



The New Zealand International Wine Show 2026

Information Sheet

Formed in 2005, the New Zealand International Wine Show is firmly established as the largest wine competition held in New Zealand each year. At last year's show 271 gold medals and double gold medals were awarded from over 1,550 entries.

The judging will take place over three days from **Tuesday 22nd September** and many of the country's most experienced senior wine judges will participate. The senior judges involve a number of leading winemakers and many key industry personnel. Most of the senior judges have each been involved in major wine competitions for one, two or three decades.

Wines from any country and made from any grape variety can be entered so it is vitally important the judges have the experience to match the enormous range of wines that will be submitted.

The results of the judge's efforts will be presented at the Awards Function – Friday 16th October. At this prestigious event all of the gold medal and Double Gold medal wines will be open for tasting and all 21 Trophies will be announced.

It is important for all entrants to read all of the clauses in the Conditions of Entry and to fully understand the obligations detailed in the Promotional Fees section.

The Trophy & Gold Medal Champions List

Wines are entered into wine competitions to win medals. A gold, silver or bronze medal label on a bottle is unquestionably one of the easiest and most effective ways of promoting the qualities of a wine to the consumer. A medal can be used to promote a wine for the duration of that specific wine. Unlike a wine review that becomes dated or forgotten, a medal label has longevity.

The most important feature in the results from the New Zealand International Wine Show is **The Champions List**. **The Champions List** includes all the gold medal winning wines and of course the prestigious Trophies. **These medals will be listed on the NZIWS website www.nziws.co.nz**

Promotional Activities

- The Awards Function will be held in Auckland – Friday 16th October
- The entire Champions List will be available for tasting at the Awards Event.
- A public tasting featuring the entire Champions List (all the gold medals) will be held on 7 October in Takapuna Auckland.
- Trophy, Double Gold, Gold & Silver medal labels will be available to purchase to identify and promote the top wines.

- Full listings of all the medal winners will be displayed on www.nziws.co.nz

Competition Calendar 2026

Closing date for entries	4th September
Closing date for receipt of wine samples	11th September
Set Up Day	21st September
Judging dates	22nd –24th September
Wineries notification of results	25th – 28th September
Embargo lifted on full list of medal results	28th September
Champions List Public Tastings (all gold & double gold medals)	
- Auckland	7th October
- Christchurch	TBC
Awards Event with the announcement of the Trophy winners, the Champion Wine of the Show, Champion Winemaker, Wine Company of the Year and the Legend of New Zealand Wine.	Friday 16th October
Trophy results available online	17th October

Dates and some aspects of the promotional programme may be subject to change at the discretion of the Competition Organisers.

Competition enquiries to:

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