

# RULES OF ENTRY OPTIONS

SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES 2024

## Section 1 – Organisation

SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES is organised by Vinopres s.a. rue de Mérode 60, 1060 Brussels, Belgium (website : [www.spiritsselection.com](http://www.spiritsselection.com)) hereafter referred to as “SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES”.

In accordance with legislation on the organization of the spirits market and labelling of spirit products, and as confirmed by the Official Journal of the European Union C96 / 1 of 23 April 2003, the CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES is authorised to organize this competition and bestow awards.(1)(2)

## Section 2 - Goals

The main purposes of SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES are:

1. To promote good quality spirits;
2. To encourage production and responsible consumption as a factor of civilization and to help promote the culture of spirits.
3. To create public awareness and present to the public the typical features of spirits produced in different countries, as well as showcasing the latest trends in the industry.
4. To help the consumer by selecting the best spirits from producers worldwide and offering a quality guarantee and buying cue in an increasingly complex and crowded marketplace.
5. To offer to the producers and distributors a promotional market tool.

## Section 3 - Eligible products

The competition is open, without discrimination, to all spirits. All products must have an indication of the country of origin as well as the category of the spirit on the label. All products must be destined for sale and must be from a consistent batch of at least 1,000 litres. On an exceptional basis, a reduced volume, of at least 100 litres, may be admitted upon justification of particularly low production. All samples must be presented with labels and commercial presentation. If the product was packaged specifically for the competition, the sample shall be accompanied by explanatory documents justifying its status.



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### Section 4 - Registration formalities

To take part in the competition each participant must register online or send, by mail and before June 3, 2024 the registration form duly completed for each product presented, to the secretariat of SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES, Vinopres-Spirits, rue de Mérode 60, B-1060 Brussels, Belgium.

The registration form can be downloaded from our website: [www.spiritsselection.com](http://www.spiritsselection.com).

The registration form for each product must include:

1. The complete and exact identification of the participant who has the right to market or distribute the batch matching the samples
2. The exact designation of the product, in accordance with the RULES OF ENTRY OPTIONS of the country of origin, and if possible, the vintage and indication of age and any possible contact with wood.
3. The product category under annex 1- Ranking of products in different categories. The subgroups may be divided under the responsibility of SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES
4. The quantity available for sale, matching the sample
5. A copy of the form “2024 Client Record” duly filled in. This form is accessible on the website: [www.spiritsselection.com](http://www.spiritsselection.com)
6. A payment form filled out or proof of bank transfer for the cost of participation, and possibly increased by the cost of the tasting report(s) requested (see below).

The person responsible for the indications listed on the registration form is liable for these indications.

SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES may at any time verify the truthfulness by any legal means and take any action it deems necessary.

### Section 5 - Entry costs and terms of payment

Spirits - Entry fees start from €186 per sample (For Belgian companies add 21 % VAT).

1 Sample	198 €
2 Samples	396 €
3 Samples	579 €
4 Samples	772 €
5 Samples	940 €



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## SPIRITS SELECTION

6 Samples	1 128 €
7 Samples	1 281 €
8 Samples	1 464 €
9 Samples	1 647 €
+ 10 Samples	178 €/ Sample

### Tasting Report

A tasting report can be provided to you, for a fee of 20 Euros per report/sample requested. This report can be obtained regardless of the result of the sample. The amount must be paid at the time of registration. The report includes the following information: sample score, average category score, jury nationalities, jury olfactory and taste comments. This tasting report will be sent by mail beginning of December 2024 at the latest.

Payment can be done by Check (only for France), by bank transfer to VINOPRES - banque Fortis banque - BNP Paribas - BIC Fortis: GEBABEBB - IBAN Fortis: BE 24 2710 0451 1138 or by credit card Visa/ Eurocard or American Express by completing the payment slip.

Checks have to be sent with the registration forms.

These costs must be settled upon registration. If the cost of registration has not been received for a product it will not be allowed to enter.

### Section 6 - Sample Shipment

To be admitted to the competition each participant must submit 2 labelled bottles of each product entered to the secretariat of SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES, Vinopres-Spirits, rue de Mérode 60, B-1060 Brussels, Belgium, before June 3, 2024.

These samples must be addressed direct (shipping, customs and taxes paid by the sender).

They must be sent along with:

A pro forma invoice stating: Samples without commercial value Excise 0 under EEC Regulation No. 2913/92 of 12/10/92; Samples that arrive late, that have not been registered properly (section 4) or that do not match the registered product will not be entered in the competition or returned.

### Section 7 - Inspection and storage of samples received

SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES checks the shipments of spirits received and the official accompanying documents, corrects any possible errors and rejects entries that are not compliant. The organizers can therefore request the necessary laboratory analysis of the specific product.



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## SPIRITS SELECTION

They emphasise the need for correct use of appellations of origin and geographical denominations.

The labelling of products made in EU member states must comply with Community RULES OF ENTRY OPTIONS, and for other countries, it must comply with RULES OF ENTRY OPTIONS in force in the country of production. Entries are then divided up according to the characteristics on the declarations provided in section 4 or, where appropriate, obvious characteristics.

The organizers will store the entries in a secure place in temperature and atmospheric conditions that guarantee their safe storage.

### SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES

will control award-winning spirits by comparing a selection of products with an anonymously-bought sample from the same batch. A certified laboratory ('COFRAC' French norm) will be in charge of the comparative analysis and the comparative tasting (by a panel of independent spirits experts). In the event of contentious issues or proven differences, SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES reserves the right to cancel the awarded medal, warn the relevant fraud services (or equivalent) and expel the implicated producers from all competitions organised by SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES for five years.

## Section 8 - Classification and storage of entries

After the registration documents have been checked and the accuracy of entries for each category ascertained, the entries are divided into flights and presented to the judging panels by vintage in decreasing order, and increasing order of ABV and sugar content.

## Section 9 - Designation of judges

1. The entries are evaluated by committees composed of judges whose number depends on the number and type of products entered in the competition. SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES convenes and designates judges.
2. There must be a mixture of geographical origins of judges within the same panel.
3. Each panel comprises, in principle, 6 judges. In no event can the number be less than 5 Judges have proven tasting abilities.
4. Each panel is placed under the authority of a chair person appointed by SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES, who is responsible for the smooth running of the tastings and checks the quality of spirits served and the score sheets and allocation of points.



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## SPIRITS SELECTION

### Section 10 - Panel chair's duties

The panel chair person's duty is to ensure the smooth progress of the tasting of entries and:

1. ensure the anonymity of the spirits;
2. order a second tasting of a sample if it is deemed necessary.

### Section 11 - Organization of the session

The organizing committee of SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES, which comprises an operations director and a managing director, organizes the distribution of entries between the panels and the order in which the tasting sessions are held.

### Section 12 - General functioning of the panels

1. Discipline - As anonymity is a fundamental principle of the competition:
  - a. During the tasting judges are required to keep silent and avoid gestures or facial expressions that might give away their impressions.
  - b. Judges are not allowed to know the identification of a spirit, its origins, price, points or awards, thus respecting total anonymity.

2. Mode of operation

Once the panels have been formed, they are convened prior to the tasting for one or more meetings in order to explain the purpose of their mission. A group tasting afterwards compares the results of each judge to balance the evaluation criteria of each judge.

- c. The panels are seated in a well aired, well lit and quiet hall where entry is prohibited to any person not involved in the tasting sessions. Where possible the temperature is kept at between 18°C and 22°C. Smoking is not allowed.
  - d. A second hall next door, referred to as the preparation hall, but out of the judges' sight is reserved for uncorking samples and protecting anonymity. Smoking is not allowed here either.
  - e. The filling of glasses is done in the preparation hall out of the judges' sight.
  - f. The tasting sessions are held preferably in the mornings. Each tasting is done at a rate of thirty-five samples at most per day.
  - g. SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES guarantees optimal conditions for judges.
2. Presentation of the spirits. Each spirit is tasted individually and is not compared.

### Section 13 - Order and temperature of presented spirits

1. The purpose of distributing the spirits is to introduce panels to consistent flights of products. These flights are examined in a rational order decided upon by the organizing committee in accordance with article 11.



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**SPIRITS  
SELECTION**

2. Every morning before the first tasting session, it is recommended that a spirit of the same type as the flight planned is presented to the tasters for palate calibration. This is not a competing spirit. The tasting is then discussed by all.
3. The greatest efforts are made to ensure that the spirits are tasted at adequate serving temperatures.

It is essential that all entries in the same category and the same flight be tasted at the same temperature.

#### **Section 14 - Description of the score sheet**

At the same time as the sample is served, each judge receives the matching score sheet. The sheet should state information on the organoleptic characteristics, according to the sample provided. It must also specify the panel number and show the chair person's signature.

#### **Section 15 - Judges' role**

Judges check the sheets pertaining to the entry.

After sensory analysis of each sample the judge ticks the boxes that match the appreciation of a given character. He/ she writes any observations in the space reserved for each criterion evaluated and validates his rating electronically.

The judge's opinion is final.

#### **Section 16 - Results transcription and calculation**

SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES translates into numbers the qualifying assessments from the judges' score sheets.

When a sample is rated as 'eliminated' for one or more categories it is automatically classified as 'eliminated' and therefore cannot, under any circumstances, compete for an award.

Each entry is scored using the methodology of the winzored mean of all tasters of the jury panel.

#### **Section 17 - Award distribution**

1. The Grand Gold Medal, Gold Medal and Silver Medal entries which, during the tasting and for each category, have received a number of points in accordance with the methodology for medal distribution, are awarded the following:
  - ▶ Grand Gold Medal
  - ▶ Gold Medal



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## SPIRITS SELECTION

### ► Silver Medal

The sum of all medals awarded to entries scoring the most points cannot exceed 30% of the total of entries in the competition. In the event of an overrun, entries receiving the least points will be eliminated.

## 2. Competition Revelation

SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES also awards an additional trophy for products scoring the highest marks.

This trophy is complementary to those mentioned in paragraph 1.

In addition, the competition will award a revelation trophy for the best certified organic spirit. (See below, section 18.2.).

All awards granted by SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES as part of the competition apply only to the awarded products and the available volume declared by the producer or merchant on the registration form (section 4 above) and from where the competing entry comes.

## Section 18 - Awards communication

The distinctions of award-winning products are displayed as follows:

### 1. The Grand Gold Medal, The Gold Medal and The Silver Medal

Participants winning one or more medals will be notified by official letter by SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES.

Each medal involves:

- The official medal and a certificate, stating the nature of the distinction, the exact identity of the award-winning product, the volume declared as well as the identity of the producer or merchant according to information provided on the registration form.

In addition, so that the producer or merchant can derive maximum benefit from winning a medal, SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES sells (and according to the rates in effect on the date the medal was awarded):

- Official SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES bottle stickers for the awarded product.
- The right to use the logo known as “permission to reproduce logo”. This right is personal, and non-transferable. It is limited to the number of reproductions specifically requested by the producer or merchant on the order form and is valid for one year.



- The possibility to by metallic plates and metallic medals.

The producer or merchant wishing to use the SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES logo on their labels or other media must purchase this right called “permission to reproduce logo” from SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES. No changes whatsoever may be made to the logo, the diameter, proportions or colour.

No other reproductions of the competition medal and/or bottle stickers and/or SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES logo are authorized nor can they be affixed to an awarded product.

The award statement cannot be reproduced except on the official bottle stickers and/or the “permission to reproduce logo”.

The number of bottle stickers or the “permission to reproduce logo” issued to an awarded product cannot in any way be higher than the number of than the number of bottles declared on the registration form and from which the entry comes.

## 2. Competition Revelations

Participants who have won a complementary trophy as mentioned above (section 17.2.) will be notified by letter by SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES.

The Spirits Selection Revelation distinction will be awarded to winners of a grand gold medal and a trophy.

Any infringement, unauthorized reproduction and/or use of the medal, bottle stickers and/or logos of SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES is strictly prohibited and will be penalized by payment to SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES of an irreducible, fixed fine of €10,000, in addition to compensation for direct and indirect damage caused to SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES.

### **Section 19 - Force majeure et changes**

If an event beyond the control of SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES were to prevent the competition from taking place, SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES can under no circumstances be held liable.

SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES reserves the right to cancel the competition, to change the date scheduled for the event, to shorten or lengthen it, to modify the conditions or the operation in case of force majeure (epidemic, fire, flooding, natural catastrophe, strike, terrorist act, etc ...), or any event beyond its control or





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## SPIRITS SELECTION

deemed justifiably necessary. Its liability cannot thereby be incurred and no compensation can be requested by participants.

SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES cannot be held responsible for any theft, loss, damage or delay in the delivery of entries.

### Section 20 - General Rules

- ▶ Every person registered will be notified by post of the results of their product(s) presented.
- ▶ The competition results are final and without appeal.
- ▶ Entries of participating products may, after the event, be used by SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES for promotional or training reasons. They will not be returned to the producer or merchant. The same applies if the event is cancelled as per the circumstances set out in Article 19 of these Rules of Entry.
- ▶ Participating in the SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES means express and unconditional acceptance of these Rules of Entry.
- ▶ In the event of a dispute with SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES, the courts of Brussels shall have sole jurisdiction and Belgian law will apply.

Quentin Havaux  
Director of the Spirits Selection by CMB

*Version updated in December 2023*

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*(1) List of official bodies authorized to award distinctions, published under Council Regulation EC No. 1493/1999 of 05.17.1999 (Annex VII) and Commission Regulation EC No. 753/2002 of 04.29.2002 (section 21).*

*(2) The SPIRITS SELECTION BY CONCOURS MONDIAL DE BRUXELLES is organized under the control of the Federal Public Service Economy of the Belgian government, particularly with regard to the methodology for distributing prizes, medals and their award.*