Decanter
WORLD WINE AWARDS
2027

Rules of Entry

1. Definitions and Interpretation

1.1. In these Rules unless the context otherwise permits, the following words shall have the following meaning:

"Applicable Laws" means all laws, regulations, sanctions, trade restrictions, customs requirements, regulatory requirements and binding directions of a competent authority that apply to the Entrant, the Entry, Decanter or the Competition;

"Classes" means Best in Show, Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze;
"Competition" means the annual Decanter World Wine Awards held by Decanter;
"Competition Platform" means the platform accessible at enter.decanter.com;

"Decanter" means Future Publishing Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales with company number 02008885 and registered office at Quay House, The Ambury, Bath, BA1 1UA;

"Applicable Laws" means all laws, regulations, sanctions, trade restrictions, customs requirements, regulatory requirements and binding directions of a competent authority that apply to the Entrant, the Entry, Decanter or the Competition;

"Decanter Warehouse" means the DWWA Warehouse c/o EC Group, Europa Park, Magnet Rd,

Grays RM20 4DN

"Entrant" means the producer, importer, distributor or retailer who submitted an Entry;

"Entry" means the Wine(s) entered into the Competition by Entrant;

"Entry Fee" means the fee for submitting an Entry for the Competition, as set out in 'DWWA dates and prices';

"Entry Form" means the entry form for the Competition to be completed via the Competition Platform;

"Logistic Partner" means EC Group which has its registered office located at EC Group, Europa Park, Magnet Rd, Grays RM20 4DN and is a company registered in England and Wales under company number GB463298

"Rules" means these rules of entry;

"Shipping Agent" means Decanter's appointed consolidated shipping agent, Hellmann Worldwide Logistics Ltd, which has its registered office located at Kuhlmann House, Lancaster Way, Fradley Park, WS13 8SX, Lichfield and is a company registered in England and Wales under company number 1108485; and

"Website" means enter.decanter.com

1.2. In these Rules where appropriate: words denoting the masculine gender include the feminine and neuter genders and vice versa; words denoting a singular number include the plural and vice versa; references to the definite article shall include the indefinite article and vice versa; references to persons shall include firms, companies and other organisations and vice versa; reference to a statutory provision includes a reference to the same as modified, re-enacted or both from time to time and any subordinate legislation made under the same; headings shall not affect interpretation; and words such as "include" or "including" are to be construed without limiting the generality of the preceding words.

2. Entering the Competition

2.1. Entrants can enter the Competition by submitting an Entry Form on the Competition Platform, paying the Entry Fee and delivering the Entry to Decanter in accordance with Clause 6 (Delivery, Risk and Title). Entries that do not arrive by the applicable entry deadline will not be accepted.

2.2. The Entry Form must be completed online by creating an account or logging in to an existing account on the Competition Platform. Decanter accepts no responsibility for Entry Forms unsuccessfully submitted.

2.3. Each Entrant is responsible for submitting their Entries online via the Competition Platform. Entries submitted outside our online platform are subject to an increased Entry Fee.

2.4. Where the same Entry is submitted by more than one Entrant, each of Entrants' stockists' details will be featured equally in the report of the tasting.

2.5. By submitting an Entry to the Competition, the Entrant agrees to be bound by these Rules.

2.6. The Competition is open only to producers, importers, distributors, retailers and other persons entering in the course of a business. By submitting an Entry, the Entrant confirms that it is acting wholly in the course of its business and not as a consumer.

2.7. The Entrant must ensure that the Entry and its production, export, import, delivery to Decanter, judging, promotion and other handling in connection with the Competition comply with Applicable Laws.

3. Criteria for Entries

3.1. Entries must:

3.1.1. be made exclusively from the partial or complete alcoholic fermentation of fresh grapes, whether crushed or not, or of grape must;

3.1.2. with the exception of sweet wines, have an actual alcohol content of not less than 5% in volume;

3.1.3. have a minimum production quantity of 600 litres (66 cases) available to the market on release, with the exception of sweet and fortified wines, which must have a minimum production quantity of 450 litres (50 cases);

3.1.4. be finished and in their final containe and labelr; and not be tank samples

3.1.5. be sealed with the same closure as the final, commercially available wine;

3.1.6. be contained in a 750ml bottle, with the exception of sweet and fortified wines, which may be contained in 250ml,375ml, or 500ml bottles and sparkling wines which may be contained in 1.5ltr bottles and Vin Jaune from the Jura, which may be contained in a 62-cl bottle

OR

3.1.7. be contained in alternative formats of one of the following

3.1.7.1. Bag in Box (up to 3L)

3.1.7.2. Wine Pouch (up to 3L)

3.1.7.3. Aluminium Can

3.1.7.4. Carton (eg. Tetra Pak)

3.1.7.5. Paper Bottle (up to 1L)

3.1.7.6. PET Bottle (up to 1L)

3.1.8. be lawfully produced and labelled in accordance with Applicable Laws. The Entry's packaging and label must accurately state all mandatory product information applicable to it, including (i) the geographical area of origin; (ii) the product category; (iii) the producer or responsible

business details; (iv) the nominal volume; (v) actual alcoholic strength, allergen information and (vi) lot identification, where required;

3.2. Must have the final version of the front and back labels affixed on the bottle/container.If the front and back labels for the Entry are not available at the time of entry, temporary labels must be applied to the final container bearing the following information: (i) name of producer; (ii) name of wine; (iii) vintage (where applicable); (iv) country of origin; (v) region of origin (where applicable); (vi) sub-region (where applicable); (vii) bottle size; (viii) alcoholic strength; and (ix) Lot number.

3.3. If the front and back labels for the vintage submitted are not yet available, Entrant must not use the label from the previous vintage. Instead, please use a temporary label as stated in Clause 3.2.

3.4. Entries may be produced entirely in one country and then bottled in another. Any wine that is produced for commercial availability anywhere in the world can enter, with the exception of fruit-flavoured, and aromatised wines, which will not be accepted.

3.5. There is no limit to the number of entries which may be submitted by an Entrant. However, a wine may only be submitted as one entry, even if it is bottled under multiple labels (e.g. for use in different sales markets). Exceptions are made to those wines bottled in a different format outlined in section 3.1.6

3.6. The Entrant warrants that it has all necessary authority, permissions, licences and rights to submit the Entry and to provide all information, images, trade marks, tasting notes and other materials supplied in connection with it. The Entrant warrants that all such information and materials are accurate and not misleading, and that their use by Decanter in accordance with these Rules will not infringe third-party rights. The Entrant will indemnify Decanter and each member of the Future group against all claims, losses, liabilities, damages, costs and expenses (including reasonable legal costs) arising from any breach of this clause.

4. Retail Pricing

4.1. Retail prices are taken into consideration when judging the Entries. The retail price bands are as follows

Price Band A: Up to £14.99 (Value)
Price Band B: £15 to £49.99
Price Band C: £50 and above

4.2. Winning entries judged in the retail price band A category may be marketed as Value Wine, e.g. Value Gold.

4.3. Entrants must provide the correct free on board ("**FOB**")/Ex-cellar price or select the correct retail price band per bottle for each Entry.

4.4. The FOB/Ex-cellar price is the price charged by the producer to the wholesaler. The FOB/Ex-cellar price does not include any of the following costs: (i) freight costs, (ii) operating costs; (iii) profit margins (distributor and retailer); or (iv) Duty and VAT.

4.5. Decanter will convert the FOB/Ex-cellar price using the standard industry conversion formula to a retailer's suggested price.

4.6. All FOB/Ex-cellar prices are kept confidential and are for Decanter internal use only to ensure Entries are judged in the right category and will not be published or passed onto a third party.

4.7. The FOB/Ex-cellar price and the retail price band must be per bottle, not case of 6 or 12.

4.8. The FOB/Ex-cellar price or the retail price band per bottle quoted at the time of entry must accurately represent the Entry's predicted retail price and not a discounted or promotional price and must be valid for 6 months after publication of the Competition results.

4.9. Any major discrepancies between the FOB/Ex-cellar price or the retail price per bottle quoted at the time of entry and the eventual retail price, except for factors outside of Entrant's control (including tax and duty), may result in the Entry's medal being withdrawn, and future participation in the Competition

may be prohibited.

5. Payment

5.1. The Entry Fee may be paid online by credit or debit card at the time of submitting the Entry Form via the Competition Platform.

5.2. The Entry Fee may also be paid by cheque or bank transfer in accordance with the payment instructions contained in the invoice made available for download after submission of the Entry Form via the Competition Platform. Additional fees apply to payment by cheque or bank transfer. Entrants must bear all applicable bank charges for remittance (if any).

5.3. The deadline for payment of the Entry Fee is indicated on the Website. An Entry will not be included in the Competition where the Entry Fee has not been received by Decanter by the deadline.

5.4. Entry Fees, delivery charges and other amounts paid in connection with an Entry are non-refundable and non-creditable, including where an Entry is withdrawn, disqualified, lost, damaged or does not arrive by the applicable deadline. However, Decanter may, in its sole discretion, issue a refund or credit where it considers this appropriate, including where an Entry cannot be accepted, judged or published because of Applicable Laws, a material change to the Competition or circumstances outside the Entrant's reasonable control.

6. Delivery, Risk and Title

6.1. Three (3) samples of each Entry must be submitted to Decanter in accordance with these Rules. An exception to this is Bag in Box & Wine Pouches where only two (2) samples are required per entry.

6.2. It is Entrant's responsibility to ensure that the Entries are delivered to Decanter in accordance with the deadlines detailed on the Website.

6.3. Entrant may deliver the Entries:

6.3.1. directly to the Decanter Warehouse (please click here for more information); or

6.3.2. to the Shipping Agent's depot for consolidated shipment (please click here for more information); or

6.3.3. hand delivered to the Decanter stand at specified trade shows (please click here for more information)

6.4. Please go to 'Shipping' for further terms, fees and restrictions which apply to each delivery option. Shipping must be paid for as part of the entry process and shipping costs are not refundable in any circumstances.

6.5. If you wish to use the Shipping Agent, please ensure you select the consolidated shipping option when submitting your Entry, as an additional payment is required if using this service. For any Entries that are sent via the Shipping Agent and are not paid for at time of entry, payment will be sought by Decanter. Failure to pay for this service will result in Entries being removed from the Competition.

6.6. Entries that arrive after the deadline dates or that are delivered to the Decanter office in London will not be accepted.

6.7. Decanter recommends the use of its Shipping Agent, depending on the country from which the Entry will be sent. This will be a more cost effective method and will help ensure the safe arrival of the Entry. If Entrant is unable to use the Shipping Agent, Decanter recommends that Entrant uses a shipper that allows Entrant to track its delivery to confirm that its Entry has arrived.

6.8. It is Entrant's responsibility to contact the Shipping Agent or its courier company to confirm the delivery deadline, address and documentation required.

6.9. On request, the Entrant must promptly provide documents or other evidence reasonably requested by Decanter to verify the Entry's producer, country, region, sub-region, place of production, origin, ingredients, export or import status, or compliance with Applicable Laws.

6.10. Entrants will be responsible for payment of all delivery charges, duties, taxes, insurances and storage. All such charges must be paid by Entrant in advance of receipt of the Entry by Decanter. Where Entrant uses the Shipping Agent, it is Entrant's responsibility to pay all delivery charges up to the Shipping Agent's depot.

6.11. If an Entrant is sending wines from the European Union, the Entrant will have to pay excise and duty before sending the Entries to the UK.

6.12. Entrant must inform its courier that Entrant, as the consignor or sender, will pay all duties, VAT, and tax, otherwise the Entries will not be accepted by the Logistic Partner and will be destroyed by UK customs.

6.13. Entries must be Delivered Duty Paid (DDP). Instructions to complete the import declaration should be given to Entrant's forwarder/courier company by Entrant. Entrants must choose 'shipper accept all charges' on the documentation provided by Entrant's courier company. Entrants are responsible for any fees related to the import declaration. Entries cannot be accepted by our Logistic Partner if the charges associated with shipping have not been paid. Any penalty and additional cost incurred from the non-compliance of declaration requirement in the UK will be borne by Entrant. The Logistic Partner does not have an excise number. The Logistic Partner's VAT number is: GB 619 3804 30.

6.14. Decanter may refuse to receive, accept delivery of or take possession of an Entry, or require the Entrant not to ship it, where Decanter reasonably considers that receipt, import, export, possession or other handling of the Entry may breach Applicable Laws or expose Decanter, any member of the Future group or any logistics provider to legal, regulatory or reputational risk. The Entrant remains responsible for all resulting costs, liabilities, duties, taxes, storage, return, destruction or other consequences.

6.15. It is the Entrant's responsibility to ensure that Entries arrive in good condition.

6.16. Entrant must complete and affix the delivery label, which can be downloaded by Entrant in its online account after submission of the Entry Form, on the outside of the box. Entrant must indicate the name of its company and the Entry on the outside of the box to assist the Logistic Partner in correctly identifying the Entry when it arrives.

6.17. Entrant will receive an automated email confirmation when all samples for all its Entries have been received at the Decanter Warehouse and checked by Decanter. Entrants can also check the status of its delivery by logging in to its online account.

6.18. Decanter will notify Entrant in case of discrepancies between the Entry received and the Entry in Entrant's online account. If Decanter does not hear from Entrant within the deadline, Decanter will use the information on the Entry label on the bottles received by Decanter and update the Entry in the Decanter system accordingly. Once the Entries are judged, no changes can be made to the Entry details.

6.19. Hand delivery in accordance with Clause 6.3.3 is only available to exhibitors at the fair where such Entry is submitted, and only Entries that are registered will be accepted by Decanter.

6.20. The Entries will be transported at Entrant's risk and it will be Entrant's responsibility to arrange adequate insurance. Decanter and the Logistic Partner will not be liable for any loss or damage to the Entries whatsoever whilst the Entries are in the possession of Entrant, the Shipping Agent, or at any stage during the delivery process.

6.21. Title (i.e. ownership) of the Entries will pass to Decanter upon receipt of the Entry to the Decanter Warehouse.

6.22. Upon completion of the Competition, any unopened Entries will be destroyed or sold to raise money for charities selected by Decanter. Leftover entries included but not limited to various other ineligible wines received at Decanter warehouse will not be returned or available for collection.

6.23. Without limiting Decanter's other rights, Decanter may retain, return, destroy, quarantine, dispose of or otherwise refrain from distributing, selling or making an Entry available after the Competition where

Decanter reasonably considers this necessary or appropriate to comply with Applicable Laws, regulatory requirements or directions of a competent authority. Decanter is not required to sell, donate or otherwise distribute any Entry.

7. The Competition

7.1. Entries are organised for tasting by country, region, colour, grape, style, vintage, and price, to ensure that wines are judged in flights against their peers. More information on the price brackets can be found here.

7.2. The Entries will be judged by blind tasting by a panel of judges. More information on the judges can be found here.

7.3. Decanter may appoint, replace or remove judges and determine the judging process at its discretion. Decanter will use reasonable endeavours to manage actual or potential conflicts of interest of judges. An Entrant may not challenge a judging process or result on the basis of an alleged conflict unless Decanter determines there has been a material failure to follow its judging procedures.

7.4. All Gold medal winning Entries will be re-tasted and Platinum medals will be awarded to the best Gold medal winning Entries.

7.5. All Platinum medal winning Entries will then compete for the 'Best in Show' accolade.

7.6. In a separate tasting in the final round, all Value Golds (retail price under £15) are retasted by the Co-Chairs to select the Top Value wines of the competition.

7.7. The judges' decisions will be final and will not be open to challenge.

7.8. Entrants will not have any involvement in the appointment of the judges.

8. Winners

8.1. Entrants will be emailed to inform them when the results of the Competition are available via their online account. Entrants will only be able to view the results for their Entry until the full results are made public.

8.2. Decanter may publish, publicise, communicate and otherwise use details of any Entry, including its producer, wine name, vintage, country, region, sub-region, price band, tasting notes, images, results and award status, in connection with the Competition and Decanter's editorial, promotional, archival and commercial activities.

8.3. The Entrant grants Decanter and each member of the Future group a worldwide, non-exclusive, royalty-free, transferable and sublicensable licence for the duration of the relevant intellectual-property rights to use, reproduce, publish, edit, adapt, communicate and distribute all materials supplied by or on behalf of the Entrant in connection with an Entry for the purposes in clause 8.2.

8.4. Decanter may edit, shorten, reformat, correct, qualify or otherwise adapt entry information and supplied materials for accuracy, style, clarity, consistency, legal compliance and technical requirements. Decanter is not obliged to publish any Entry, result, image, tasting note or other material.

8.5. The Entrant must obtain all consents, licences and releases necessary for the uses contemplated by this clause 8.

9. Promoting winning Entries

9.1. Winning Entrants will be sent full details of how they can promote medal-winning Entries, including through Bottle Stickers and other point-of-sale material. Please click here for further information.

9.2. The Decanter word marks and logos (including the medals) are the property of Future Publishing Limited and any use of such marks by winning Entrants is under licence. Any unauthorised use, reproduction or alteration is strictly prohibited.

9.3. Winning Entrants may only use the Decanter logos accessible here on their printed and digital

marketing material to publicise their winning Entries. The Decanter logos may not be used on bottles without prior written authorisation from Decanter.

9.4. Winning Entrants may purchase Bottle Stickers to promote their winning Entries. Bottle Stickers may only be purchased and used by winning Entrants.

9.5. Entrants agree that they will only use Decanter's name, logo and Bottle Stickers to promote specific winning Entries and not to promote their whole range. Only the winning Entries may be promoted as winners of the Competition.

9.6. Medals may only be displayed against, and Bottle Stickers may only be affixed to, winning Entries of the appropriate medal, correct vintage from the relevant awarding year of the Competition. Furthermore, such wines must adhere to the same criteria (for example, Residual Sugar, Style, Oaking, Bottle Size etc.) as those selected for the Entry on the online Competition Platform.

9.7. If your Entry has multiple labels and/or names (eg. for use in different sales markets), notice must be sent to awardswinequeries@decanter.com and permission received to use the result and any associated medals for such wines. Such permission must be sought prior to the judging week. Permission will not be given to use an Entry's result in such a way after the commencement of the judging week. Please note it is Decanter policy that, even if a wine is bottled under multiple labels, it is only allowed one opportunity to be evaluated by our judges; multiple entries are not allowed.

9.8. Entrants must at all times comply with the Brand Guidelines accessible here, and any instructions provided by Decanter from time to time, when using Decanter's name, logos and Bottle Stickers.

9.9. When promoting a winning Entry, the Entrant must ensure that all marketing, advertising and promotional material is accurate, not misleading, socially responsible and compliant with Applicable Laws, applicable advertising codes and Decanter's Brand Guidelines. The Entrant must not use a Decanter medal, logo, result or other Competition asset in a way that promotes excessive or irresponsible alcohol consumption, is directed at persons under the legal purchase age for alcohol, or suggests that a medal applies to a different wine, vintage, format or product.

9.10. When publicising their award, winning Entrants must always state the year in which it was won. No changes can be made to the name and details of the winning Entry after close of the Competition.

9.11. Winning Entrants will be able to download their certificates via their online account.

9.12. Decanter may refuse to judge, suspend, withdraw, disqualify or decline to publish an Entry or its result, and may withhold, withdraw or revoke any medal, certificate, award or associated promotional right, where Decanter reasonably considers this necessary to comply with Applicable Laws or regulatory requirements, or because the Entrant has failed to provide information or evidence reasonably requested under these Rules or has provided false or misleading information. Decanter may, but is not obliged to, refund an Entry Fee under clause 5.4.

9.13. Decanter may correct, amend, qualify, reclassify or supplement information describing an Entry, including its country, region, sub-region, place of production or origin, in Decanter's entry systems, judging records, results, certificates, publications, websites, social-media channels and other Competition materials, where Decanter reasonably considers this necessary to ensure the information is accurate, clear, consistent with Applicable Laws or consistent with Decanter's published standards. Decanter will use reasonable endeavours to notify the Entrant where reasonably practicable.

9.14. Decanter reserves the right to revoke the rights granted under these Rules at any time upon 14 days' notice.

9.15. Unauthorised use, reproduction or alteration of the Decanter word marks, logos, medals and Bottle Stickers may result in the medal being withdrawn and future participation in the Competition may be prohibited.

10. General

10.1. If any part of these Rules is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, the validity of the remainder of these Rules will not be affected.

10.2. A person who is not a party to these Rules has no right under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 to enforce any term of these Rules but this does not affect any right or remedy of a third party which exists or is available apart from that Act.

10.3. Nothing in these Rules shall be construed as creating a partnership, joint venture or agency relationship between Entrant and Decanter.

10.4. No waiver by Decanter of a breach of any provision of these Rules shall be considered to be a waiver of any prior or subsequent breach of the same or any other provisions and no waiver shall be implied by Decanter taking or failing to take any other action.

10.5. Decanter may cancel, postpone, suspend, relocate, alter the format of or otherwise vary the Competition where reasonably necessary because of circumstances beyond Decanter's reasonable control or to protect the integrity, safety, legality or proper operation of the Competition. Such circumstances include severe weather, natural disaster, epidemic or pandemic, war, terrorism, civil unrest, labour disruption, disruption to transport, supply chains, systems or premises, or a change in Applicable Laws. Decanter will not be liable for any loss, damage, cost or expense arising from action taken under this clause, except to the extent that liability cannot lawfully be excluded.

10.6. Decanter may amend these Rules from time to time. Decanter will publish the current version on the Website and, where a change is material to an Entry already submitted, will use reasonable endeavours to notify the affected Entrant through the Competition Platform or by email. An amendment will not affect a completed judging decision unless required by Applicable Laws or necessary to correct an error, protect the integrity of the Competition or give effect to another express right under these Rules.

10.7. A decision by Decanter under these Rules in response to Applicable Laws, regulatory requirements, customs requirements, trade restrictions or directions of a competent authority may apply to one or more Entries without requiring Decanter to cancel, suspend or vary the Competition as a whole. Decanter will use reasonable endeavours to notify an affected Entrant where reasonably practicable.

10.8. Decanter and members of the Future group will process personal information relating to Entrants and their representatives in accordance with the privacy notice made available through the Competition Platform and Future's privacy policy. This may include sharing relevant information with service providers involved in operating the Competition, including platform, payment, logistics, warehouse, judging, printing, marketing and communications providers, where necessary for the purposes described in the applicable privacy notice.

10.9. If there is any reason to believe that there has been a breach of these Rules, Decanter may, at its sole discretion, reserve the right to exclude Entrant from participating in the Competition.

10.10. Any notice or other communication under these Rules must be in writing and in English. Decanter may give notices and communications through the Competition Platform, by email to the address associated with the Entrant's account, or by any other contact details provided by the Entrant. A notice given by email or through the Competition Platform is deemed received when sent or made available, provided Decanter does not receive an automated failure notice. The Entrant must keep its account and contact details current.

10.11. Decanter reserves the right to cancel the Competition at any stage, and for any reason, including for circumstances which are outside of Decanter‘s control.

10.12. To the fullest extent permitted by Applicable Laws, Decanter’s aggregate liability to an Entrant arising out of or in connection with the Competition, an Entry or these Rules, whether in contract, tort (including negligence), misrepresentation, restitution or otherwise, will not exceed the Entry Fee paid by that Entrant for the Entry giving rise to the claim. Decanter will not be liable for any indirect or consequential loss, loss of profit, loss of revenue, loss of business, loss of goodwill, loss of anticipated savings or loss of opportunity. Nothing in these Rules excludes or limits liability that cannot lawfully be excluded or limited.

10.13. The deadlines, fees, shipping instructions, entry-information requirements, judging guidance, Brand Guidelines and other Competition information published on the Competition Platform or Website form part of these Rules. If there is any conflict between those materials and these Rules, these Rules will prevail unless the relevant material expressly states that it overrides a specified provision of these Rules.

10.14. These Rules shall be governed by the laws of England and Wales and any dispute shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.