



2026 Emerging Winemakers™ Competition Rules

ENTRIES

Wine entries, entry forms and fees may be submitted at any time starting February 16th, 2026 and ending April 7th, 2026.

WINE BOTTLE(S) ENTRY SHIP TO/DELIVERY ADDRESS:

Yavapai College C/O Ryan Avery Follensbee
601 Black Hills Dr.
Clarkdale, Arizona 86324

PLEASE NOTE: WINES SUBMITTED FOR THE COMPETITION MUST BE PHYSICALLY RECEIVED ONSITE BY 4/10/2026. ANY ENTRIES RECEIVED AFTER 4/10/2026 MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED.

EVENT LOCATION

Yavapai College
601 Black Hills Dr. Bldg M, Room 137
Clarkdale, Arizona 86324

SYMPOSIUM & AWARDS CEREMONY

Saturday, April 18th, 2026 9:30am - 3:15pm

COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. The Competition will be held at Yavapai College, Clarkdale, Arizona. It is organized and conducted by the Yavapai College Grand Crew, a viticulture and enology student organization, supported by the Southwest Wine Center, Yavapai College, and the Verde Valley Wine Consortium.
2. The Competition is open to any emerging winemaker who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age at the time of entry.
3. An "emerging winemaker" is any person who makes his/her/their own wine that is not sold.
4. Any person involved in the making of the wine entered in The Competition must be identified in the Entry Form at the time of submission of the Form.
5. An entry is defined as one (1) 750 ml bottle of wine or equivalent at the time of entry. There are no limits on the number of entries.
6. The entry fee is \$20.00 dollars per bottle.
7. On the Entry Form, identify the wine class (single varietal or blend of red (including rosé), white, fruit, or sweet wine. Mead wines may also be included. Wines may not be aromatized, flavored or include taste adulterants of any kind. Residual sugar (R.S.), if known, should be provided. Alternatively, identify the wine as dry, semi-dry or sweet. The Judges reserve the right to reclassify the entry.
8. Entry Labels: The Competition Submission Bottle Label provided must be placed on each bottle with the competitor(s)' name(s) and information as required in rule 7.
9. Awards: The Judges are independent, Wine Industry professionals. At the sole discretion of the Judges, Double Gold, Gold and Silver for each class and Best of Show may be awarded. Wines with noticeable flaws are unlikely to receive an Award.
10. Awards will be presented at the Awards Celebration on Saturday, April 18th, 2026. Confidential comments of the Judges on each entry will be available after the Awards Celebration.