

Challenge Millésime BIO 2023 contest rules - Organic wines rules

Version 19/10/2022

Article 1 : Organiser

These rules can be consulted by anyone interested on the contest website www.challenge-millesime-bio.com/en.

The Challenge Millésime BIO contest, organised by Sudvinbio, aims to promote organic beers. The organiser Sudvinbio is located at ZAC Tournezy 2, Bat A8, Rue Simone Signoret, 34070 Montpellier/France.

Article 2 : Products concerned

This competition is open exclusively to certified wines complying with organic farming production methods: with and without Geographic Indication (AOP, PGI, wines without GI) with a vintage, sweet and sparkling wines. To enter, wines must come from a uniform lot fit for consumption and comply with current European regulations defined by the executive law CE

834/2007 of 28 June 2007 and application CE 889/2008 for vintages before 2012 and (UE) 203/2012 concerning organic winemaking rules for vintages from 2012.

Wines certified in accordance with the NOP regulations are also accepted (National Organic Program) as directed by the US Ministry of Agriculture (USDA, United States Department of Agriculture), section 205 of chapter 7 of the "Code of Federal Regulations," whatever the certification category: "100% organic", "organic" or "made with organic grapes" and/or the COS regulations (Canadian Organic Standards) as directed by ACIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency), the organic produce law DORS-2009-176, organic wine category.

Each sample presented must meet the following conditions :

- It must be identifiable (registration number, commercial name, etc.). The samples must be sent dressed in their marketing label (definitive or provisional) including all the compulsory and commercial mentions.
- Be presented in a bottle or bib, ready for tasting.

Article 3 : Participants

Winegrowers, wine cooperatives, united cooperatives, producer groups, producer-brokers and broker-cellar companies are allowed to enter wines. Wines must come from a uniform lot fit for consumption. Wines should be available for sale with quantities larger than or equal to 1000 litres for red, white, rosé and sparkling wines and 100 litres for sweet wines, straw wines and orange wines. Bulk wines must come from the same batch and from identified vats (nature, identification). Bottled wines must come from the same batch and be clearly identified (name, denomination, vintage).

Each participant in the contest undertakes to respect all the articles of the present rules and to provide all the information and documents requested for the application file. The information and documents provided for participation in the contest engage the responsibility of the participant.

Article 4 : Registration procedures

Each company will be able to register a maximum of 15 wines for the tasting.

Registrations can only be made on the internet via the MyVitibio platform (<https://account.sudvinbio.com/>)

Online registration steps :

1. Create or login a personal account with an e-mail address that allows you to connect to MyVitibio at any time
2. Create a company account with all the information related to the participating company for new participants
3. Complete a registration form for each beer entered in the contest including
 - a. A form containing the information on the competing wine
 - b. The certificate justifying the organic farming certification of the competing wine
 - c. The analysis of the wine presented, dated less than one year ago, mentioning the information allowing the identification of the registered product
 - d. The declaration of claim of the registered wine (only for wines produced in France)
 - e. The approval proof for the packaging of the competing wine
 - f. Payment of the participation fees according to the terms and conditions defined by Sudvinbio (see article 5 of these regulations)
 - g. The shipping of the number of samples requested (see article 6 of these regulations)

Any sample with an incomplete registration file or sent after the deadline will not enter the tasting.

The Challenge Millésime BIO contest reserves the right to limit the total number of wines presented at the tasting. Therefore, the registration period may, if necessary, end before the date announced in the contest calendar.

Article 5 : Participation fees and payment terms

The participation fee, per registered wine, is €80 VAT excl. for EU countries outside France and specific cases and €96 VAT incl. for France and countries outside the EU.

The registration fees can be paid by credit card directly on the registration website, by bank transfer (details given on the contest website) or by cheque made out to Sudvinbio (only for French participants).

Article 6 : Samples shipping

The wine samples must be sent (shipping costs, customs and taxes paid by the participant) to the address indicated by Sudvinbio on the contest website.

Samples arriving after the deadline indicated by Sudvinbio will not enter the tasting. Sudvinbio is not responsible for the late arrival of samples or damages during transport.

Samples received that do not correspond to the registration or that have not been registered in advance will not enter the tasting and will remain the property of the contest. Late samples will not be returned.

Number of samples to be sent per registered wine

Volume of the wine bottle/BIB	0.75 cl	0.5 cl	0.25 cl	BIB
Number of bottles/BIB to be sent per registered wine	3	4	6	2

Any wine entered that does not have the minimum number of bottles required will not be presented at the tasting.

Article 7 : Control and storage of samples received

Sudvinbio checks the wines samples received and the documents accompanying them in order to validate or refuse those that do not correspond to the contest's participation rules. Each participant is informed of the validation or refusal of the registered products via his online space MyVitibio.

The validated samples will be sorted and stored in optimal temperature conditions for their conservation.

Article 8 : Tasting

During the constitution of the tasting categories, Sudvinbio grants itself the right to refuse samples if it considers that the wines of a participant are too present within the same category.

The samples are tasted by a panel put together by Sudvinbio. Samples are classified by categories. These categories are devised by Sudvinbio. Tasting conditions guarantee that samples are anonymous: each bottle is covered up in a black plastic bag or stocking. The jury is made up of at least 3 members contacted from Sudvinbio's taster database.

New tasters put in a request to Sudvinbio which is approved by the director of Sudvinbio and the competition coordinator.

At least 2/3 are proficient tasters – people in the following professions are considered proficient tasters: winemakers, wine industry journalists, wine traders, independent wine merchants, sommeliers, importers, exporters, brokers, agents, researchers, technicians and tutors in the wine sector.

Tasters are allocated to the different tasting tables according to their job so as to have several different professions represented on each table. The jury of each table comes under the responsibility of a president, whose role is to arbitrate on differences in point of view and get a consensus among panel members for awarding medals.

The members of the jury sign a declaration on honour mentioning their possible links with the wines presented at the competition.

Article 9: Awards

The total number of medals in a category is a maximum of 33% of the number of beers in the category.

The results of the contest are final and without appeal.

Participants will be informed by Sudvinbio of the award-winners list in the days following the tasting. Each winner will receive an individual certificate of the award (diploma) including the name of the contest, the category in which the beer competed, the distinction awarded, the identification of the beer and the name and address of the participant.

The communication of the awards obtained in the contest must be done with the Challenge Millésime BIO brand registered at the Institut National de la Propriété Industrielle (National Institute of Industrial Property) and in accordance with the rules of use and the defined graphic charter.

In order for the producer to get the maximum benefit from obtaining the medal, Sudvinbio offers for sale:

- Self-adhesive medals to be placed on the packaging. These medals must be ordered from a printer selected by Sudvinbio. An order form can be downloaded from the contest website.
- The right to use the visual of the medal for direct printing on the packaging of the medal-winning wine. A request must be made to Sudvinbio via a form available on the contest website. The graphic charter of the medal will then be sent to the winner. The proof of the final design must be validated by Sudvinbio before production.

Any reproduction of the contest medal is strictly forbidden. Any participant using self-adhesive medals produced by a printer other than the one selected by Sudvinbio may be sanctioned (see article 13).

The winner may use the visual of the medal won on his communication supports (social networks, website, flyer ...). A request for a visual must be made to Sudvinbio in order to provide a medal visual of good quality and corresponding to the graphic charter of the brand.

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Article 10: Promotion

The winners authorise Sudvinbio to publish their name as well as the elements specified in the registration form for communication purposes.

Article 11: Litigation

All practical difficulties of application or interpretation of these regulations will be decided by Sudvinbio. In the event of a dispute, Sudvinbio will set up an ethics commission made up of competent members and, if necessary, an organic farming certification body. The composition of this commission will depend on the nature of the dispute. In case of doubt about the origin or authenticity of a product, the beers concerned will be eliminated from the contest.

Article 12 : Internal and external checking procedures

The director and competition coordinator at Sudvinbio are responsible for checking the competition rules are respected. Two months before the competition runs, Sudvinbio advises the management at the Languedoc-Roussillon Region's department for business, competition, consumption, work and jobs specifying the place and date of the competition and the competition rules.

Two months, at the latest, after the competition, Sudvinbio sends the Languedoc Roussillon Region department for business, competition, consumption, work and jobs, the minutes signed by the Director of Sudvinbio confirming the competition ran in accordance with the rules and including :

- the number of wines entered in the competition overall and by category,
- the number of wines retained overall and by category,
- the number of awarded overall and by category,
- the list of medal-winners and for each award-winning wine the details allowing the wine and the holder to be identified,
- the percentage of medal-winning wines compared to number of wines entered,
- the number of medals awarded and how they were allocated by award type.

To verify the representativeness of the samples, Sudvinbio will carry out an analytical control on 5% of the award-winning wines.

The winning candidate and the organiser both keep a sample of the wine, the information sheet and the tech analysis. Samples are made available to the agents charged with checking for one year from the competition running date. The information sheets and tech analyses are made available to the agents charged with checking for a period of 5 years from the competition running date.

Article 13 : Excise duty paid

Participants in the Challenge Millésime BIO competition undertake to present samples on which the excise duty has been paid.

Article 14 : Penalties for non-compliance with the contest regulations

Any failure to comply with the regulations may be subject to a sanction determined by Sudvinbio, ranging from the withdrawal of any obtained distinctions to the exclusion from the contest for a specified period and, where appropriate, a criminal sanction applied by the competent courts.

Article 15 : Refund and restitution of bottles

Whatever the reason, there will be no reimbursement of participation fees or return of bottles except in the event that the contest organisers do not collect enough samples to constitute a category.

If an event beyond the control of Sudvinbio should prevent the contest from running smoothly, the organiser cannot be held responsible. Sudvinbio reserves the right to cancel the contest, to change the date initially planned, to modify the conditions or the conduct in case of force majeure (epidemic, health crisis, natural disaster, terrorist act ...), of an event beyond its control or of justified necessity. Its responsibility could not be engaged by this fact and no refund or restitution of bottles could be requested by the participants.