Young Winemaker
New Zealand Wine

MERCUREY FRANCE

NZ YOUNG WINEMAKER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Entry Form 2026

This form must be completed and scanned through to nicky.grandorge@nzwine.com along with your photo and bio (written in 3rd person) before entry can be accepted to a regional competition.

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

Regional Competition: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mobile: _____ **Email:** _____

Date of birth (d/m/y): _____ **Personal Instagram Handle:** _____
If you are happy/would like to be tagged on social media. No obligation.

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

Vest Size (Male/Female XXL, XL, L, M, S, XS) _____

- ☐ 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 31-35 years of age as at 31 December 2026 and with 5 years or less experience in wine production.
- ☐ I am a NZ Citizen/Resident; OR
- ☐ I have a work visa, a job in the NZ wine industry and intend to stay in New Zealand for at least 18 months
  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 as a guide].
- ☐ I have attached a **photo** of myself as a **separate attachment** in **jpeg or png format.**
  [Ensure your face is clear and reasonably close up, though doesn't need to be just a headshot].
- ☐ I have completed the questions below.
- ☐ I agree to have my contact details shared with the Sponsors of the NZ Young Winemaker of the Year so that they may contact me or provide me with information about their business, products and/or services. I agree they can be shared with and relevant organisers and committee members for organisational purposes. I agree that my contact details may also be shared with any relevant journalists in accordance with the Terms and Conditions below.
- ☐ My employer has agreed to me having time off work for the regional competition, national competition and associated events as required (eg media interviews, wine judging opportunities).

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

Date: _____

Please return to: Nicky Grandorge, National Co-ordinator | nicky.grandorge@nzwine.com | 021 780948
www.nzwine.com/en/events/young-winemaker

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PART TWO. Please answer the following questions below using **no more than 100 words** per question:

1. Please list any major achievements and valuable experiences you have had in the wine industry.

2. Please explain the leadership qualities and skills you bring to the New Zealand wine industry.

3. What are your future goals and aspirations in the New Zealand wine industry?

4. Any other comments you would like to make to assist with your application?

Rules of Entry and Terms and Conditions

Eligibility

1. To enter the 2026 Young Winemaker of the Year Competition (the **Competition**), an applicant must:
   a. be 30 years of age or under on 31 December 2026 or between 31 and 35 years of age on 31 December 2026 with less than five years' experience in wine production;
   b. have a minimum of two harvests or two years' experience in a wine production role in New Zealand as well as being currently employed in the New Zealand wine industry either part or full time (however, full time students studying winemaking may also be considered);
   c. be a New Zealand or Australian citizen or resident or have a work visa; a job in the NZ wine industry and intend to stay in New Zealand for at least 18 months; and
   d. have no current plans to permanently emigrate in the near future (with the exception of overseas vintage).
2. Departures from the eligibility criteria may be granted in exceptional circumstances, as determined at the sole discretion of the Competition's National Committee (the **National Committee**).
3. New Zealand Winegrowers Incorporated (**NZW**) may, at its 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.

Applications close 30 April 2026. Applications will be assessed, and applicants will be informed whether they have been accepted to participate in the Regional Competition by the respective Regional Committee.

Regional Competitions

4. There are three Regional Competitions in 2026. Applicants must enter the competition in the region where they are currently working. If an applicant has been working in their current region for less than six months, the National Committee will decide which Regional Competition the applicant will enter.
5. Applicants for the Competition are required to be available on the date of their applicable Regional Competition as well as the National Final. Regional competitions will run from end June and in July (see https://www.nzwine.com/en/initiativesevents/youngwinemaker/2026-dates for dates)
   - National Final, Martinborough – Tuesday 25 August 2026
   - Awards in Wellington - Thursday 27 August 2026
6. The applicable Regional Competition for those in other regions will be as follows:
   - North Island – contestants from anywhere on the North Island can enter the Competition being held in Hawke's Bay.
   - Nelson – can apply to enter the Marlborough Competition only.
   - The rest of the South Island (i.e. outside of Nelson and Marlborough) can apply for the Central Otago Competition.
7. 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. Contact nicky.grandorge@nzwine.com for this.

Selection process

8. Applications will be assessed regardless of region and the top eight contestants chosen for each Regional Competition. For example, the top eight contestants for the Marlborough Competition may be drawn from both Nelson and Marlborough applicants.
9. Each Regional Competition will have no more than eight contestants, unless special circumstances are agreed by the National Committee.
10. In the event of a Regional Competition receiving entries from more than eight contestants, a selection process will be undertaken. This process will be determined at the National Committee's discretion for each region.

National Final

11. The winner of each Regional Competition will go through to the National Final. If the winner of a Regional Competition is unavailable, the second placed contestant from that Regional Competition will take their place.

12. Should someone from outside Marlborough or Central Otago come first in either of these competitions, they will go through to the National Final and represent their own region, rather than that of the Regional Competition. In this instance, the person who comes second in the Marlborough or Central Otago competition would then go through to represent Marlborough or Central Otago as applicable.
13. If a National Final contestant ordinarily lives outside the region where the National Final will be held, travel arrangements and accommodation is likely to be booked on their behalf by NZW. However, there is some flexibility and contestants who need to book their own travel will be reimbursed up to $1,300 including GST for their own reasonable travel and accommodation expenses. This will be issued following the National Final, following provision of receipts with travel and accommodation booked mindfully and economically. This is not a cash prize.

Privacy

14. 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.
15. 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.
16. Contestants agree that their contact information may be provided to relevant organisers and committee members of the competition for organisational purposes.
17. Contestants also agree that their contact information may be shared with relevant journalists for the purpose of enabling media coverage of the competition as well as provide additional recognition of Contestants participation. If requested, support can be provided by NZW with any media inquiries.
18. 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

19. Contestants enter at their own risk and must act in a responsible manner considering the health and safety of themselves and others, including contestants, supervisors and attendees.
20. During the Competition, contestants must wear the Competition clothing provided. Clothing with logos of companies which conflict with the competition's sponsors cannot be worn.
21. There is no cash alternative to prizes offered.
22. All decisions of NZW, the National Committee and the Competition supervisors and judges are final.
23. The contestant must respect and follow all reasonable decisions and requests made by NZW and the Competition supervisors and judges. This may include directions related to the Competition venue or for health and safety reasons.
24. 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. This includes, but is not limited to, changes that may be required as a result of health and safety reasons.
25. When engaging with any media, contestants must comply with any reasonable direction given by NZW.

Completed application forms and any questions should be directed to:
Nicky Grandorge, National Co-ordinator | nicky.grandorge@nzwine.com | 021 780948
www.nzwine.com/en/events/young-winemaker

Example of Bio:

This can be personalised and include any information you would like to be shared. Please keep it concise for copying onto social media.

Samuel Blanc Bio

Samuel Blanc is 22 years old and Cellarhand at Noir Estate in Nelson. His passion for winemaking began in xxxxx and he graduated from XX Polytechnic/University with a XXX in 20XX. Sam has worked vintages in Marlborough and Rioja. He is passionate about... and his goals are to... Outside of work he 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**.