

NZ YOUNG WINEMAKER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION
Entry Form 2025

This form must be completed and scanned through to the National Co-ordinator 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): _____

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.

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 am 30 years of age or under on 31 December 2025 or between 31 and 34 years of age on 31 December with less than five year's experience in wine production.
- ☐ I am a New Zealand 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
- ☐ I have attached a bio. Bio must be a short paragraph in 3rd person. *[See example below as a guide]*
- ☐ I have attached a photo of myself.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ 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



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 2025 Young Winemaker of the Year Competition (the **Competition**), an applicant must:
 - a. be 30 years of age or under on 31 December 2025 or between 31 and 34 years of age on 31 December 2025 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 May 2025**. 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 2025. 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 throughout July (see <https://www.nzwine.com/en/initiativesevents/youngwinemaker/> for dates)
 - National Final, Christchurch – Tuesday 26 August 2025
 - Awards in Christchurch - Thursday 28 August 2025
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. For those traveling from out of region there is a small travel grant contribution available. 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' 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

17. 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.
18. During the Competition, contestants must wear the Competition clothing provided.
19. There is no cash alternative to prizes offered.
20. All decisions of NZW, the National Committee and the Competition supervisors and judges are final.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. When engaging with any media, contestants must comply with any reasonable direction given by NZW.

Example of Bio:

Dom Perignon Bio

Dom Perignon is 26 years old and is Assistant Winemaker at Sparkling Vineyards. He grew up in Middle Earth and graduated from Epernay Polytechnic with a Graduate Diploma in Winemaking in 2019. His wine career began at Bragato Estate and he has worked vintages in Champagne, Veneto and Marlborough. He became interested in winemaking when... He is passionate about... and his goals are to... Outside of work he enjoys...

Completed application forms and any questions should be directed to:

Nicky Grandorge, National Co-ordinator | nicky.grandorge@nzwine.com | 021 780948

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