



MASTER OF PORT BENELUX 2026-2027

REGULATIONS

Article 1: Presentation

The Port and Douro Wines Institute (IVDP, IP), organizes a competition entitled "MASTER OF PORT BENELUX". a public institute in partnership with the Flemish Sommeliers Association, Guild of Belgian Sommeliers and Gilde van de Sommeliers Netherlands.

Article 2: Competition stages

1. ACCESS TO COMPETITION: In-Person Masterclass (Pestana Amsterdam Riverside) and online (live streaming session available at Maison de La Poste in Brussels) for those who cannot attend, on **October 20**. The masterclass will be held in English.

N.B. Those wishing to take part in the masterclass via streaming can do so at the headquarters of their sommelier association.

2. QUALIFYING EXAM: Online, multiple-choice exam, in English, via online platform (**October 26**). The results will be released simultaneously to all candidates who took part. The top 3 candidates from each Sommelier Guild and the next best candidate, 10 people in total, will go forward to the next stage.
3. QUARTER-FINAL: Study Trip to Porto, Gaia and the Douro (hosted in English) for the ten candidates (**November 8 to 11**). Theoretical and practical training sessions will be held at the end of which competitors will be tested on both theoretical and practical knowledge as well as oral skills. The top five competitors will advance to the semi-final.
4. SEMI FINAL: Theoretical exams (written and oral) and practical tests (tasting and service) in 2027. Contestants will be judged on Port-related knowledge (history, geography, geology, grape varieties, legislation, production methods, ageing, sales, service, culture, sensory description of Port and service of Port. The best three competitors go through to the final.
5. FINAL: Theoretical (written and oral) and practical (tasting and service) tests. Contestants will be judged on Port-related knowledge: history, geography,

geology, grape varieties, legislation, production methods, ageing, sales, service, culture, sensory description of Port and Port service. The best contestant will become MASTER OF PORT BENELUX.

Article 3: Candidates

The MASTER OF PORT – BENELUX 2026-2027 competition is exclusively for active sommeliers, members of Flemish Sommeliers Association, the Gilde van de Sommeliers Netherlands and the Gilde des Sommelier de Belgique. Candidates must be over 18 and have evidence of having worked for at least two years in establishments open to the public in one of the following roles: sommelier, maître d'hôtel, head waiter, restaurateur, wine store owner or wine merchant. Past winners of the MASTER OF PORT competition are ineligible.

Article 4: Registration

1. Candidates must belong to one of the Guilds that partner the competition and must register by filling in the registration form at <https://ivdp-ip.azurewebsites.net/en/master-of-port-form-2026/>
2. The application form must be accompanied by:
 - a. Curriculum vitae (CV) in English
 - b. Proof of the professional qualifications indicated
 - c. Proof of current place of work
 - d. A copy of these regulations duly signed and dated.
3. All submissions will be validated by the organization, which will send an e-mail to the candidate confirming that the application has been validated and providing instructions for the access masterclass. Any incomplete documentation will be rejected.
4. Registration is free. IVDP, IP is responsible for the costs of sending wines for the access masterclass. For the quarterfinal stage, travel to Portugal, transport during the study visit, lunch and accommodation will be covered by the IVDP as per the programme. Travel for competitors attending the semi-final and final including airfare (within Belgium and/or The Netherlands and Luxembourg), lunch and accommodation will be covered by the IVDP as per the respective programme.

Article 5: Prizes

1. The title of "MASTER OF PORT - BENELUX", awarded to the winner, includes:
 - a. A silver Port glass with the inscription "MASTER OF PORT"
 - b. A selection of premium Ports
2. The runners up are awarded a selection of premium Ports

Article 6: Jury

The jury for the quarterfinals is made up of members of the IVDP, IP. The jury for the semi-final and final is made up of six members: two members of the IVDP, IP, one member of each Guild and a guest judge.

Article 7: Practical considerations

1. Each competitor must arrive at the time indicated by the organisers and will take the tests alone and without third-party assistance. All contestants must wear sommelier's attire throughout the semi-final, final and announcement of the result of the competition.
2. If a contestant is unable to attend the quarterfinal, the competitor with the next highest score will be given the opportunity to attend, barring time constraints.

Article 8: Suspension or extension

1. The organizers reserve the right to suspend or interrupt the contest at any time, without prejudice to the contestants.
2. The organizers may, if circumstances so require, modify, interrupt, postpone, extend or cancel the competition, in whole or in part, without the contestants being able to claim any prejudice. The organizers of the competition cannot be held liable for the cancelation of the competition.
3. The organizers may cancel the participation of any candidate who has not complied with the regulations. This can be done at any time and without prior notice.

Article 9: Responsibility of the organizers

The organisation cannot be held responsible for cancelling the competition in the event of force majeure.

Article 10: Control

The organization reserves the right to verify the identity of candidates and the content of their application documents.

Article 11: Usage for communication purposes

1. The candidate authorizes the collection and processing of the personal data indicated therein, as well as the taking of photographs for the purposes of processing and disseminating information relating to future promotional actions in the IVDP, IP annual promotion and internationalization plan.

2. The candidate has the right not to authorize the collection and processing for the purpose, as well as to withdraw consent at any time without compromising the lawfulness of the processing carried out based on the consent previously given.
3. The IVDP, IP is responsible for processing personal data.
4. Personal data will be kept for the period necessary to fulfil its purpose.
5. The rights of access, rectification, elimination and portability of data and of limitation and opposition to processing may be requested in writing from the IVDP, Rua dos Camilos, 90 - 5050-272 Peso da Régua, or via the e-mail address ivdp@ivdp.pt.
6. The candidate has the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority.

Article 12: Acceptance of the regulations

Participation in this competition implies acceptance of and full compliance with these regulations, available at <https://ivdp-ip.azurewebsites.net/en/master-of-port/> or The Flemish Sommeliers Association, the Guild of Belgian Sommeliers or the Gilde van de Sommeliers Netherlands.



Instituto dos Vinhos do Douro e do Porto, I. P.

