



LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL COMPETITION

COMPETITION GUIDELINES & INFORMATION INTERNATIONAL ENTRIES

Los Angeles International Extra Virgin Olive Oil Competition
Judging February 17, 18, & 19, 2026
Mr. Darrell Corti, Extra Virgin Olive Oil Chairman

The Los Angeles International Extra Virgin Olive Oil Competition and its panel of esteem judges invite you to participate in the 27th annual competition.

1. **ENTRY FEE** ⁽¹⁾ – Early Bird - \$175 per entry received before December 1, 2025, \$200 per entry beginning December 2, 2025. Payment may be made by credit card: Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover, by U.S. check payable to: "Los Angeles County Fair Association", or by wire transfer. Please email a copy of the wire transfer to the Competitions office at competitions@fairplex.com. Entry fee must accompany entry form to be eligible for competition.

*Early bird discounted fees must be paid by December 1, 2025, to qualify.

*All other entry fees must be received by the entry deadline January 30, 2026, to be entered to the 2026 competition.

Wire Transfer Information

Bank:	Fifth Third Bank, N.A.
Bank Representative:	Blanca Salcedo + 1 (630) 801-2846
Bank Address:	38 Fountain Sq Plaza, Cincinnati, OH. 45202
Beneficiary Account No:	7029167520
Account Name:	Los Angeles County Fair Association Fairplex General Account 1101 W. McKinley Ave., Pomona, CA 91768 USA
Reference:	"Extra Virgin Olive Oil Competition"
ACH/Wire Routing No:	042000314
Swift Code:	FTBCUS3C

2. **SHIPPING** – International oils will be accepted through February 6, 2026, for both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Shipments are received on weekdays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. All oils entered **MUST BE SHIPPED PREPAID**. The competition is not responsible for any customs or shipping charges.

Oils being sent to the competition from outside the U.S. require an FDA number, FDA Prior Notice and pro forma invoice before shipping to:

Los Angeles International Extra Virgin Olive Oil Competition
1101 W. McKinley Ave.
Pomona, CA 91768

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International shipments of oil must be cleared by a licensed broker with applicable importing licenses. If you have an importer, it is best to use your own importer. If you do not have an importer, you can contact Mark Newman with Accolade Brands, mark@accoladebrands.com to provide this service.

REGISTERED FDA NUMBER: You must obtain registration with the FDA (see below). If you have an FDA registration number, you might need to renew your account information with the FDA. Renewals should have been completed by December 31, 2024. Otherwise, new registration may be required:

<https://www.fda.gov/food/guidance-regulation-food-and-dietary-supplements/registration-food-facilities-and-other-submissions>.

An Authorized US Agent is required for all new and renewed FDA Permits. Accolade Brands can assist you with this service for 180 Euros (95 Euros is for the Producer Registration and 85 Euros is for the US Agent fee) for the 2025/2026 calendar year registration which goes through December 31, 2026. The FDA also requires a UFI or a DUNS number. If your company does not have a DUNS number, we will request one for you. The fee is 25 Euros. It is best to fill out the form at the end of the guidelines and email to Mark Newman, mark@accoladebrands.com. You can file for your permit; however, a US FDA Agent will have to verify the application and there will still be a fee.

FDA Prior Notice: Mark Newman with Accolade Brands, mark@accoladebrands.com, can assist with this service. You must file a Prior Notice with FDA online before shipping. <https://www.fda.gov/industry/prior-notice-imported-foods/filing-prior-notice-imported-foods>. If you are unsure about filing the FDA Prior Notice you can contact Mark Newman at Accolade Brands to perform this service for those producers that do not have an importer or FDA US Agent. See below the fees charged for these services.

If you do not have an importer, the Los Angeles International Extra Virgin Olive Oil Competition works with Accolade Brands to clear shipments. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO USE ACCOLADE BRANDS TO CLEAR SHIPMENT PLEASE CONTACT **MARK NEWMAN, ACCOLADE BRANDS, (818) 390-3888 FEDERAL TTB IMPORT LICENSE # CA-I-15220. EMAIL MARK@ACCOLADEBRANDS.COM BEFORE SHIPPING.**

- Payment must be prepaid by credit card through PayPal to Accolade Brands. Your shipping documents should indicate that you will pay for all Customs Charges. If you do not properly designate that you will pay the customs fee, your customs fees must be paid by credit card or wire transfer within 72 hours from billing.

- **CONSIGNEE:**

ACCOLADE BRANDS INC.

IN CARE OF: LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL COMPETITION

1101 W. MCKINLEY AVENUE

POMONA, CA 91768 USA

Phone 818-390-3888

- **ACCOLADE BRAND – FEES:**

- **FDA Prior Notice** – 25 Euros per Company
- **FDA Food Facility Registration** – 95 Euros per Company (only needed if you have not previously registered with the FDA)
- **FDA Agent Filing** – 85 Euros per year per Company. FDA requires that you have a USA Agent. The permit is issued for the one remaining calendar year through December 31, 2026. This is required by the FDA for your shipment to legally arrive in the United States.
- **Permit Renewals** – permits issued in 2025, will automatically be renewed in December 2026 for the period of January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2028. The renewal will be 85 Euros per year for a total of 170 Euros.

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- **UFA DUNS Number** – The FDA also requires an UFA (Unique Facility Identifier) DUNS number. The fee for the UFI number is 25 Euros.

- **Customs Charges** – Taxes & Duty are to be paid by each producer

Contact Mark Newman via email : mark@accoladebrands.com, phone: 818-390-3888

- Please complete a Proforma Invoice. **YOU MUST DESIGNATE THAT YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR ALL U.S. CUSTOMS CHARGES ON YOUR INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING DOCUMENTS OR AIRWAY BILL.** Accolade Brands is not responsible for U.S. Customs & Brokerage Charges and if this is not done properly, your shipment could be delayed until we receive payment for these charges. If the shipment is large enough for commercial airfreight, we must collect estimated tax, duty, and customs charges in advance. The commercial value for samples is typically one Euro per bottle and this should be stated on a pro-forma invoice.

- **Option 1** – Use UPS, FedEx, or DHL. Please charge your UPS, FedEx, or DHL account and include payment of all Customs Charges. The shipment must be DDP, Tax and Duty to be paid by the producer.

We require a credit card number just in case you have not completed the shipping forms correctly and you will only be billed for any excess charges or taxes that are billed to our account for your shipment.

- **Option 2** – Airline airfreight or DHL. This is usually a more expensive option than UPS or FedEx.

All bottles must carry a statement these bottles are “TRADE SAMPLES – Not for Resale

- ENTRIES** ⁽²⁾ – An entry shall consist of at least three (3) bottles. Each bottle entry is 250 ml to 500 ml (if bottles contain less than 250 ml, please send 4 bottles). PLEASE LIST CLASS/CATEGORY NUMBERS ON ENTRY FORM. Entries are assigned random judging codes and then placed on storage racks in our cellar separated into categories. All deliveries should be received by the shipping deadline (February 6), allowing ample time for oils to recover from transportation bottle shock before being judged. Before judging, servers place codes on the blue tasting glasses, and the oils are carefully poured into the proper glasses. The coded tasting glasses are then placed in front of each judge. Each judge tastes the oils and makes selections independently.

Regional Designations: Regional designations refer to the location where the olives were grown.

- **International:** Old World oil-producing countries are divided by regions and classes as indicated below. New World producers are divided into Mono Cultivars and Blends.

International Regional Class/Categories Defined: Italy – North (Piemonte, Liguria, Lombardia, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia) Italy – Central (Emilia-Romagna, Toscana, Umbria, Marche) Italy – South (Lazio, Abruzzo, Molise, Campania, Puglia, Basilicata, Calabria) Italy – Islands (Sicilia, Sardegna) Spain – North (Catalunya-Aragon, Castilla-La Mancha, Valencia, Murcia, Majorca, Siurana, Taragona, Les Garrigues, Ciudad Real) Spain – South (Andalucia, Alicante, Cordoba, Extremadura, Jaen) Greece – Mainland (Messina, Kalamata) Greece – Islands; North Africa (Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt) Middle East (Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Syria)

Intensity Levels: The Los Angeles International Extra Virgin Olive Oil Competition intensities are divided into Delicate, Medium, and Robust within each division & category. An oil may be assigned to a different intensity level if the judges deem it at a different level.

Intensity	Delicate	Medium	Robust
	(Light fruitiness intensity)	(Medium fruitiness Intensity)	(Intense fruitiness)
Fruitiness	2-10	4-10	5-10
Bitterness	<2	2-4	3-6
Pungency	<2	2-4	3-8

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Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Little to no bitterness and/or pungency ○ Later harvest ○ Buttery, nutty, and predominantly ripe fruit flavors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some bitterness and/or pungency ○ Mid-season harvest or blended ○ Pronounced ripe and/or green fruit flavors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Distinct bitterness and/or pungency ○ Earlier harvest ○ Predominantly green fruit flavors
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4. **Judging:** The Los Angeles International Extra Virgin Olive Oil Competition uses a 100-point scoring system based on Fruitiness intensity, Complexity and Harmony.

The decision of the judges is final, and no changes will be made to awards after the judging is complete.

5. **Awards and Medals:** We award Gold, Silver, Bronze Best of Class, Best of Division and Best of Show. An award or medal is given to a producer for a particular oil, a specific variety or blend, produced that season from current fruit. Best of Class awards will be awarded by division, category and intensity. Best of Class Oils will compete for Best of Division. Best of Division oils will compete for the “Premio Mugelli/Mugelli Award” in honor of Marco Mugelli. The Best Flavored oil will be awarded the “Margaret Edwards Award” in honor of Margaret Edwards. The medal or award may only be displayed on the identical oil on which the Best of Show, Best of Division, Best of Class, Gold, Silver or Bronze Medal was awarded. Awards from previous Judging’s may not be placed on bottles for publicity. The Los Angeles International Extra Virgin Olive Oil Competition will offer, for purchase, Best of Show, Best of Class, Gold, Silver, and Bronze award seals to the producers that won these awards.
6. March 2, 2026, the competition results will be posted on the website www.LAOliveOilComp.com.
7. May 7 - 31, 2026 is the Los Angeles County Fair. All International Competition award-winning products will be displayed in the Tasting Room. There will also be gold medal wine and olive oil tastings, and education seminars featuring entrants from Olive Oil, Wine, Spirits and Dairy competitions in the Tasting Room education classroom.

For more information, please contact our International Competitions Dept., (909) 865-4538 or e-mail Competitions@fairplex.com

www.LAOliveOilComp.com

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