



LA CONFRÉRIE DE LA CHAÎNE DES RÔTISSEURS
Association Mondiale de la Gastronomie

INTERNATIONAL JEUNES SOMMELIERS COMPETITION 2026

OFFICIAL RULES

December 1, 2025

<u>Table of Contents</u>	Page
PREFACE	3
THE COMPETITION	
- Eligibility	4
- Guidelines	4
- Language	4
THE PROCESS	
- Competitor Selection	
- Regional and National Testing	5
- Medals for Regional and National Competitions	5
- Press Release	5
- Application to Compete in the International Final	6
FINANCING	
- Regional and National	7
- International	7
THE INTERNATIONAL FINAL	
- Date and location	8
- Information Pack	8
- Hosting	8
- Judges	8
- Competitors	9
- Dress Code	9
- Results	9
- Awards and Prizes	9
- Press Release	10
- Companions	10
RULES REVIEW	10
IN CASE OF A QUERY	10

PREFACE

A mission of our Society is to promote the enjoyment, knowledge and understanding of fine wines, spirits and crafted beverages.

The framework of our organization provides for professional participation, with one of its goals being to provide help, encouragement and support for the young professionals who have the potential to be the best sommeliers of the future.

The Jeunes Sommeliers Competition has the goal of developing the expertise of young wine and spirit professionals with a special emphasis placed on service skills.

For the 2026 Competition entry is for those for whom participating in an international competition would bring great benefit, both from an educational point of view as well as one of broadening their experience and meeting other young professionals pursuing similar careers.

THE COMPETITION

ELIGIBILITY

The Jeunes Sommeliers Competition is open to any individual who meets the principles of the Competition as set out in the Preface and who:

- Is sponsored by an active Professional member of the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs. Said Professional being a member of the Chaîne in good standing for at least two months.
- Has an interest in the wine, spirits and crafted beverage industry and who must file an application with the designated person in the participating country.
- Is at least 21 (twenty-one) years of age and will not be older than 28 (twenty eight) on the advertised start date of the International Final in the year in which he/she is participating.

The selected candidates will be notified of the time and place to take the qualifying test. Guidelines for what can be expected in the test will be published each year.

To attain the distinction of being selected as the Chaîne's Best Young Sommelier of the Year at the International Final, the candidate must successfully progress through tests conducted at the Regional or National level for selecting the best qualified individual representing their country.

An individual shall not compete more than THREE times in a Regional or a National Competition or ONCE in an International Competition. This is provided of course that they are selected to do so by their Bailliage and that they fulfil the maximum age requirement together with the other rules governing entry into the Competition.

GUIDELINES

Guidelines will be issued each year to confirm the format of the Competition testing.

LANGUAGE

The official language of the Jeunes Sommeliers Competition is English.

THE PROCESS

COMPETITOR SELECTION

Those National Bailliages of the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs wishing to be represented in the International Final will select one competitor who will be announced by a Bailliage's delegate usually the Échanson, whom failing the Bailli Délégué) by July 1st of the year of the International Final. A Bailliage's Competition should therefore be held between January 1st and June 30th of the same year.

A contestant may not represent his/her home country if working abroad. However, he/she may compete in the National Competition of the country where he/she is employed. Should he/she win he/she represents this country in the International Competition regardless of his/her nationality.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL TESTING

The Competition Committee recommends that Regional and National Competitions be organized in a manner consistent with the rules and guidelines of the International Competition. This will ensure the greatest chance of success reaching the level of the International Competition.

The results must be submitted to the Competition Committee by no later than July 1st of the year of the International Final.

MEDALS FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Medals can be obtained (at least 4 weeks prior to the competition) through the Competition Committee. NB. Carriage will be charged to the Bailliage placing the order. Please ask for a quote in advance of confirming the order.

The Winner of a Regional Competition receives the Silver medal. Other competitors receive the Bronze medal.

The Winner of a National Competition is awarded a Gold medal, the Runner-up receives a Silver medal, and a Bronze medal goes to Third Place.

Medals are to be engraved with the Competition date and place.

PRESS RELEASE

The Chargé(e) de Presse shall be responsible for all photographs and press releases for the National Bailliage's Competition.

This material should be shared with the Managing Editor (or delegate) of the international Chaîne News On-line website.

APPLICATION TO COMPETE IN THE INTERNATIONAL FINAL

The “Application to Compete” form must be accompanied by:

- A copy of the applicant’s valid passport
- A copy of the applicant’s up-to-date detailed CV
- A large format, formal portrait photograph of the applicant
- A Professional Membership Application Form (to be completed on-line)

A competitor will be eligible for participation in the International Final upon receipt of the “Application to Compete” form duly completed and after verification of their passport and CV plus payment of the Competition fee to the Siege Mondial.

Bailliages will be notified by e-mail of acceptance or rejection of their competitor. This notification will be issued by the Competition Committee.

FINANCING

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL

National Bailliages shall be responsible for the expenses of competitors taking part in their respective Regional and National Competitions.

The sponsoring country for each finalist participating in the International Final of the Jeunes Sommeliers Competition will be responsible for their competitor's travel expenses and pay a non-refundable entrance fee for participation in the Competition.

This entrance fee must be transferred by international bank payment to the Chaîne's International Headquarters in Paris, or be charged to the Bailliage's "trading account" maintained by the International Headquarters. An invoice from the Siège Mondial will be provided on request.

The amount of the entrance fee to be paid will be confirmed each year.

INTERNATIONAL

The Chaîne's International Headquarters assumes the financing responsibility of the International Final of the Jeunes Sommeliers Competition.

The Competition Committee shall establish a viable budget for the International Final which is presented to the Grand Argentier.

The Bailliage hosting the International Final is encouraged to look for sponsors to assist with the costs. The sponsors must reflect the values and ideals of the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs in general and its Jeunes Sommeliers Competition in particular.

The Competition Committee shall validate all costs incurred in connection with the International Final of the Competition and shall produce a detailed expense report submitted with supporting documents as necessary. These expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with the established International reimbursement policy or as directed by the Conseil d'Administration.

THE INTERNATIONAL FINAL

DATE AND LOCATION

The Rules and Guidelines will be published no later than December 1st of the year preceding the one in which the International Final will occur.

INFORMATION PACK

Competitors, Judges and officials shall be provided with an information pack containing the schedule, the application of each competitor, the rules and guidelines, and other information deemed necessary by the Competition Committee and Chair of the Panel of Judges.

HOSTING

The Bailliage hosting the annual International Final of the Jeunes Sommeliers Competition must ensure that their staging of the event complies with the Competition rules and meets the separately-published guidelines for the layout and equipment.

The host Bailliage must arrange a programme of events around the testing.

The pre-Competition programme must include one (or more) Sommeliers-related educational events for the competitors. It must also include an official “welcoming” lunch or dinner on the day prior to the commencement of the testing for all competitors and their travelling companions (the latter being personally responsible for paying the published ticket price).

A Gala Awards Dinner on the evening of the International Final is mandatory. The presentation of the prizes followed by the Induction Ceremony for the competitors must be staged in an appropriately elegant fashion.

Press coverage and photos are expected.

JUDGES

The Panel of Judges for the International Final shall consist of a Chair plus three Judge Members. The Chair of the Panel is nominated by the Chair of the Competition Committee.

In turn, the Chair of the Panel nominates two of the Judge members whose appointment is made with the approval of the Competition Committee.

The third Judge member is selected by the Chair of the Panel from a list of suitable candidates proposed by the host Bailliage.

The Judges should offer their professional experience to the Competition, and must strive to judge objectively and fairly. They will arrive at the Competition site at the time specified by the Chair of the Panel. Judges shall expect to be treated with respect by the competitors, and a professional decorum is expected from the Judges towards the competitors.

COMPETITION

The Competition shall comprise a “Semi-Final” held on one day in which all competitors shall take part.

On the following day, the three competitors with the highest scores in the “Semi-Final” will participate in the “Final” in order to be able to place the Winner, the Runner-up and the competitor in Third Place.

In the event of a tie in the Semi-Final or Final, a tie break as determined by the Panel of Judges will be used to make for a clear result.

Those competitors not in the three participating must nevertheless attend the “Final” as part of the audience to provide encouragement for their fellow Sommeliers.

Employers, Chaîne members and other supporters from all countries are highly encouraged to attend the social programme where permitted and the competition final.

COMPETITORS

It is mandatory that all competitors in the International Semi-Final and Final attend and participate in official Competition events, promotional events and public relations’ activities relating to the Competition. Please note that absence without good reason may lead to loss of points or even disqualification.

To be encouraged is the competitors networking with the Professional and Non-Professional Chaîne members at the events.

The competitors shall treat Judges with respect, and professional decorum is expected from the Judges towards the competitors.

DRESS CODE

Attire for competitors is as appropriate for a Professional Sommelier in a high quality restaurant.

Attire for the Judges is as appropriate for a Professional Sommelier and the Chaîne ribbon has to be worn.

RESULTS

The results of the International Final must remain unknown to the public until announced at the Awards Ceremony.

The determination of the Judges is final. There is no appeal mechanism and appeals will not be considered. The announcement will take place in an appropriate location, as determined by the Competition Committee, followed by a Gala Awards Dinner.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

The winners of the International Final of the Jeunes Sommeliers Competition will receive:

- Trophy and Gold Medal to the Winner
- Silver Medal to the Runner-up
- Bronze Medal to Third Place
- Under 25 Trophy for the best competitor under 25 years of age
- Tasting Trophy for the best blind tasting results

Cash and other prizes may be announced for each year's International Final.

PRESS RELEASE

The announcement of the results shall be recognized with photographs and press releases. The Managing Editor (or delegate) of the Chaîne News On-line shall be responsible for all photographs and press releases for the International Final.

COMPANIONS

Competitors may bring a companion to the Competition and events. The companion is responsible for all his/her costs incurred.

RULES REVIEW

The Competition Committee may review the rules of the Competition from time to time.

Proposed changes to the rules are presented to the Conseil d'Administration.

The rules and guidelines for the Competition must be published on the Jeunes Sommeliers Competition pages of the Chaîne's international website no later than December 1st in the year preceding each International Final.

IN CASE OF A QUERY

Should there be any query relating to the Rules, in the first instance please send an e-mail outlining the question(s) to Marie Jones, Chair of the Jeunes Sommeliers Competition Committee, at marieejones@hotmail.com

In all disputes the decision of the Competition Committee is final.