



Clash of the Cultivars 2026 – Entry Guide

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About this event

During 2026, the third **Clash of the Cultivars** will be held, showcasing the best of wine lovers' favourite cultivars. The event will highlight each cultivar's versatility and individual charm, and although the cultivars will go head-to-head, the winning white and red cultivar wines are not what the event is about, it is the quest for the best, and the journey there, taking in all the wonderful quality and diversity, between cultivars, as well as within individual cultivars.

Previously we showcased only the top seven cultivars, but this year every cultivar will be in the running.

The white cultivars that will be roughing it out will be:

1. Albarino
2. Bukettraube
3. Cape Riesling (Crouchen blanc)
4. Chardonnay
5. Chenin blanc
6. Clairette Blanche
7. Colombar
8. Grenache Blanc
9. Grüner Veltliner
10. Hanepoot
11. Marzanne
12. White Muscadel
13. Nouvelle
14. Pinot Gris (Pinot Grigio)
15. Rousanne
16. Sauvignon blanc
17. Sémillon
18. Verdelho

19. Viognier
20. Weisser Riesling (Rhine Riesling)
21. Other White Cultivar (Please specify in name)

The red cultivars that will throw down the gauntlet are:

22. Barbera
23. Cinsaut
24. Cabernet Franc
25. Cabernet Sauvignon
26. Carignan
27. Grenache Noir
28. Nebbiolo
29. Nero (Nero d'Avola)
30. Pinot Noir
31. Pinotage
32. Primitivo
33. Sangiovese
34. Malbec
35. Merlot
36. Mourvèdre
37. Nebbiolo
38. Petit Verdot
39. Petit Syrah (Durif)
40. Ruby Cabernet
41. Shiraz (Syrah)
42. Souzao
43. Tannat
44. Tempranillo
45. Tinta Barocca

- 46. Tinta Roriz
- 47. Touriga Nacional
- 48. Touriga Franca
- 49. Touriga Francesca
- 50. Other red Cultivar (Please specify in name)

This event is not affiliated with any industry body, but supports all the efforts of the individual bodies that support an individual cultivar.

Does an entry have to be 100% from a particular cultivar?

- As long as a wine can be certified as being from a particular cultivar that wine can enter that category.
- That means the wine has to be 85% from that cultivar according to South African law.
- The wine does not have to be labelled as being from that cultivar.

Blending can be a brilliant tool to increase the quality of a wine, and the value of this practice should not be underestimated, or discriminated against.

What are some of the advantages of this event?

- **Only two bottles** of 750ml/500ml (or volumetric equivalent) are needed for as samples for each entry.
- Low, R950.00 excluding VAT entry fee for early bird entries entered before the cut-off date
- Double size (24x47mm) stickers at R395.00 excluding VAT per 1000.
- No minimum stock quantity needed.
- No extra stock needed after tasting.
- Electronic entry system that is easy to use.
- Upload WSR documents and pack shots.
- No extra charges if you are rewarded.
- You do not have to order stickers.
- No charge for electronic certificates.

Panellists

Panellists will be chosen from winemakers, Cape Wine Masters and Sommeliers. Some will be proponents of a certain cultivar, but will all be asked to give a fair assessment of the wines.

How will the cultivars be evaluated, and eventually tasted, against each other?

The wines will be tasted by the tasting panel, and the top scoring wines from each cultivar, will then be tasted against each other, determining the red and white cultivar wine of the year. The purpose is not to emphasise the superiority of one cultivar above another, but to celebrate the diversity of the cultivars, and to bring out the best in each.

Awards

Gold and double gold awards will be awarded, and stickers will be available for purchase.

How does the scoring system work?

Wines are scored according to the international 100 point scale.

What are the advantages of being awarded?

- An award shows that your product was evaluated and awarded by independent third-party sommeliers and wine experts, supporting claims of superior quality.
- Awards are a symbol of quality to use in marketing – Artwork can be downloaded for free.
- You will receive an award certificate. If the same product is marketed under different brand names, you can receive extra certificates for those at no extra cost.
- An award will serve as content for social media and PR campaigns.
- An award will highlight the brand's prestige and standing.
- An award could just give you that extra edge you needed, making a buying decision so much easier.
- Stickers will be available at a cost of R395.00 excluding VAT per 1000.

What are the awards that can be achieved?

Gold and double gold awards will be awarded, and stickers will be available for purchase.

Stickers may be purchased from the organisers and may not be printed by any other party.

There will be only one print run, and extra stickers will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.



Basic steps towards entering and achieving an award:

- Register online and thereby create an account.
- Read all about the entry process below and enter your products online.
- Make payment for your entries.
- Send your samples at the appropriate time for the judges to receive them in time.
- Judging process
- Results are released

Key Dates

- Registration and entries open - 26 May 2026
- Early bird close – 24 July 2026 (After this the regular entry fee applies)
- Final Close for entries – 28 August 2026

Delivery of samples to the venue outside Stellenbosch, South Africa - 7 and 8 September 2026 (Monday and Tuesday).

Results released 14 September 2026

Early bird entry fee – R950.00 excluding VAT
Regular entry fee - R1250.00 excluding VAT

Registration**Can wines from other countries enter?**

Wines from any country may enter. Wines from other countries do not have to be certified.

General registration guidelines:

- Registration is done online at <https://entries.clashofthecultivars.com/index.php?section=register&go=entrant>
- The event is open to all wine producers.

- If the entrant is not the producer, consent must be obtained from the manufacturer to enter their products, and must include an agreement to abide by the rules of the event.
- It is the responsibility of the person entering the awards, to be available by email at all times to receive emails during the process, from registration, entering, delivery and when the results are released.
- To avoid missing any emails, or correspondence, it is the responsibility of entrants to add the domain "clashofthecultivars.com" to the safe sender's list, to avoid missing any correspondence. In Outlook, go to the "Home" Tab, and in the "Delete" group, select the arrow next to "Junk". Select "Junk Email Options". In the "Junk Email Options" dialogue box, go to the "Safe Senders" tab. Select Add. Add the domain clashofthecultivars.com and click "OK". The domain will then appear on the safe sender's list. Select "OK".

Entering your product

Does an entry have to be 100% from a particular cultivar?

- As long as a wine can be certified as being from a particular cultivar that wine can enter that category.
- That means the wine has to be 85% from that cultivar according to South African law.
- The wine does not have to be labelled as being from that cultivar.

Blending can be a brilliant tool to increase the quality of a wine, and the value of this practice should not be underestimated, or discriminated against.

What are the product categories?

To allow room for maximum expression of each cultivar, categories as diverse as sparkling wine, white wine from red, low alcohol wines, dry wines and sweet reds.

The categories are as follows:

1. Perlé or slightly Sparkling Wine(RS<=10g/L)
2. Perlé or slightly Sparkling Wine(RS>10g/L)
3. Sparkling Wine (Not Bottle Fermented)(RS<=15g/L)
4. Sparkling Wine (Not Bottle Fermented)(RS>15g/L)
5. Method Ancestrale
6. Sparkling Wine Bottle Fermented Zero Dossage
7. Sparkling Wine Bottle Fermented(RS<=15g/L)
8. Sparkling Wine Bottle Fermented(RS>15g/L)
9. Low Alcohol White Wine

10. Albarino
11. Bukettraube
12. Cape Riesling (Crouchen blanc)
13. Chardonnay Unwooded
14. Chardonnay Lightly Wooded
15. Chardonnay Wooded
16. Chenin blanc Unwooded
17. Chenin blanc Wooded
18. Clairette Blanche
19. Colombar(RS<=10g/L)
20. Colombar(RS>10g/L)
21. Grenache Blanc
22. Grüner Veltliner
23. Hanepoot
24. Marzanne
25. White Muscadel(RS<=10g/L)
26. White Muscadel(RS>10g/L)
27. Nouvelle
28. Pinot Gris (Pinot Grigio)
29. Rousanne
30. Sauvignon blanc Unwooded
31. Sauvignon blanc Wooded
32. Sémillon
33. Verdelho
34. Viognier
35. Weisser Riesling (Rhine Riesling)
36. Other Single White Non-Muscat Cultivar(RS<=10g/L)
37. Other Single White Muscat Cultivar(RS<=10g/L)
38. Other Single White Cultivar(RS>10g/L)
39. White wine from a red cultivar
40. Skin-Contact White wine (Orange Wine)
41. Long barrel aged white (white/gris) - 2 or more years in barrel
42. Natural pale (Non - fortified flor aged)
43. Alternative White Wine
44. Sun Wine
45. Blanc de Noir and Rosé(RS<=10g/L)
46. Blanc de Noir and Rosé(RS>10g/L)
47. Low Alcohol Red Wine
48. Barbera
49. Cinsaut
50. Cabernet Franc
51. Cabernet Sauvignon
52. Carignan
53. Grenache Noir
54. Nebbiolo
55. Nero (Nero d'Avola)
56. Pinot Noir

57. Pinotage - Non-coffee style
58. Pinotage Coffee Style
59. Primitivo
60. Sangiovese
61. Malbec
62. Merlot
63. Mourvèdre
64. Nebbiolo
65. Petit Verdot
66. Petit Syrah (Durif)
67. Ruby Cabernet
68. Shiraz (Syrah)
69. Souzão
70. Tannat
71. Tempranillo
72. Tinta Barocca
73. Tinta Roriz
74. Touriga Nacional
75. Touriga Franca
76. Touriga Francesca
77. Other Red Cultivars
78. Alternative Red Wine
79. Sweet Red(RS>10g/L)
80. Other Type of Wine
81. Natural Sweet Wine(RS>50g/L)
82. Late Harvest(RS>30g/L)
83. Special Late Harvest(RS>50g/L)
84. Noble Late Harvest/ Botrytis wine
85. Icewine
86. Straw Wine
87. Cape White Port
88. Cape Pink Port
89. Cape Ruby Port
90. Cape Tawny Port
91. Cape Vintage Port
92. Cape Late Bottled Vintage Port
93. Port Other
94. White Non-Muscat Jerepigo
95. Red Non-Muscat Jeripigo
96. Hanepoot Jeripigo
97. White Muscadel Jeripigo
98. Red Muscadel Jeripigo
99. Fino Sherry
100. Oloroso Sherry
101. Cream Sherry (Full Crème)

Before you enter your products, please read through these questions and answers, and gather the necessary details about each entry.

What constitutes an entry?

All wines have to be certified, even if just provisionally, unless the wine is not from South Africa.

For all local wines, one entry consists of a wine from a particular application number. A wine with different application numbers will be considered as a separate entry.

For all wines from outside South Africa, an entry will constitute one homogeneous bottling.

Does an entry have to be 100% from a particular cultivar?

- As long as a wine can be certified as being from a particular cultivar that wine can enter that category.
- That means the wine has to be 85% from that cultivar according to South African law.
- The wine does not have to be labelled as being from that cultivar.

Blending can be a brilliant tool to increase the quality of a wine, and the value of this practice should not be underestimated, or discriminated against.

General entry rules:

The same product cannot be entered twice. The same product may not be entered by different parties or people.

- A product may only be entered into one category per year.
- Companies may enter as many products as they want.
- You are welcome to choose your own category or contact us.
- The organisers may change the category of the product to a category more suitable for judging at their own discretion.

Photo of product - pack shot

When you enter, you are asked to upload photos of the products that can later be



used on social media to promote the winners. It is highly advised to upload an image to make use of the opportunity, but it is not compulsory.

The photo/graphic should have the following characteristics.

- Square image with a product in the centre with a white or see-through background.
- The product featured should be the exact product entered.
- The photo must feature the product alone without any decoration, accompaniments, or text.
- Besides the product in its own packaging, the photo should not show any other company or product logos.
- Photos that do not adhere to these criteria might not be used.
- The image should measure 1080 x 1080 pixels or more.

Registration FAQs

We cannot find the account we registered.

Every year, the details of companies change, or we need additional information. We, therefore, require all companies to register afresh every year. If you have registered for the year, please see the question below.

I forgot my username or password. What can I do?

When you register, you receive an email with your username and password. Please search for this email, and if necessary look in your spam folder.

To avoid missing any emails, or correspondence, it is the responsibility of entrants to add the domain "clashofthecultivars.com" to the safe sender's list, to avoid missing any correspondence. In Outlook, go to the "Home" Tab, and in the "Delete" group, select the arrow next to "Junk". Select "Junk Email Options". In the "Junk Email Options" dialogue box, go to the "Safe Senders" tab. Select Add. Add the domain clashofthecultivars.com and click "OK". The domain will then appear on the safe sender's list. Select "OK".

If you cannot find your login details, please contact us.

How do we pay for entries?

Once entries have been completed, the entrant may print the invoice for the entry fees online, after logging into their account.

There are several ways to pay:

- Bank EFT

- Payfast online payment – Some credit cards, including Amex, not accepted.
- Upon request, we can send you a EURO or USD invoice for payment via PayPal.

Once you have paid your entry fee, there are no follow-up fees unless you want to order stickers.

You are responsible for all costs associated with delivering the samples.

Entries that are not fully paid by the cut-off date will be disqualified. Samples of disqualified products will not be judged or returned.

No refund of entry fees will be done once entries have closed. If the entry is withdrawn, or if the sample does not arrive in time, no refund will be given. It is the responsibility of the entrant to manage entries and delivery, to make sure the correct samples arrive on time, and only samples that have to be judged are entered.

Sending and delivery and sending of samples:

How many samples are needed?

For all wine, you only need 2 x 750ml/500ml bottles or the volumetric equivalent for samples.

What are the key dates and entry fees?

Key Dates

- Registration and entries open - 26 May 2026
- Early bird close – 24 July 2026 (After this the regular entry fee applies)
- Final Close for entries – 28 August 2026

Delivery of samples to the venue outside Stellenbosch, South Africa – 7 and 8 September 2026 (Monday and Tuesday).

Results released 14 September 2026

Early bird entry fee – R950.00 excluding VAT
Regular entry fee - R1250.00 excluding VAT

Do you have a preferred sender?

DHL is our preferred logistics partner.

You may use any courier you choose, but DHL is our preferred partner, especially for samples that come from overseas. They have intimate knowledge of local conditions, and when there are problems, we have a direct line of communication with them, whereas other couriers may not jump to the task. It is up to you.

When making use of DHL, please contact:

Marijke Douglas by email at Marijke.Douglas@dhl.com or phone her on +27 (0)21 872 4717 for more details.

Where and when do the samples need to arrive?

Samples must be delivered between 09:00 and 16:00 on 7 and 8 September 2026 (Monday and Tuesday).

Participants may use any courier, but please ensure that samples are delivered to:

Clash of the Cultivars

C/o Michelle Grimbeek

Bontevlei Venue

Annandale Road

Stellenbosch

Map reference: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/fQSiPkxaUG7VZevg8>

The person receiving the samples:

Michelle Grimbeek

Email: michelle@tppromotions.co.za

Tel: 082 773 0738

Directions:

When entering the entrance at Bontevlei, keep to the left, until you see the venue to your right. The venue is about 100m from the entrance.

Samples must be delivered between 9:00 and 16:00 on the two days allocated.

May we enter unlabelled wines?

- Unlabelled samples must be representative of the final product, and must be in their final bottled state.
- Tank samples are not allowed.

- The wine must be certified and have a current tasting date and have been approved by SAWIS.

Questions around the judging processing of products

Who will be the judges?

We will make use of some of the best winemakers, Cape Wine Masters, and wine experts.

How are the products evaluated?

During judging, products are always evaluated double-blind, meaning that the tasters have no idea of who produced the products, or the name of the products, except the type of product evaluated, and the needs and expectations that the product is supposed to fulfil.

The judges each make up their own minds as to the quality of the product, without conferring with each other to reach a consensus. The judges' score is not subject to their own taste, instead, they evaluate products from the viewpoint of consumers who love products in that category.

How are the gold and Double Gold awards, awarded?

The judges will score the wines on the international 100 point scale.

Will the judging process be audited?

The judging process will be audited by an accredited auditing firm to ensure that the judges are not influenced and that the tasting is done blind and conforms to international standards.

- The decision of the judges is final, and no feedback will be given.
- We will not engage in correspondence involving products that did not win an award or did not do well enough.
- Some of the judges may be producers or sponsors, but their own scores will not count for their own wines.

Stickers and award FAQs

Can I use the award artwork for other brands?

The award may only be used for the particular product that was entered, but if the same product (that is organoleptically and chemically identical) is marketed under a different brand name, the award may be used on that product as well. An additional award certificate will be granted at no extra cost to the other identical products. For

wine, the award may only be used on wine with the particular application number that entered.

How can we pay for the stickers?

There are several ways to pay for the stickers:

- Bank EFT
- Payfast online payment – Some credit cards, including American Express, not accepted.
- Upon request, we can send you an EUR or USD invoice payable via PayPal.

When will the stickers be available?

The stickers will be available approximately two weeks after the results have been confirmed.

The stickers will be available for collection at an address in Stellenbosch, Western Cape, South Africa, for the account of the entrant. It is the responsibility of the entrant to arrange payment for the stickers, and arrange for the pick-up of the stickers.

What is the format of the stickers?

- Stickers come in multiples of 1 000.
- Stickers are 25 mm in diameter. The stickers measure 25 x 47 mm.
- The stickers are printed with, bright, cold foil.
- The stickers come on rolls that have a 41 mm core diameter, and are wound leading edge left.
- Different core sizes, or winding techniques if needed, must be specified when the final sticker count is confirmed.

When do we have to order the stickers?

- When you enter your product, you are asked how many stickers you would like to order if that product is awarded.
- After that, you are again on two different occasions asked to confirm the quantity (in case the quantity changes, or if you decide either to order or not to order).
- After the results are released, there is the final cut-off time for sticker confirmation, and the stickers are printed upon your request, and you are obliged to pay for the stickers.
- Please ensure you are reachable by email because if you do not change your order, your last order will stand.
- If you do not want stickers, if you are in doubt that you want stickers, or if somebody who determines if your company will order the stickers have

perhaps not given the go-ahead, do not order stickers. Enter “0” – zero during entry, or later when asked to confirm the sticker quantity.

- There will be only one print run, and extra stickers will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Your stickers are printed especially for you at your request, so if you do not want the stickers, do not order them.
- The company where we will leave the stickers to be picked up can arrange transport to anywhere in the world.

What is the cost associated with the stickers?

- Stickers will be available to be used with winning products at R395.00 excluding VAT per 1000.

Award guidelines

- There are no licensing costs, and the entrants are free to use the award artwork as they see fit for a period of three years.
- Stickers may only be printed by the Clash of the Cultivars.
- Sticker and award artwork may be incorporated into the labels of products at no extra cost.
- Artwork may only be used in association with the product that won the award, for a period of three years.
- Award artwork may be used on the awarded producer's website, or email signature to show that they won an award, but must be associated with the specific products that won the award.
- Award artwork may not be used in any way where it is implied that other products that did not win awards, won awards.
- If the product changes significantly chemically, or sensorially, the award cannot be used in association with the product any more.

General questions

Is there any discount offered?

Discounts will be given to entries in the form of a reduced fee (the early bird fee) for entries done on or before 24 July 2026.

Do I get a certificate when my wine is awarded?

An electronic certificate will be sent by email to the winners. If the same product is available under different product names, additional certificates can be requested at no extra cost.

Who organises this event?

This event is organised by Michelle Grimbeek.

General Rules

A product may only be entered once, even if it is available under a different brand name.

Entries will only be accepted in English.

Tank samples will not be accepted as entries into the event.

There is no minimum stock quantity needed to enter a product.

A product that received an award in a previous year's event may be entered again.

Each participant will be responsible for all delivery costs, customs, duties, taxes and insurance. These must be paid by the participant before sending the entry samples, and the participant will be responsible for clearing and the associated costs at customs where applicable.

It is the participant's responsibility to have insurance for samples, as they will be transported at the participant's risk. Tank Town Promotions (Pty) Ltd will not be accountable in any way whatsoever for any loss or damage to the samples before, during, or after the event.

All samples are to be clearly labelled to identify the entries. This information includes the name of the manufacturer, the commercial name of the product, and the particular variant of the product if appropriate.

Because this is an international event, the basic guidelines for classes must be followed, but it is up to the entrant to choose a class that is appropriate relative to their own frame of reference. The judges reserve the right to move the product to a more appropriate class.

Any products left over after judging become the property of the event.

Only commercially operated importers, producers, or distributors that abide by the food laws of the country of origin may enter.

Winners will be asked to supply the event organisers with high-resolution pack shots for use on its website, and in marketing materials. By entering this event, the participant grants the Clash of the Cultivars unlimited use of these images.



Be sure to securely wrap entries with bubble wrap or similar material to secure your entries against breakage. Please wrap your final package in a plastic bag and make it leakproof to prevent leakage and damage to other products. Label the samples as fragile.

Specialised packaging material or any other packaging material will not be returned. Specialised packaging material can significantly preserve the final quality and viability of the sample being judged.

If styrofoam peanuts are used for packaging, please secure them in a container that will not cause leakage or spillage of the packaging materials.

International entries must take the necessary precautions to prevent breakage and hold-ups in customs, and are encouraged to use local agents to deliver samples.

If more than one box of samples is delivered, please mark the boxes as “Box 1 of 5”, “Box 2 of 5” etc.

After winners are announced, no additional samples are needed.

Leftover samples will become the property of the event.

The rules of the event may change at any time and are at the sole discretion of the organisers. The amended rules will be published on the website. If an entrant does not abide by the rules, they must withdraw the relevant entries.

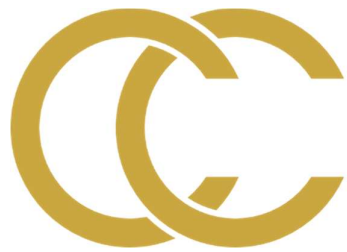
Please be aware that to enter this event, you have to also abide by the general rules, Website Terms, Privacy Policy and General Event terms as set out at www.clashofthecultivars.com

Who organises this event?

This event is organised by Michelle Grimbeek.

Contact us

You are welcome to contact Sanet van Heerden at hello@clashofthecultivars.com or phone her at 084 446 0412.



CLASH OF THE **CULTIVARS**