTICLE 10 – SAMPLES CONTROL

\_InsocFerial, through its designated personnel, will oversee the reception and registration system of the samples, as provided in Article 4.

\_Once registered, each bottle of the sample will be covered so that the label and capsule are hidden, and will be assigned a random number which will accompany the sample throughout the entire process, including the tasting, until the awards are announced.

\_The anonymity of each sample will be guaranteed at all times.

\_The organization will store the samples in a secure location under appropriate temperature and humidity conditions to ensure their proper preservation.



## ARTICLE 11 – TASTING JURY

\_The evaluation of the samples will be carried out by a jury, with the number of panels depending on the number of samples submitted to the competition.

\_The jury will be appointed upon the proposal of the Technical Direction and approved by the CINVE management. It will consist of highly qualified tasters with proven experience in national and international competitions, and will comply with regulations governing international juries.

\_Each panel will consist of four to five members, with the following composition: a minimum of two to three international jurors and a maximum of two national jurors. The panel will be chaired by a senior oenology technician with recognized experience.

\_In each panel, three members will be qualified technicians.

## ARTICLE 12 – TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT

**Jesús Flores** – General Technical Director and **Manuel Capote** – Technical Director of the competition will be responsible for the technical supervision of the tasting and for the appointment of the jury members.

## ARTICLE 13 – TASTING SESSIONS

\_The tasting sessions will take place from **March 26 to 29, 2026**.

\_InsocFerial, in collaboration with the Management, will ensure that the tasting sessions are conducted with complete anonymity of the samples.

\_Tasting tables will be located in a well-ventilated, well-lit, and quiet room.

\_The temperature will be maintained between 18 °C and 22 °C.

\_An adjacent room, out of view of the jurors, will be reserved for sample preparation and maintaining anonymity.

\_The service of vinegars will be serve in the tasting room, in front of the jurors.

\_Tasting sessions will preferably take place in the morning.

\_Each session will taste a maximum of 50 samples per tasting table.

\_Each sample will be evaluated individually and not comparatively.

\_After sensory analysis, tasters will record their scores in the corresponding boxes on the tasting sheet, and, if necessary, add their observations.

\_The chair of each jury will submit the data from each juror electronically, and it will be processed digitally.

\_The software program will calculate the final score for each sample as the arithmetic mean, adjusted for deviations, of the valid scores from the different tasters at each tasting table.

\_Vinegars will be scored on a 100-point scale, using the tasting sheets approved by the Technical Direction.

\_Grand Gold, Gold, and Silver Awards will be granted to samples achieving the following scores:

- Silver: 85 to 89.99 points
- Gold: 90 to 94.99 points
- Grand Gold: 95 to 100 points

\_The total number of awards will be less than 30% of the total number of samples submitted.

\_The "Gran CINVE" award will be granted to the vinegar that obtain the highest score in a second tasting or the highest score in their respective category.

\_Each distinction will be accompanied by a Diploma issued by the Competition, signed by the technical team and the chair, certifying the award obtained. The winning sample, as well as the producer and geographical origin, will be identified as indicated in the registration form.

\_INVERSIONES SOBRECASES, S.L., owner of the CINVE brand, will grant free authorization for the use of the Grand Gold, Gold, and Silver MEDAL images in all promotional materials produced by the licensee, as well as for reproduction on social media, the company website, email communications, and press releases.

\_Reproduction on the bottles of the awarded samples or production of adhesive labels independently is NOT authorized. This use incurs a cost and must be requested by the company owning the brand once the awards have been communicated.

\_INVERSIONES SOBRECASES, S.L. reserves the right to take legal action against any misuse of the aforementioned images.

## ARTICLE 15 – FORCE MAJEURE AND POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS

\_The competition will not take place in cases of force majeure (epidemic, fire, flood, disaster, strike, terrorist act, etc.) or any event beyond its control or considered justified due to its severity.

\_Likewise, the competition reserves the right to cancel the event, change the scheduled date, shorten, or extend it.

\_The organization will not be held liable in such cases, and participants may not claim any compensation.

\_CINVE is not responsible for any theft, loss, damage, or delay in the delivery of the samples.

## ARTICLE 16 – GENERAL RULES

\_Companies registering their samples will be informed of the awards obtained once the evaluation tastings have been completed.

\_The results of the competition are final and not subject to appeal.

\_Leftover samples of participating products may, after the tastings, be used by the competition for promotional and/or educational purposes.

\_They will not be returned to the producer or distributor.

\_The same applies if the event is cancelled under the circumstances set forth in Article 13 of these Regulations.

Participation in the competition implies express acceptance of these Regulations.

In case of any dispute, the courts of Madrid shall have jurisdiction, and Spanish law shall apply in all cases.