



MASTER OF PORT
BENELUX
2026 PROGRAMME

Aim:

To qualify active sommeliers, who must be members of the partner Dutch/Belgian Sommeliers Guilds (the Flemish Sommeliers Association, Guild of Belgian Sommeliers and Gilde van de Sommeliers Netherlands) with the title "MASTER OF PORT". The aim is to reach out to Benelux sommeliers through a competition that rewards the professionals who are best prepared in their knowledge of the Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) Porto

Organization:

The MASTER OF PORT BENELUX competition is organized by the Instituto dos Vinhos do Douro e do Porto, IP (IVDP, IP), in partnership with the Flemish Sommeliers Association, Guild of Belgian Sommeliers and Gilde van de Sommeliers Netherlands.

Format:

- REGISTRATION: the **registration form** is available online, link: <https://ivdp-ip.azurewebsites.net/en/master-of-port-form-2026/>. Please consult attached regulations

Deadline: 30/09 / 2026

- ACCESS: Live **Masterclass** (Hotel Pestana Riverside, Amsterdam) which allows access to the competition. Candidates may choose to attend the Masterclass either in person or online (Maison de la Poste, Brussels), via real-time streaming, at the premises of the Gilde van de Sommeliers Netherlands.

Date: 20/10/2026

Place: Hotel Pestana Riverside Amsterdam and Maison de la Poste, Brussels

Time: 10h00 to 13h00

- QUALIFYING HEAT **Online multiple-choice exam** via a digital platform for all participants who wish to take part in the competition. The ten best candidates will be selected and proceed to the quarter final stage.

Date: 26/10/2026, 10h00 à 11h00 (60 minutes)

Announcement of Results: 28/10/2026

- QUARTER FINAL: **Study trip** to Porto, Gaia and the Douro for the 10 candidates selected in the qualifying heat with the aim of choosing 5 semi-finalists. In-person training sessions, practical tests and oral presentation.

Date: 08/11/2026 to 11/11/2026. Please see below for more details

Target Audience:

Sommeliers, in current employment, members of the above-mentioned Guilds/Associations

Travel and Accommodation:

The quarter finalists are hosted by the IVDP. The cost of accommodation in Porto, air travel (return from Belgium or The Netherlands to Porto) and the meals (lunch) included in the study trip programme will be provided by the IVDP, IP.

- Accommodation: 4-Star Hotel in Porto
- Air travel: Round trip airfare, in economy class, for the ten candidates.

QUARTER-FINALS | DETAILED PROGRAMME

08/11/2026

7:00 p.m. Welcome dinner for participants, restaurant in Porto

09/11/2026

09h00 IVDP, IP, Porto: Training in classroom setting

11h45 IVDP, IP: Coffee break

12h00 IVDP, IP: Training in classroom setting

13h45 Lunch in Porto

15h00 IVDP, IP: Visit to IVDP Technical Department

16h00 Visit to Port lodge in Vila Nova de Gaia. Themed training on AGEING

18h30 Transfer back to IVDP, IP, Porto

Rest of the day at leisure

10/11/2026

07h45 Departure for the Douro

10h00 Visit to Estate in Baixo Corgo or Cima Corgo. Themed training on VINES and VITICULTURE

13h00 Lunch (hosted by the Estate)

15h30 Visit to Estate in Baixo Corgo or Cima Corgo. Themed training on VINIFICATION

18h30 Return to hotel, Porto

20h30 Arrival

Rest of the day at leisure

11/11/2026

09h30 IVDP, IP, Porto: Exams - written, practical and oral

11h00 IVDP, IP: Port Cocktails training session

13h00 Port pairing lunch in Porto followed by announcement of the 5 semi-finalists

End of Study Trip.



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

