

18th AWARD VILA VINITECA

A TASTING CONTEST IN PAIRS

CONTEST RULES

1. VILA VINITECA proudly announces the 18th AWARD VILA VINITECA A TASTING CONTEST IN PAIRS (“18º PREMIO VILA VINITECA DE CATA POR PAREJAS”) to be held in Barcelona on February 22nd, 2026.
2. The contest is open to all those people **older than 18 years** of age, who freely and voluntarily want to take part in it in the form of couples. Employees of Vila Viniteca, or people who have worked in companies of the Vila Viniteca group, or people who have been part of the Award Committee, may not participate in the twelve years prior to the contest. The organization reserves the right of admission.
3. Registration for the contest will be exclusively accepted through our website at <https://cataporparejas.vilaviniteca.es/> on a first-come-first-served basis until available places, where the contest will be held, are completely filled. **Registration period** starts on January 8th, 2025, at 10:00 am.

Registered couples will be subject to the following **registration rules**:

- a. If, due to force majeure, one of the members of a registered pair cannot attend on the scheduled date, they may request the organization to **replace** him or her with another person, only if the change is notified at least 15 days prior to the date of the contest. A second change within the same pair will not be accepted under any circumstances.
- b. No changes to the members of a registered pair will be permitted during the 10 days prior to the contest.
- c. If a pair cannot attend the tasting due to force majeure, they must notify the organization at least 15 days before the contest date in order to receive a refund of the registration fee. After this deadline, the registration fee will not be refunded.
- d. If a couple **registers twice**, they will not be entitled to a refund for the second registration.
- e. Once all available places have been filled, a **waiting list** will be opened strictly in order of receipt via email, to replace any pairs who may withdraw due to force majeure up to 48 hours before the contest. Emails received before the official closing of registrations, or those that do not include the complete details of both members of the pair wishing to join the waiting list, will not be considered.
- f. Pairs registered on the waiting list must meet the same requirements as all other participants: name and surname, id/passport, address, postal code, town, country, phone and email.

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- g) The **information required** from participants for each of the wines as well as the score points for each correct answer is as follows:
- Country of origin (1 point).
 - Wine region/area (1 point).
 - Specific Appellation of Origin (2 points).
 - Grape variety/ies (3 points).
 - Vintage (3 points).
 - Winery/Producer (3 points).
 - Brand name (2 points).
 - Tasting notes: It will only be evaluated to elucidate possible ties between the different participating couples.
- h) Only the 10 pairs who achieved the best scoring in the Preliminary Round will go through to the Final Test. In case of a tie, the Jury will consider tasting notes from each pair to elucidate the tie.
- i) In the event of a **tie** during the Final Test, the Jury will consider, regarding final classification, tasting notes of this round and scores obtained previously in the Preliminary Round.
- j) To safeguard **anonymity** as a precondition of fair competition each pair of participants and their questionnaire will be identified by a number, which, in turn, will be assigned by the appointed Notary supervising the contest.
- k) Members of the same pair/team are allowed to communicate with each other, but not with any other contestant and/or any member of the audience. Not complying with this rule will result in automatic disqualification.
- l) Participants must fill in the questionnaire they will be provided with, and once the form has been handed in, no modifications will be accepted under any circumstances.
- m) Mobile phones, smartwatches, headphones or any other electronic device able to connect to the internet or any other type of connection will not be allowed under any circumstances in the tasting room area. Likewise, books, catalogues or notebooks will also be forbidden in the tasting room. Not complying with these rules will result in automatic disqualification.
- n) Participants are not allowed under any circumstances to leave the tasting room during the contest. In the event if any participant leaves or needs to leave the tasting room during the contest his/her team will have to previously submit their questionnaire to the Jury and consider their participation finished.

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6. **Jury** members, appointed by Vila Viniteca, are well-known sommeliers, oenologists, and food & wine journalists. Vila Viniteca will choose one of them to act as president of the Jury.
7. Wines and their information and details will only be known by Vila Viniteca employees selecting such wines and supervising the contest as well as the Notary in charge of preserving conditions of fair competition. Members of the Jury will be informed about the identity of the blind tasted wines only after all questionnaires have been submitted.
8. Contest Management and the President of the Jury will safeguard and ensure that the contest is run appropriately. Once all questionnaires have been evaluated, final scores will be obtained for each pair because of adding up correct answers given for each wine (as indicated in point 5 of these rules).
9. The Jury's decisions are final, and no appeal will be accepted unless obvious irregularities have occurred and are proven. Registration in this contest implies the acceptance of these rules by the participants.
10. The "18th Award Vila Viniteca Tasting Contest in Pairs" award **prizes** as follows:

1st place:	€ 35,000
2nd place:	€ 10,000
3rd place:	€ 5,000

The 3 winning teams will receive, in addition to the prize, a set of Riedel glasses.

The 10 finalist teams will receive a special wine selection.
11. All prizes must be awarded.
12. The monetary prizes are subject to all applicable taxes under current Spanish laws.
13. Any changes to these rules required to improve the progress of the contest will be announced to participants before contest commences.
14. Full enforcement of these rules regarding organization, participants, and Jury members will be guaranteed by appointed **Notary**.
15. **Images**. The organisation reports that during the competition, as well as before and after, filming and photographs can be taken. These images will be treated by Vila Viniteca for promotion and advertising purposes and may be published in both own and third-party media. In case you do not want to be photographed, participants will have to communicate it to the organisation once the registration has been carried out.

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16. **Data protection.** All data processed during registration and development of the contest will be processed under the responsibility of Vila Viniteca (Negociants, S.L.U. and related companies), with the prior consent of the participants and to manage the registration, as well as to promote the event. The data will not be passed on to third parties except as specified in item 15 of the present bases, and all participants will be able to exercise the rights recognised in the current legislation by contacting rgpd@vilaviniteca.es.
For complementary information see our [Privacy policy](#).
17. If the contest must be cancelled, the organization will return the full amount of the registration.

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