



# International Contest for Distillates EXTREME SPIRITS INTERNATIONAL CONTEST 2024 – 4<sup>th</sup> Edition

Aosta Valley (I) – 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## REGULATIONS

### PREMISE

For this new edition of the competition dedicated to spirits, the Organizing Committee decided to open the competition **also to aromatised wines**, the base wine of which is produced from grapes grown in heroic conditions (see Article 3 of this regulation).

### ARTICLE 1 - GOAL

The CERVIM (*Centre for Research, Studies, Protection, Coordination and Enhancement of Mountain Viticulture*), in collaboration with the *Aosta Valley Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the Autonomous Region of Aosta Valley* and the *Italian Association of Sommeliers – Aosta Valley section*, is organizing the 4<sup>th</sup> International Competition for spirits of vinous origin, named “Extreme Spirits International Contest – 2024”.

The Competition is open to spirits made with raw materials of vinous origin (pomace, lees and wine) and to aromatised wines produced in vineyards on mountainous or steep slopes, terraced areas or small islands. The purpose is to enhance those spirits and their production areas as well as to encourage the consumers to “drink responsibly” orienting them to choose quality spirit drinks produced in those particular regions.

### ARTICLE 2 – ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The Organizing Committee, chaired by the President of CERVIM, is made up of five members:

- the President of CERVIM;
- a delegate of the *Aosta Valley Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the Autonomous Region of Aosta Valley*;
- a delegate of the Istituto Tutela Grappa della Valle d'Aosta;
- a representative of the National Association of Grappa and Spirits Tasters;
- an experienced technician of the sector, appointed by Cervim.



### **ARTICLE 3 – ADMITTED PRODUCTS**

The “Extreme Spirits International Contest – 2024” - is open to all spirits and all aromatised wines produced using raw materials made from grapes grown in vineyards presenting at least **one of the following** permanent structural difficulties:

- altitude higher than 500 metres above sea level, excluding vineyards on high plateaus;
- slopes with gradients greater than 30%;
- vines grown on terraces or embankments;
- vines grown on small islands.

**All Wineries which produce and all firms that buy and commercialize spirits and aromatised wines under their own brand can participate to the Competition.**

A Winery is a producer identified by a denomination or a business name appearing also on the label of the spirits.

**Only the following spirits are allowed to participate to the Competition:**

- spirits which do not contain flavour enhancers (artificial flavourings) and comply with the rules of the CE Regulation N.110/2008, Annex 1 art.6 paragraph d;
- spirits which are produced in accordance with the current legal provisions and which are intended for consumption.

**Only the following aromatised wines are allowed to participate to the Competition:**

- which are produced in accordance with the current legal provisions and which are intended for consumption.

**Participation is excluded for products that:**

- are not among those described in Article 1 of these regulations;
- are presented by individual producers or groups of producers who have been the subject of legal proceedings for fraud or adulteration that have become final.

### **ARTICLE 4 – CATEGORIES**

Entries are divided into 6 categories:

**1 – Unaged Grappas and Spirits of marc;**

**2 – Unaged Grappas and Spirits of aromatic marc** (coming from aromatic grape varieties);

**3 – Aged Grappas and Spirits of marc** (with permanence in wooden barrels for at least 12 months);



**4 – “RESERVES AGED” or “VERY OLD” Grappas and Spirits of marc** (with permanence in wooden barrels for at least 18 months);

**5 – Grape Distillates;**

**6 – Wine Distillates** (Brandy, Cognac, etc);

**7 – Aromatised wines.**

**All products that do not fall into one of the above groups are not eligible for the Competition.**

Samples found not to comply with the above categories will be excluded from the Competition.

The Winery will not be entitled to reimbursement of the entry fee and the samples, sent and not admitted, won't be returned.

## **ARTICLE 5 – ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE**

The application form sent by e-mail has to be filled in and returned by e-mail **by 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024**. For any requirement for the compilation, please contact the Competition secretariat on the following numbers: mobile +39.335.7050965;

For each entered product, the Winery must send the following items by courier **starting from 1<sup>st</sup> June and no later than 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024** to the following address: **EXTREME SPIRITS INTERNATIONAL CONTEST - c/o CAVE DE L'ENFER – via C. Gex, 52 - 11011 Arvier (AO) – ITALY:**

**a) the original application form filled, printed and signed (it is possible to fill in the form directly on the PDF file)** as well as the **personal data consent form** according to GDPR 2016/679 duly stamped and signed by **the Winery's legal representative**. **Please send the documentation together with the samples inside the packaging;**

**b) front and back labels preferably in electronic format (useful for printing), or if not available, 3 paper labels identical to those** appearing on the product entered into the Competition;

**c) a copy of the documentation showing the payment of the 75€ + VAT 22% fee for each of the first two entered samples, 65€ + VAT 22% fee for each additional entry up to the 5<sup>th</sup> one and gratuitousness for the 6<sup>th</sup> one and thereafter. For each further entry the fee will be 55€ + VAT 22%, with a gratuitousness every 5 entered products;** those amounts are fixed as reimbursement of all organizational expenses. The payment must be done by bank transfer to: Unicredit Banca – branch of Aosta, IBAN code IT72X0200801399000060043906 – BIC/SWIFT: UNCRITM1CB9, to the order of CERVIM; **Only the wineries based outside the EU and in the Canary Islands and wineries registered with VIES do not pay VAT.**

**The bank transfer must clearly indicate** the participating Winery's business name **and specify** that the payment is intended for “Extreme Spirits International Contest - 2024” **(bank fees have to be paid entirely by the sender)**. Products for which no entry fee has been paid will be disqualified;



**d) one (1) bottle of product of 50cl or more, fully labelled and wrapped in a package on which “**CAMPIONE NON COMMERCIALE**” (non marketable sample) must be clearly indicated. The package has to be shipped to the “EXTREME SPIRITS INTERNATIONAL CONTEST”, c/o CAVE DE L’ENFER – via C. Gex, 52 - 11011 Arvier (AO) – Italy;**

**Wineries winning a medal, who sent only 1 bottle, must ship, free of charge, 2 additional bottles of the same batch (of 50cl or more), only of the awarded spirit.**

**Wineries wishing so can make only one shipment of 3 bottles (of 50cl or more). In the event of a medal win, they will no longer have to send further bottles.**

**Failure to ship additional bottles will exclude the awarded sample from the prize.**

## **ARTICLE 6 – SHIPPING OF SAMPLES**

The Event Organizers refuse any responsibility for delays or late arrivals of samples with respect to the deadline, for damage or total/partial loss during transport, for chemical/physical or organoleptic changes to the products as a result of temperature variations, or for breakage or any other problem that may occur during transport.

**Costs for shipping, customs clearance and transport to destination are fully paid by the participating Wineries.**

Those expenses must be paid directly to the shipper.

**Any samples that do not comply with those instructions will not be admitted to the Competition. The samples which do not meet the requirements will not be collected and therefore will be automatically excluded from the Competition.**

That will not entitle the Winery to recover any entry fees paid, which means that all shipping charges are the sole responsibility of the Winery which ships all contents at its own risk.

Any sample shipped as carriage forward will be rejected and not returned to the sender.

## **ARTICLE 7 – STORAGE CONDITIONS AND ANONYMIZATION**

It is the responsibility of the Event Organizer to preserve the samples from receipt to tasting.

Before being tasted by the Committees, the products will be anonymized by assigning them two codes each:

- the first code will be assigned by the Event Organizer on taking delivery of the sample;
- before the samples are handed over to the Committees for judging, a second code will be assigned by a notary or lawyer who has been formally appointed by CERVIM and does not have any connection with the wine industry.



The Public Official who supervises the various administrative tasks carried out during the Competition may be assisted by trustworthy staff. He guarantees that all operational and regulatory requirements are met and that samples are preserved from the time they are blinded until the classification has been drawn up.

### **ARTICLE 8 – JURY MEMBERS**

The Jury is made up of judging Committees, each one consisting of:

- 3 technical tasters, holding a qualification as wine technician or oenologist or any other equivalent qualification obtained outside of Italy, representing areas associated or not with CERVIM;
- 2 selected expert tasters.

The evaluation form uses a scale of 100 points.

Each Member of each Committee gives his/her own independent assessment.

The tasting Committees are made up of 5 members: one of the technical tasters acts as President of his or her judging table and carries out a preliminary check to verify that all forms are filled in correctly, as well as regulating the order of the tasting sessions.

The Jury's verdict is final. For confidentiality reasons, only the list of the award-winning spirits will be made public, not the list of all the Wineries participating in the Competition nor the score assigned to each sample.

Upon request made by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, the CERVIM will provide Wineries with a copy of the anonymized jury's evaluation of their spirit(s) taking part in the Competition.

### **ARTICLE 9 – SCORES AND MEDALS**

Each spirit and aromatised wine entered in the Competition will be evaluated by a Committee.

Selected samples will be awarded as follows:

- **Silver Medal:** from 85 to 88.99 points;
- **Gold Medal:** from 89 to 92.99 points;
- **Grand Gold Medal:** from 93 to 100 points.

**The total number of the assigned awards must not exceed 30% of the total number of entries in the Competition.**

**According to their score, Wineries of winning spirits and aromatized wine will be awarded with a diploma.**

The final score for each sample is determined by calculating the arithmetic mean of the numerical ratings, after excluding the highest and the lowest evaluations.



The Wineries winning medals will be given the opportunity to use an adhesive stamp, representing the won medal, to be glued only on the bottles of the batch to which the awarded spirit belongs.

## **ARTICLE 10 – SPECIAL PRIZES**

The “**Grand Prix – EXTREME SPIRITS 2024**” will be awarded to **the spirit and aromatised wine that obtains the best score.**

The “**Prix Excellence - EXTREME SPIRITS 2024**” will be awarded **to the best spirit of each category which has enrolled at least 5 samples.** If the "Prix Excellence - EXTREME SPIRITS 2024" coincides with the "Grand Prix – EXTREME SPIRITS 2024", the prize will be awarded to the next ranked spirit.

Wineries winning the above-mentioned prizes will receive a diploma and a handcrafted object .

**Any reproduction concerning the “Extreme Spirits International Contest”, outside of the stamps officially issued by the Organization, will not be authorised and has not be attached on the rewarded spirit bottles or advertising material.**

## **ARTICLE 11 – AWARDS CEREMONY**

The awards ceremony will take place during a special event, open to the public, organized by CERVIM, at the same time as the “Mondial des Vins Extrêmes”, during which a tasting desk will be set up for all the award winners. The list of winners, "Mondial des Vins Extrêmes" and "Extreme Spirits International Constest", in the form of a printed booklet, will be spread by CERVIM in occasion of events, fairs, press conferences and institutional appointments, where the winning wines and spirits will also be presented.

Any prize which is not claimed during the awards ceremony will not be sent to the Producer by the CERVIM, which, however, can send the diploma(s) by post. Those who wish to receive their special prize(s) will have to bear the delivery costs. The Organization declines all responsibility for any loss, damage or non-delivery.

## **ARTICLE 12 – LEGAL NOTES**

The Event Organizer reserves the right to change those entry requirements at any time should it be necessary. Any dispute arising will be subject to the jurisdiction of the Judicial Court of the city of Aosta, Italy.

These regulations are translated for informational purposes only, only what is described in the Italian regulations is valid.

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