



**CITADELLES
DU VIN**

2026

INTERNATIONAL WINE AND SPIRIT COMPETITION

26TH EDITION

**JUNE 13
2026**

**BOURG-SUR-GIRONDE
FRANCE**



citadellesduvin.com

Photo : Saman Taheri - UNSPLASH

**DOUBLE
APPROVAL**

VINOFED
LA REFERENCE DES CONCOURS INTERNATIONAUX DE VIN



**Organisation Internationale
de la Vigne et du Vin**
Organisation Intergouvernementale

#CITADELLESDUVIN



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For its 26th edition, our independent competition remains, more than ever, dedicated to openness. In 2026, we look forward to showcasing the red wines of the Douro, Portugal's iconic wine region, renowned for the richness of its landscapes, the uniqueness of its grape varieties and the strength of its wine-growing identity.

Together with the entire CDV team, I look forward to seeing you again for a competition that aims to reflect major international trends, offering tastings rich in discoveries and, as every year, a high-calibre list of winners.

For the 2026 edition, we're excited to have you join us on 13 June in Bourg-sur-Gironde, to share a special moment of exchange and celebrate together the excellence of winemaking.



Patrice MALLET
President, Citadelles du Vin



CONCOURS DES VINS



Since 1976, the CDV (Concours des Vins) has supported and promoted wine production through two fully independent international competitions.

A bridge between winemakers and consumers for 50 years, the association has been organizing **Challenge International du Vin** since 1976 and **Citadelles du Vin** in different formats since 1981.

The CDV is committed to supporting and promoting the quality and the diversity of all wines and spirits from around the world. Therefore, CDV decided to extend its support with the addition of opening of new categories.

Thanks to a large majority of French and foreign producers competing in these two annual competitions as well the post promotion of the laureates, these medals benefit from an indisputable recognition both from French and foreign consumers.

Every year, up to 5,000 samples are delivered to CDV cellars in Bourg near Bordeaux (Gironde). They are then anonymized and prepared for the competitions thanks to the support and the involvement of **60 volunteers** at the service of the world producers.

By rallying energies and resources, the organisers make all the needed efforts to ensure the celebration of all wines and spirits from around the world in the best conditions, so that everyone could enjoy the event: wine growers, distillers, tasters, enthusiasts and other players in the sector.

Siège social du CDV

Chais de Portier
33710 BOURG-SUR-GIRONDE
FRANCE



CITADELLES DU VIN

Recognition of excellence

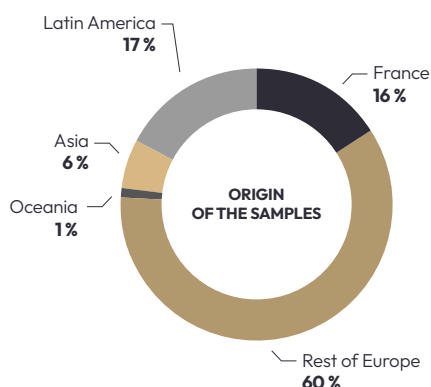


THE COMPETITION KEY FIGURES

Since its creation in 2000 under its current form, Citadelles du Vin has gathered almost **50 countries** for a total number of **24,000** wines and spirit **samples**. The jurors with members of almost **40 nationalities** have awarded **6,700 medals**.

THE 2025 COMPETITION: KEY FIGURES

• **433 samples in competition including:**



• **45 professional jurors**
(oenologists, sommeliers, buyers, critics and journalists)

• **120 medals including 4 Grand Gold, 78 Gold et 38 Silver**

• **11 Special Prizes**

THE KEYPLAYERS IN THE COMPETITION

Oenologists, sommeliers, buyers, educators, critics and wine journalists from around 20 nationalities meet every year in Bourg-sur-Gironde for a day of wine tasting.

Everything is done to enable the **producer** to measure his work with the **tasters**, but also to better understand the expectations of the consumer. In this competition, the products in the running are blind tasted and independently by the **best specialists** in the world.

INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION & INTERNATIONAL FAME

First international competition to have joined the **VINOFED (World Federation of Major International Wine & Spirits Competitions)**, Citadelles du Vin acts under the aegis of the **OIV (International Organization of Vine and Wine)**. Citadelles du Vin complies with their very specific standards from sample tracking to tasting conditions. Citadelles stands amongst the most qualitative competitions.

This is an undeniable asset that gives great credibility to the award-winning products, a high added value for export and access to high-end segments.

The diversity of the countries competing each year, as well as the nationalities represented by the jurors, is a guarantee of the outreach and recognition of the excellence of Citadelles du Vin competition.



CITADELLES DU VIN



A POWERFUL TOOL FOR PROMOTION & COMMUNICATION

- Press releases sent in **3 languages** (FR/ EN/ SP) to our international contacts.
- Mass distribution of the ranking via the **social networks** (Facebook, X, Instagram and Youtube), our **website**, and all our **partners** and **international jurors**.
- Advertising in **specialized medias**.

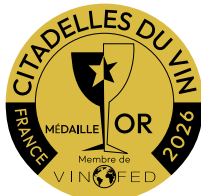
PROMOTION TOOLS GIVEN TO WINNERS & PARTICIPANTS



Citadelles du Vin Special Prize Trophy

NEW SINCE 2024 EDITION:

Medal with score out of 100, sticker or derogation, is another option enabling to emphasise your prize.



Medal stickers recognized worldwide



Cenographic
Image representation of each tasting commentary.

Offered to all our participants and available in the private "Producers" area.



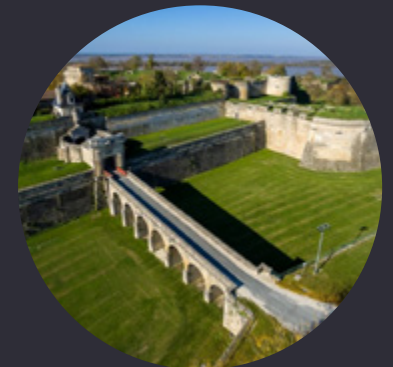
Official competition diploma

CITADELLES DU VIN AND NEW TRENDS

Citadelles du Vin is a reflection of the latest trends and global consumer tastes. By introducing new categories in 2025, the competition once again demonstrates its openness to the world, the attention it gives to the largest audience possible, and its willingness to showcase the work of producers who have placed their trust in it for more than 25 years.



Citadel of Bourg



Citadel of Blaye

2026 EDITION



THE RED WINES OF THE DOURO IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The red wines of the Douro are now among the most remarkable in the Portuguese wine-growing region, combining intensity and elegance, with great structure and excellent ageing potential.

High-altitude wines with a unique character

Produced from spectacular vineyards, terraced along the Douro Valley, using mountain viticulture, they derive their uniqueness from a demanding environment. The continental climate, characterised by very hot summers and harsh winters, combined with poor, well-drained schist soils, favours the production of concentrated and complex grapes. Altitudes range from 200 metres, near the River Douro, up to 600 metres for certain vineyards.

Exceptional indigenous grape varieties

These wines are based on a blend of iconic indigenous grape varieties, such as Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca, Tinta Roriz, Tinta Barroca and Tinto Cão. There are also old vines over 80 years old, known as field blends, with sometimes more than 30 different grape varieties on a single plot. This varietal diversity contributes to the aromatic richness and balance of the wines.

A balance of power and elegance

Douro red wines are distinguished by their deep colour and intense aromas of dark fruits and spices, sometimes complemented by notes of cocoa or liquorice. On the palate, they offer a full-bodied structure, supported by prominent but generally well-integrated tannins.

Long associated with the production of Port wine, the Douro region has gradually established itself as a benchmark for its still wines. This move upmarket, which began several decades ago, now positions Douro reds amongst the highest-quality and most sought-after wines in Portugal.



ANIBAL COUTINHO

Honorary President 2026

"A medal awarded to a wine by a prestigious international competition such as Les Citadelles du Vin represents a significant milestone and a tremendous boost to the work of the producer in question.

For the consumer, it is a sign of attention, distinction and curiosity, amidst the thousands of brands flooding the shelves of wine shops and supermarkets."

A. Coutinho

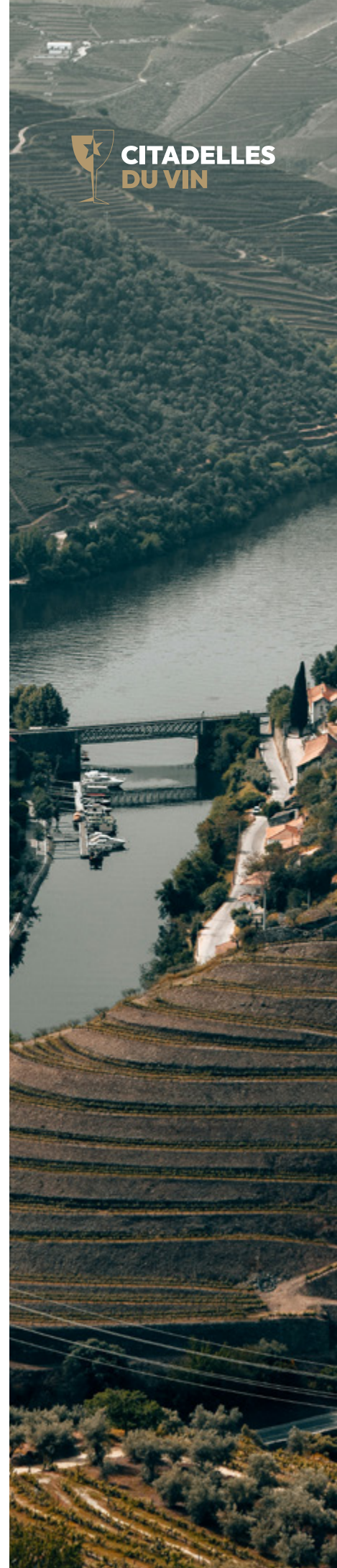


DECIO COUTINHO

Citadelles Ambassador

"This year, the Douro Red Wine Special Prize will be awarded to the red wine that best embodies the region's excellence, based on rigorous blind tasting criteria. I invite winemakers and merchants to enter their Douro red wines and seize this unique opportunity for recognition."

D. Coutinho



2026 EDITION



SPECIAL PRIZES 2026

RED WINE from **DOURO** (Portugal – region in the spotlight this year) by **SOMMELIERS INTERNATIONAL** magazine, official partner of the Association de la Sommellerie Internationale and the Union de la Sommellerie Française.

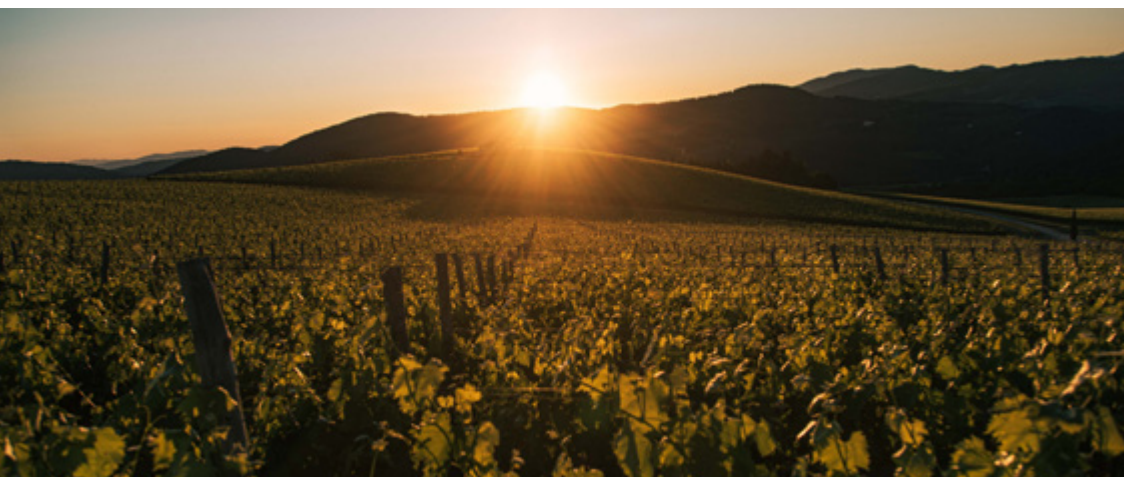
SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE CABERNET SAUVIGNON varietal wine, by **KEDGE WINE SCHOOL**, international reference for the training of future managers in the wine and spirits sector.

CHARDONNAY varietal wine, by the **DUAD'S CLUB, DUAD** Alumni Association, international diploma from ISVV – Institute of Vine and Wine Sciences – University of Bordeaux.

MERLOT DE BORDEAUX wine, by the **ASSOCIATION OF OENOLOGISTS OF BORDEAUX**, global network of oenologists graduated from ISVV – Institute of Vine and Wine Sciences – University of Bordeaux.

BEST RATE OF THE COMPETITION – STILL DRY WINE by **VINOFED**, World Federation of major international wine and spirits competitions.

BEST RATE WINE OR BRANDY AMONG GRAND GOLD or **GOLD MEDALS IN EACH COMPETING COUNTRY** with a minimum of 20 samples in the running.



PRACTICAL & contacts INFORMATION



2026 EDITION

PRODUCER REGISTRATIONS:

From January 9 to April 30, 2026

SAMPLES RECEPTION DEADLINE:

May 7, 2026

COMPETITION DATE:

June 13, 2026

DATE OF THE PRIZE LIST:

June 17, 2026

COMPETITION REGISTRATION FEES

130 € excl. taxes	for 1 registered item
120 € excl. taxes	by item, for 2 registered items
100 € excl. taxes	by item, for 3 or more registered items

HOW TO GET THERE?

GPS:

Rue Ulysse Lainé
33710 Bourg-sur-Gironde

North latitude: **45°2'36.857"**
West longitude: **0°33'7.17"**



INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

Registrations can be done by post or online on our website at:

→ www.citadellesduvin.com

where additional information can be found.

CONTACT

Citadelles du Vin

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OUR PARTNERS



OUR SPONSOR



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