



NZ YOUNG VITICULTURIST OF THE YEAR Entry Form 2026

This form must be completed and scanned through to the National Co-ordinator and your Regional Organiser before entry can be accepted to a regional competition. **Entries close 31 March 2026.**

This form will also be used as your entry form if you move on to compete in the National Final.

Regional Competition: _____

Name: _____

Mobile: _____ **Email:** _____

Date of birth (d/m/y): _____

Place of work: _____ **Job title/role:** _____

Personal Instagram Handle: _____ **Work Instagram:** _____

If you are happy/would like to be tagged on social media. No obligation.

Jacket & Shirt Size (Male or Female, XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL) _____

- I have read and agree to the rules of entry and terms and conditions of the competition as overleaf.
- I confirm that I will be 30 years of age or under as at 31 December 2026 OR
- I confirm that I will be 31-32 years of age as at 31 December 2026 and with 4 years or less experience in viticulture.
- I am a NZ Citizen /Resident currently working in the New Zealand wine industry and/or studying for a post or undergraduate qualification in viticulture with a New Zealand tertiary education provider OR
- I have a New Zealand Work Visa and a permanent job in the NZ wine industry.

Please state other visa status: _____

- I have attached a bio. Bio must be a short paragraph in 3rd person as a Word document. [See example below Ts & Cs, but please personalise. ie you can add other information and don't need to include everything in the example.]
- I have attached a photo of myself as a separate attachment in jpeg or png format.
- I agree to have my contact details shared with the Sponsors of the NZ Young Viticulturist of the Year so that they may provide me with information about their business, products and/or services.
- I have permission from my employer to participate

Signed: _____ (Enter electronic signature or print & sign)

Date: _____

Please return to: Nicky Grandorge | youngvit@nzwine.com | 021 780 948

↗ www.nzwine.com/en/events/young-vit

Rules of Entry and Terms and Conditions

Eligibility

1. To enter, contestants must be:
 - a. 30 years of age or under as at 31 December 2026 or 31-32 years of age as at 31 December 2026 with 4 years or less experience in viticulture; and
 - b. currently working in the New Zealand wine industry; or be a post or undergraduate studying viticulture with a New Zealand tertiary education provider; and
 - c. a New Zealand Citizen or hold a current New Zealand Resident Visa or hold a New Zealand Work Visa and have a permanent job in the New Zealand Wine Industry.
2. The contestant must enter the competition of the region where they are currently working or studying. If they have been working in the region for less than six months and request to enter the competition of the region where they previously worked, the National Committee may agree to this at its sole discretion.
3. The participant must have no current plans to permanently emigrate in the near future (overseas vintage is fine).
4. NZW or the Regional or National Committees may, at their sole discretion, require applicants to provide evidence of their age, citizenship or residence status. If information is requested by NZW but evidence is not provided within the requested timeframe, the applicant is deemed to be ineligible to enter the competition.
5. Departures from the eligibility criteria may be granted in exceptional circumstances, as determined at the sole discretion of the National Committee.

Regional Competitions

6. Depending on contestant numbers there will be five or six regional competitions. The six regional competitions are Auckland/Northern, Hawke's Bay, Wairarapa, Marlborough, Central Otago and South Island Regional. If contestant numbers are low in some regions, then competitions may be combined. This is a flexible situation which will be reviewed each year.

Competitions for 2026 are: North Island Regional (for Wairarapa, AKL/Northern & Gisborne), Hawke's Bay, Marlborough, Central Otago and South Island Regional (for N.Canterbury, Waitaki & Nelson)

The winner of each regional competition will compete in the NZ Young Viticulturist of the Year 2026 National Final (the **National Final**).

The South Island (**SI**) Regional Competition is for North Canterbury, Nelson and Waitaki contestants (ie regions where there is no local competition established). The overall winner from this competition will go through to the National Final and represent their own region. The 2026 SI Regional Competition will be held in North Canterbury.

The North Island (**NI**) Regional Competition is for Auckland, Northland, Gisborne and Wairarapa contestants. The overall winner from this competition will go through to the National Final and represent their own region. The 2026 NI Regional Competition will be held in Auckland or Wairarapa (wherever most contestants are based).

7. Those who qualify to enter but live or work outside the regions where competitions are being held may enter as follows:

Gisborne, Northland, Auckland and Wairarapa – in 2026 contestants will enter the N.Island Regional competition. However dependent on numbers and at the discretion of the national committee this may change to competing in the Hawke's Bay competition.

If there are not enough Nelson, North Canterbury and Waitaki contestants for the SI Regional Competition to go ahead, then

 - Marlborough will hold a spot open for a Nelson competitor
 - Central Otago will hold a spot open for a Canterbury and/or Waitaki competitor
8. Contestants are responsible for their own travel costs to the regional competition. However, contestants having to travel a great distance to compete outside of their region can apply for a grant of up to \$300 to help towards travel and accommodation. There is a separate form to complete for this and depending on available funds will receive part or all of this sum.
9. An out of region contestant is eligible to place 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the regional competition and will be announced as such. If an out of region contestant places 1st or 2nd they will go through to the National Final to represent their own region and will be named, for example, Gisborne Young Viticulturist of the Year. The contestant from the hosting region who places 1st will go through and if they come 2nd to someone from outside the region, they will also go through (or 3rd if 2 out of region contestants place 1st & 2nd) to represent their region (ie just one person from each region goes through to the National Final).
10. A regional competition will have no more than eight competitors, unless special circumstances are agreed by the National Committee.
11. In the event of the region receiving entries for more than eight competitors then a selection process will be undertaken at the Regional and National Committees' joint discretion. Preference will be given to those competitors who are aging out of the competition.
12. All contestants must submit their entry form by **31 March 2026**. After this date, they should contact the National Coordinator. If any spaces remain available, they may be allowed to participate at the discretion of the National Committee.

National Final

13. Part of the prize for gaining entry into the National Final is reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses up to a maximum of \$1,300 to the National Final, for those based outside the region where it is being held. This will be issued following the National Final, upon provision of receipts for travel and accommodation booked mindfully and economically. The National Co-ordinator may book some of this to benefit from group bookings and travel co-ordination. This is not a cash prize.
14. Alternatively, an out of town contestant can enter the National Final directly, as long as they have the support of their regional winegrower organisation. If a contestant chooses to enter the competition this way, they must fund their own travel and accommodation for the National Final.

Young Horticulturist of the Year

15. If the winner of the National Final is still eligible they will go on to represent the wine industry in the **2027** Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition (**Young Hort**).

This means they will compete the year following the National Final. Under Young Hort's current conditions of entry, as long as they are 30 years of age or younger on 31 December **2026** or are aged 31-32 on 31 December 2026 with 4 years or less experience in viticulture they will still be eligible for Young Hort the following year.

In the unlikely event that Young Hort change their rules and the contestant is no longer eligible, the person who places second in the National Final will go through to the 2027 Young Hort (again, if eligible).

The winner of the National Final will still keep the title of 2026 Young Viticulturist of the Year and receive all associated accolades and prizes.

16. Travel and accommodation expenses in relation to entry in Young Hort are supported by NZW and Young Hort.

Privacy

17. Contestants agree that personal information submitted with their entry form and any personal information gathered in the course of the competition (eg photos and videos) may be used in social media, media releases and publicity material related to the competition and other NZW related initiatives.
18. Contestants agree that their contact information may be provided to sponsors of the competition. Sponsors may contact contestants to provide them with information about their business, products and/or services.
19. Contestants agree that their contact information may be provided to relevant organisers and committee members of the competition for organisational purposes.
20. Contestants' information will be treated in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020. A copy of NZW's privacy policy is available on its website here: <https://www.nzwine.com/en/privacy-policy/>.

General

21. Contestants enter at their own risk and must act in a responsible manner considering the safety of themselves and other contestants and supervisors.
22. During the competition the contestants must wear the competition clothing provided. Clothing with logos of companies which conflict with the competition's sponsors cannot be worn.
23. There is no cash alternative to prizes offered.
24. The contestant must respect all decisions and requests made by NZW and the competition supervisors and judges. This may include directions related to the competition venue or for Health & Safety reasons. Such directions must be followed by contestants.
25. NZW may cancel or amend all or part of the competition and/or its prizes without notice and at its sole discretion. In such a case, no compensation will be payable.

Example of Bio:

Albarino Jones Bio

Albarino Jones is 27 years old and Assistant Vineyard Manager at Pukeko Vineyard in Waikato. Her passion for viticulture began xxxx and she graduated from XX Polytechnic/University with a XXX in 20??. Albie has since worked 7 vintages in Hawkes Bay, British Columbia and Mosel. She is passionate about and her goals are to.... Outside of work she enjoys

- Please note this is in **3rd person**.
- Your bio will be copied and pasted onto social media to raise your profile, so make it **professional, relevant, interesting and concise**.
- Please send as a **Word document**.
- Please send **photo as a jpeg or png as a separate attachment**.