

**Young**  
**Viticulturist**  
**New Zealand Wine**

**20<sup>th</sup>**  
**ANNIVERSARY**



**GROWING THE FUTURE OF THE  
NEW ZEALAND WINE INDUSTRY**

# NZ Young Viticulturist of the Year



Young Vit is an annual Leadership Programme consisting of education, regional competitions and a national final. It has been running since 2006.

It **stretches, supports and celebrates** passionate young viticulturists.

**2025 marks it's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

This highlights the strength of the programme and has helped many Young Vits progress their careers.

The success of Young Viticulturist of the Year is thanks to the commitment and support from all our many volunteers and sponsors who have generously contributed over the years.

We have grown a very special Young Vit community.

**Here's to the next 20 years!**





# Competition Format

- The day consists of a mix of practical and theoretical questions, plus an **interview** and a general knowledge quiz round.
- The BioStart Hortisports race at lunchtime
- An evening dinner where contestants deliver a speech and the winner is announced
- Regional finals lead to the National Final
- The National Final takes place in conjunction with the Altogether Unique Celebration at the end of August

# NZ Young Viticulturist of the Year



## What is its aim?

- To discover, nurture and grow future viticultural leaders
- To offer support, training and education to ensure confident, professional and pioneering young viticulturists will lead the industry in years to come
- To help Young Vits progress their careers and have an opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas on the future of the NZ wine industry
- Grow a strong, supportive viti community. It's a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and working relationships with other young vits, senior vits and sponsors.
- Everyone involved has the common goal to support each other and strengthen the wine industry for our continued growth and success.



# Focus topics

- Budgeting – Excel - practice
- Pests and diseases
- Nutrition
- Pruning & yields
- Trellising
- Irrigation
- Machinery – sprayers, tractors, netting
- Health & Safety
- Wine knowledge
- General Knowledge
- Sustainability
- Biosecurity
- Interview
  
- Project/Presentation for National Finalists





# On the day

- You will rotate around a mix of theoretical and practical questions
- In the Regional Competitions these last **25 mins each**, with 5 mins to get to the next challenge
- In the National Finals these are **40 mins** – digging deeper into your knowledge & skills
- There are 6-8 questions covering various topics
- This includes a leadership **interview** and **Excel** budgeting question
- The BioStart Hortisports is at lunchtime (bring your supporters). This is a head to head race testing a range of viti skills with a couple of fun ones thrown in. A viti obstacle course 😊



# On the day

- This is followed by a Fruitfed BBQ lunch
- Challenges continue in the afternoon
- Then a break to change for the dinner
- Speeches are given at the dinner – near the start of the evening
- Quiz – various formats (buzzer, whiteboard, Kahoot) and this is held either at lunchtime or at the dinner. Stay up to date with viti knowledge, news, innovation, vintage stats and current affairs.
- Wine tasting & knowledge – this differs in various regions and is either a full question or part of wine options or not always included. It is in the National Final.

# What to bring and wear

## Daytime

- You will be provided with an awesome Young Vit jacket, polo shirt & beanie/cap. These must be worn throughout the day (ie no other branding). OK to take jacket and hat off if hot.
- Sturdy boots – it may be muddy and there are practical elements
- Water bottle
- Waterproofs
- Change of clothes (if v wet)

## Remember

- Remove boots when going inside (venues are generously lent to us)
- Use PPE provided
- Use pruning tools provided

## Dinner

- Dress for success. This is your opportunity to shine and make a great impression in front of an industry audience. This is a professional environment so wear smart clothes. Dress trousers and shirt/blouse (jacket if you like), dress/skirt, dress shoes. Doesn't need to be completely formal, but certainly not too casual.



# How to prepare for the competition

- Hands on at work
- Use the Young Vit Education Hub [www.nzwine.com/en/initiativesevents/youngvit/education-hub](http://www.nzwine.com/en/initiativesevents/youngvit/education-hub)
- You need a **members login** for some of the links
- **Email [youngvit@nzwine.com](mailto:youngvit@nzwine.com)** if you need one
- **nzwine.com** is a huge resource
- Dig out your old course books
- Keep up to date with what's going on via newsletters and industry social media groups especially:
  - YoungViticulturist
  - NZ Wine Kaitiaki Group
  - Bragato Research Centre
  - Regional Winegrowers
  - Sponsors
- Read NZW's Annual Report, Vineyard Report, Biosecurity Guidelines
- Industry conferences and webinars
- **Practice Excel** – lots of online training or sit with a colleague or boss and run through it e.g. support.office.com or spreadsheeto.com
- **Ask, ask, ask** - your boss, colleagues, sponsors, suppliers, previous Young Vits, previous tutors, NZ Winegrowers. **Everyone is keen to help** 😊



Young Vit Education Hub



A huge thank you to all our **National Sponsors** who make this competition possible



## How to prepare

Familiarise yourself with our sponsors, their products and services.

They are all experts in their fields and have a wealth of information and experience they're willing to share.

Give them a call and find out more on their websites.

Links are available on our sponsors webpage.  
[www.nzwine.com/en/initiativeevents/youngvit/sponsors-prizes/](http://www.nzwine.com/en/initiativeevents/youngvit/sponsors-prizes/)



Stay up to speed  
with tech  
innovations

# Professional Reputation Award



Professional qualities and conduct are the sign of a good leader.

## What are we looking for?

- A **really, positive attitude** which stands out
- Good manners and politeness
- Respect for others – judges, organisers and other contestants
- Giving it 100% effort/putting your all into it/really stretching yourself
- Stepping outside your comfort zone
- Good communication – ie responding to emails and messages from organisers promptly

In a nutshell we are looking for a positive attitude; someone who is polite, considerate and giving it one hundred per cent.

**Prize: \$250 cash** for each region kindly given by Ormond Nurseries



# Why enter?

- Increases your knowledge, skills and confidence
- Widens your network. Belong to a supportive viti community.
- Start making a name for yourself - just by entering, it opens doors for your career
- Young Vit apparel & great gifts from sponsors
- Great prizes

### NATIONAL WINNER

- \$6000 ECOTRELLIS Travel Grant
- \$2000 cash
- Leadership week
- Expenses covered to compete in Young Hort

### Other National Prizes

- Cash prizes for top 3 research projects and presentations
- \$250 Biostart Hortisports
- Ecotrellis best trelliser trophy
- Associate wine judging experience

### Regional Prizes

- 1<sup>st</sup> \$1000, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$750, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$500
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – NZSVO Educational trip
- BioStart Hortisports prize of \$250
- Section prize from Ecotrellis
- \$250 Ormond Professional reputation award
- Other prizes including fine wines

### Plus the National Finalists receive:

- A Fruitfed Supplies Field Trip
- Travel expenses to the national final



# Future Leaders

**You** – yes you - are one of the New Zealand wine industry's future viticultural leaders. That's awesome!

This is your chance to learn, network and share your ideas and vision for the future.

## Leadership tips

- Be on time
- Respect colleagues, fellow contestants and judges
- Be polite and positive
- Respond quickly to emails and texts from organisers
- Listen and ask questions
- Think on your feet
- Be flexible

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**Good luck and enjoy!**