



## **BEST CAVA SOMMELIER COMPETITION**

### **Official Rules & Terms and Conditions**

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#### **USA Edition**

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR PARTICIPATE. A PURCHASE OR PAYMENT WILL NOT INCREASE THE CHANCES OF SELECTION OR WINNING.

#### **1. Organizer**

The Best Cava Sommelier Competition is organized by D.O. Cava and/or its appointed representatives, agencies, partners, sponsors, and event collaborators, including Colangelo & Partners and participating event partners where applicable.

The Organizer reserves the right to administer, interpret, modify, suspend, postpone, or cancel the Competition, in whole or in part, if necessary due to operational, legal, logistical, technical, health, safety, budgetary, venue-related, or other circumstances beyond its reasonable control.

#### **2. Purpose of the Competition**

The Competition is designed as an educational and professional initiative to recognize wine trade professionals with strong knowledge of Cava, with a particular focus on quality, origin, traditional method production, aging classifications, versatility, sustainability, and the premium positioning of Cava, including Cava de Guarda Superior.

#### **3. Eligibility**

The Competition is open to eligible wine trade professionals who are at least 21 years of age at the time of entry and who are legally permitted to participate in an alcohol-related educational activity in the United States.

Eligible participants may include sommeliers, wine directors, beverage directors, educators, importers, distributors, buyers, hospitality professionals, media, and other wine trade professionals, as determined by the Organizer.

Employees, contractors, representatives, immediate family members, or household members of the Organizer, its agencies, sponsors, judges, participating wineries, or event partners may be excluded from participation at the Organizer's discretion.

The Organizer reserves the right to verify eligibility at any time and to disqualify any participant who does not meet the eligibility requirements or who provides incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading information.



#### **4. Competition Period**

The Competition will take place during dates and times determined by the Organizer and communicated to participants through official channels.

Dates, deadlines, competition phases, judging format, finalist selection, and final event details are subject to change at the Organizer's discretion.

#### **5. How to Enter**

Participants may be required to submit an entry form, answer written questions, complete an online assessment, participate in a tasting or interview, submit professional credentials, or complete any other entry requirement determined by the Organizer.

All entries must be complete, truthful, and submitted by the applicable deadline. Late, incomplete, illegible, duplicate, or otherwise non-compliant entries may be disqualified.

Submission of an entry does not guarantee selection as a finalist or participation in any live event.

#### **6. Competition Format**

The Competition may include one or more phases, including but not limited to:

- Online application or qualification round
- Written or digital knowledge assessment
- Blind tasting or technical tasting assessment
- Service, pairing, presentation, or communication component
- Interview or oral examination
- Live or virtual semifinal and/or final round

The exact format, number of rounds, scoring criteria, number of finalists, and judging process will be determined by the Organizer and may be adjusted at any time to reflect logistical needs, venue requirements, participant availability, budget, timing, or other program considerations.

The Organizer may conduct any portion of the Competition virtually, in person, or through a hybrid format.

#### **7. Selection and Judging**

Participants will be evaluated based on criteria determined by the Organizer and/or judging panel, which may include knowledge of Cava, tasting ability, communication skills, service knowledge, professional experience, presentation, accuracy, creativity, and overall alignment with the educational goals of the Competition.

Judging criteria may be weighted or adjusted by Competition phase. The Organizer and judges reserve the right to determine the final scoring structure, resolve ties, and make final determinations regarding advancement, finalist selection, and winner selection.



All decisions of the Organizer and judges are final and binding.

## **8. Finalists**

Finalists may be selected to participate in a live, virtual, or hybrid final round. Selection as a finalist does not guarantee travel, accommodations, reimbursement, compensation, prize value, or participation in a specific event unless expressly confirmed in writing by the Organizer.

If a selected finalist is unable or unwilling to participate, fails to respond by the required deadline, does not provide requested documentation, does not meet eligibility requirements, or cannot attend a required component, the Organizer may select an alternate finalist, modify the format, allow virtual participation, or proceed with fewer finalists.

## **9. Live Finals and Event Participation**

The Organizer may choose to host a live final round in connection with a professional wine industry event, including but not limited to SommCon Conference & Beverage Expo in San Diego, California.

Any live event participation is subject to availability, event partner rules, venue capacity, legal requirements, schedule, participant eligibility, and final confirmation by the Organizer.

The Organizer reserves the right to change the location, timing, format, or structure of any live final round or replace it with a virtual or alternate format if deemed necessary or appropriate.

## **10. Travel, Accommodation, and Expenses**

Travel, accommodation, meals, ground transportation, incidental expenses, and any other costs associated with participation are not guaranteed unless expressly stated in writing by the Organizer.

At its sole discretion, the Organizer may provide selected participants or finalists with certain support, which may include event access, conference passes, partial travel assistance, hotel accommodation, airfare support, reimbursement, or a stipend. Any such support will be subject to availability, budget, eligibility, documentation, timing, and written confirmation by the Organizer.

The Organizer reserves the right to determine the type, amount, timing, and recipients of any travel or participation support. No participant is entitled to cash, reimbursement, travel assistance, or substitute benefits unless expressly confirmed in writing.

Participants are responsible for any costs not expressly approved in advance by the Organizer, including but not limited to upgrades, baggage fees, meals, local transportation, incidentals, taxes, missed flights, changes, cancellations, or personal expenses.



## **11. Prizes and Recognition**

The winner and/or selected finalists may receive recognition and professional visibility as determined by the Organizer. The anticipated winner recognition package may include, subject to final confirmation, a fine dining experience, an official Cava certificate, and media exposure through D.O. Cava, SommCon, partner, press, social media, website, or post-event communication channels.

The fine dining experience may be arranged by the Organizer or its appointed partners and may be subject to availability, location, timing, restaurant participation, reservation capacity, and any applicable restrictions. Unless expressly confirmed in writing, travel, accommodation, transportation, taxes, gratuities, alcoholic beverages, personal expenses, or any additional costs connected to the fine dining experience are not included.

The official Cava certificate will recognize the recipient's participation and/or achievement in the Competition and may be provided in digital or printed format at the Organizer's discretion.

Media exposure may include, but is not limited to, inclusion in press materials, website content, social media posts, event recaps, newsletters, partner communications, photography, video, interviews, or other promotional opportunities. The type, timing, duration, placement, and extent of any media exposure will be determined solely by the Organizer and are not guaranteed.

Prize details, benefits, timing, and approximate value, if any, will be determined by the Organizer and may be modified, substituted, or withdrawn at any time if circumstances require. Prizes and recognition opportunities are non-transferable and may not be exchanged for cash unless expressly stated by the Organizer.

Any taxes, reporting obligations, or costs associated with a prize, benefit, certificate, dining experience, or recognition opportunity are the sole responsibility of the recipient.

## **12. Participant Conduct**

Participants must act professionally and respectfully at all times. The Organizer reserves the right to remove or disqualify any participant who engages in inappropriate, unsafe, disruptive, discriminatory, dishonest, offensive, or unlawful conduct, or conduct that may harm the reputation of D.O. Cava, the Competition, participating wineries, event partners, judges, sponsors, or other participants.

Participants must comply with all applicable laws, venue rules, alcohol service regulations, and event partner policies.

## **13. Alcohol Responsibility**

The Competition may involve the tasting and evaluation of alcoholic beverages. Participants must be 21 years of age or older and must consume alcohol responsibly.

The Organizer reserves the right to limit or refuse service to any participant and to modify tasting components for health, safety, legal, or operational reasons.



#### **14. Publicity and Content**

By participating, participants grant the Organizer and its representatives the right to photograph, film, record, publish, edit, display, and use their name, likeness, image, voice, professional title, city, employer, quotes, and Competition-related content for promotional, educational, reporting, press, social media, website, and archival purposes, without additional compensation, unless prohibited by law.

Participants may be asked to sign additional publicity, release, or consent forms as a condition of participation, finalist selection, prize acceptance, or event attendance.

#### **15. Intellectual Property**

All Competition materials, questions, scoring materials, tasting formats, educational content, photographs, videos, and related materials are the property of the Organizer or its licensors and may not be copied, reproduced, published, or distributed without prior written consent.

Participants may not disclose confidential Competition materials, judging questions, tasting wines, scoring information, or other non-public Competition details unless authorized by the Organizer.

#### **16. Disqualification**

The Organizer reserves the right to disqualify any participant at any time for any reason deemed appropriate by the Organizer, including but not limited to failure to comply with these Official Rules, failure to meet eligibility requirements, suspected fraud, misconduct, conflict of interest, tampering, inaccurate information, non-response, inability to participate, or conduct inconsistent with the spirit of the Competition.

#### **17. Limitation of Liability**

By entering or participating, participants agree to release and hold harmless the Organizer, D.O. Cava, Colangelo & Partners, participating wineries, sponsors, judges, event partners, venues, and their respective officers, employees, contractors, representatives, and agents from any claims, losses, damages, costs, injuries, or liabilities arising out of or related to participation in the Competition, travel, event attendance, prize acceptance, publicity rights, technical issues, schedule changes, cancellation, postponement, or any other Competition-related activity, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

#### **18. Force Majeure**

The Organizer is not responsible for any delay, cancellation, postponement, modification, or inability to conduct the Competition due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control, including but not limited to weather, natural disaster, public health concerns, travel disruption, labor dispute, venue issue, supplier failure, technical issue, changes in law, government action, safety concern, or event partner decision.

#### **19. Privacy**

Participant information may be collected and used by the Organizer and its representatives for the administration, communication, promotion, reporting, and execution of the Competition. Participant information may be shared with event partners, judges, agencies, and service providers as necessary for Competition administration.



## **20. Governing Law**

The Competition is subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations and is void where prohibited. Governing law, venue, and dispute resolution terms may be finalized by the Organizer and its legal counsel before publication.

## **21. Acceptance of Rules**

By submitting an entry or participating in any part of the Competition, each participant agrees to be bound by these Official Rules and the decisions of the Organizer and judges, which are final and binding in all matters related to the Competition.



## UK Edition

### D.O. Cava Sommelier Competition x UK Sommelier Association

#### 1. ORGANISER

The D.O. Cava UK Sommelier Competition (the "Competition") is organised by the Consejo Regulador de la Denominación de Origen Protegida Cava ("D.O. Cava"), Avenida Tarragona 24, 08720 Vilafranca del Penedès, Barcelona, Spain (NIF: Q0871003J), in partnership with the UK Sommelier Association.

By submitting an application to participate, entrants agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.

#### 2. ELIGIBILITY

The Competition is open to individuals who:

- are aged 18 years or over at the time of entry;
- are resident in the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland);
- are currently working as a sommelier or wine professional in the United Kingdom;
- meet any additional eligibility requirements established by the UK Sommelier Association, where applicable.

The following individuals are not eligible to participate:

- employees of D.O. Cava;
- employees of the UK Sommelier Association involved in organising the Competition;
- employees of any agencies or suppliers directly involved in the organisation of the Competition;
- members of the judging panel and their immediate family members.

The Organiser reserves the right to request proof of identity, age, residence and professional status at any stage of the Competition.

#### 3. COMPETITION DATES

Applications open on: **Monday 6th July 2026**

Applications close on: **Friday 18th September 2026 (BST)**

The Competition will take place on:

**Monday 21st September 2026**

London, United Kingdom.

The Organiser reserves the right to amend the Competition timetable where reasonably necessary.

#### **4. COMPETITION FORMAT**

The Competition consists of the following stages:

##### **Stage 1 – Registration**

Eligible candidates must submit a completed application before the published closing date.

##### **Stage 2 – Written Examination**

All eligible participants will complete a written examination designed to assess their knowledge of D.O. Cava, wine theory and related subjects.

##### **Stage 3 – Live Final**

The three highest-scoring candidates from the written examination will progress to the live final.

The final will consist of:

- Blind Tasting Challenge
- Food & Wine Pairing Challenge
- Service Challenge

The Competition will be assessed by an independent judging panel appointed by D.O. Cava and the UK Sommelier Association.

Judges will score each challenge in accordance with predetermined judging criteria (e.g. technical knowledge, tasting skills, service skills, communication skills, etc.).

The judges' decision is final and binding. No correspondence regarding the judging process or results will be entered into.

#### **5. WINNER SELECTION**

The overall winner will be the finalist achieving the highest combined score across all stages of the Competition.

#### **6. PRIZES**

The Overall Winner will receive:

- £500 voucher;
- Official D.O. Cava Best Sommelier pin;
- Recognition as the D.O. Cava UK Best Sommelier 2026.

The two runners-up will each receive:

- £250 voucher.

Prizes are non-transferable and no cash alternative will be offered.

Should circumstances beyond the Organiser's reasonable control prevent the advertised prize from being awarded, D.O. Cava reserves the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value.

## **7. WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT**

The winner will be announced during the Competition on **21 September 2026**.

Following the Competition, the Organiser will contact the winner using the contact details provided during registration in order to arrange delivery of the prize.

If the winner fails to respond within fourteen (14) calendar days, or fails to provide any information reasonably required to administer the prize, the Organiser reserves the right to award the prize to the next highest-ranked finalist.

## **8. PARTICIPANT CONDUCT**

Participants are expected to behave professionally throughout the Competition.

The Organiser reserves the right to disqualify any participant who:

- provides false or misleading information;
- fails to comply with these Terms and Conditions;
- attempts to obtain an unfair advantage;
- behaves in a manner that is disruptive, abusive or inappropriate;
- brings the Competition, D.O. Cava or the UK Sommelier Association into disrepute.

Any decision to disqualify a participant shall be at the Organiser's reasonable discretion.

## **9. PHOTOGRAPHY, FILMING AND PUBLICITY**

The Competition may be photographed and filmed.

By participating in the Competition, entrants grant D.O. Cava and the UK Sommelier Association permission to use their name, image, photographs and video recordings for promotional, educational and communications purposes relating to the Competition and D.O. Cava, in print, digital and social media, without additional payment.

## **10. PERSONAL DATA**

D.O. Cava will process participants' personal data in accordance with applicable data protection legislation, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the Data Protection Act 2018 and, where applicable, Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR).

Personal data collected during registration will be used solely for:

- administering the Competition;
- verifying eligibility;
- communicating with participants;
- announcing the winner;
- arranging the delivery of prizes.



Participants have the right to request access to, rectification or deletion of their personal data, or to exercise any other rights available under applicable data protection legislation.

Requests should be sent to: [consejo@cava.wine](mailto:consejo@cava.wine)

## 11. LIABILITY

The Organiser accepts no responsibility for applications that are lost, delayed, incomplete or not received due to technical failures or circumstances beyond its reasonable control. Nothing in these Terms and Conditions shall exclude or limit liability where such exclusion or limitation would be unlawful.

## 12. CANCELLATION OR AMENDMENTS

The Organiser reserves the right to amend these Terms and Conditions, postpone, suspend or cancel the Competition where this is reasonably necessary due to circumstances beyond its control or to ensure the fair administration of the Competition. Any material changes will be communicated through the official D.O. Cava communication channels.

## 13. GOVERNING LAW

These Terms and Conditions shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England and Wales. Any dispute arising out of or in connection with the Competition or these Terms and Conditions shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

**Controller of your personal data:** Consejo Regulador del Cava – Tax ID (NIF): Q0871003J. Registered address: Avda. Tarragona 24, 08720 Vilafranca del Penedès (Barcelona), Spain. On behalf of the organization, we process the information you provide for the purpose of administering the competition. The performance of a contract constitutes the legal basis for processing your personal data. For additional processing activities, such as sending commercial communications or capturing and using your image, the legal basis for such processing is your consent. Your personal data will be retained in our database for as long as necessary to provide the requested service or to comply with applicable legal obligations. **Recipients:** Your personal data may be disclosed where required to comply with legal obligations or where strictly necessary to fulfill the relationship between you and the organization. **Your rights:** You may exercise your rights to access, rectify, object to, restrict, transfer (data portability), and erase your personal data by contacting the data controller. You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the competent supervisory authority (the Spanish Data Protection Agency – AEPD). **Additional information:** You may request further information by contacting the data controller at the address indicated above.