

What is the Bayer Young Viticulturist of the Year Competition?

This annual competition began in 2006 and has become an important fixture in the viticultural calendar. By encouraging and developing young viticulturists, the competition helps build a team of talented, young professionals who can continue pushing the boundaries in the vineyard, ensuring the reputation for exciting, high quality New Zealand wines continues long into the future.

The winner then goes on to represent the viticultural industry in the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition which offers significant educational and financial support. Six Young Vits have won this competition over the 11 years it has been running – testament to the high standard set by the Young Viticulturist of the Year competition and the strong calibre of contestants entering.

How does it work?

Young viticulturists, under 30, compete in regional competitions and these winners then battle it out at the National Final to become Bayer Young Viticulturist of the Year.

Contestants undertake a wide range of practical and theoretical questions on viticulture, as well as having an interview, a quick buzzer round and finally delivering a speech at the Bragato Wine Awards dinner.



What are the benefits of entering?

It's tough, but a fantastic opportunity to develop skills and knowledge, network and become more recognised within the industry. It's a very prestigious title to win and even just to have competed adds weight to industry experience and opens doors to career promotions. Previous contestants have all found their careers benefitted greatly from entering the competition, even if they have not been the outright winner.

“It shows you what you need to know to be a well rounded viticulturist. You gain great insight and connections as well as it being a fun day of challenges.” Dan Mather, previous contestant

As an employer, what are the benefits of my employees entering?

- Increased confidence and enthusiasm in your employee
- You are supporting the future of the industry
- Have increased contact with key suppliers
- There are good networking opportunities
- Strong PR around the event gives great exposure to your company and brand

Competition Dates 2016

Auckland – 10th June 2016

Marlborough – 24th June 2016

Hawke's Bay – 7th July 2016

Central Otago – 22nd July 2016

Wairarapa – 28th July 2016

National Final – 22-24th August 2016, Marlborough

What are the Prizes?

Exact prizes for 2016 are being finalised, but previous years have included cash, travel grants, use of a Hyundai Santa Fe for a year, a leadership week and significant cash prizes for regional winners.



To register your interest, please contact Nicky Grandorge, National Co-Ordinator
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W: www.nzwine.com/young-viticulturist-of-the-year

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