

Regulation

**I N T E R N A T I O N A L  
O L I V E O I L  
C O M P E T I O N  
A I P O S I L V E R**

**20**  **26**

**CATEGORIES IN COMPETITION**

**Extra Virgin Olive Oil with Protected Denomination of Origin/Protected Geographical Indication (PDO/PGI)**

**ORGANIC Extra Virgin Olive Oil**

**Extra Virgin Olive Oil MONOVARIETAL**

**Extra Virgin Olive Oil BLEND**

**9th Edition EVOO TOP WINNERS**

**Condiment based on FLAVORED Extra Virgin Olive Oil**

**EDIBLE OLIVES**

**OLIVE PATE'**

### Regulation

#### **Art. 1 – Organization and purpose**

The A.I.P.O. - Interregional Association of Olive Producers of Verona organizes in the period **January-May 2026**, the **23<sup>rd</sup> International Oil Competition "AIPO D'ARGENTO-SILVER AIPO"**.

**The initiative** - in the following identified with the term "Competition" and / or "Event" and / or "Initiative" and / or "Competition" - **aims to enhance, through rigorous, impartial evaluation analysis of a professional panel, highly qualified and proven international experience, the best oil production in the Mediterranean area** in order to enhance the wide range of quality extra virgin olive oils and table olives, Italian and international produced in the Mediterranean area where more than 90% of the world's production of quality oils and quality olives is concentrated, with the intent to educate consumers to their consumption.

The purpose of both competitions is to

- **highlight the best olive oil productions**, making them known to national and foreign consumers and operators
- **valorise typical extra virgin olive oils** in their different varieties, especially related to geographical origin
- **valorise olives for consumption and olive pâtés** in their different varieties, especially related to geographical origin
- **stimulate and reward the efforts of companies** aimed at the continuous improvement of product quality

The aim, as stated above, is to contribute, through a stimulating confrontation, to the affirmation of higher and more qualifying levels of entrepreneurial culture of the entire international olive-growing system, both in the management of the olive grove, in the harvest, in the pressing of the olives and in the preparation of the olives for consumption, in order to achieve ever higher levels of quality in the oil and olives produced, as well as in their correct management and storage.

#### **Art. 2 – Sponsoring bodies**

The Competition is held under the High Patronage of the **Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry (Masaf) of the Italian Republic** and, if necessary, of regional, national and supranational **Bodies, Organizations, Associations and Institutions**.

The evaluation of the samples by the Jury carried out by adopting the **C.O.I. (International Olive Oil Council) method of analysis**.

The legal representatives of the Ministry and/or the other sponsors shall be part, by right, of the **Event's Guarantee Committee**, which may be convened, in case of need and/or to resolve any procedural variations arising during the various stages of the competition, by the President of AIPO and shall be chaired by the same.

#### **Art. 3 – Admission titles to the Silver Aipo Competition**

Eligible for the **23<sup>rd</sup> "AIPO D'ARGENTO" International Olive Oil Competition** are extra virgin olive oils and olives for consumption produced and marketed by the following operators:

- a) **olive producers** producing their own oil and marketed under their own label;
- b) **mills, cooperative oil mills, organisations and/or associations of producers**;
- c) **owners of companies** and/or **bottling companies - packaging machines - traders**, subject to all types of control, certification, if they hold, in the area of their competence, a quantity of product ready for release for consumption.

**Excluded from the Competition are producers and/or oil mills that do not meet the requirements set forth in points a), b), c) of this regulation (paragraph 1 art. 3).**

May participate in the competition all those companies in possession of the requirements and documents, unequivocally and under its responsibility, that the sample(s) of extra virgin olive oil entered has (have) been produced in **quantities not less than 500 kg. and 100 kg for olives for consumption and olive paste**.

**All samples of companies not in compliance with the provisions of this regulation and those not in compliance with the required documentation (art. 6) and / or the payment of secretarial fees due, will be excluded.**

#### **Art. 4 - Eligibility for the Evoo Top Winners Award**

Only extra virgin olive oils produced and marketed by the following subjects may be admitted to the **11th Edition** of the **Evoo Top Winners**:

- a) **olive growers** producing their own oil and marketed under their own label.
- b) **oil mills, cooperative oil mills, producer organizations, producer associations**.
- c) **owners of bottling - packaging - trading companies and/or firms**, subject to any control or certification system, holding, in their area of competence, product ready to be released for consumption.

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**Producers and /or mills** that do **not meet** the requirements set out in points a), b), c) of this regulation (**paragraph 1 art. 4**) will be excluded.

The Competition is open to all companies that, in possession of the required requisites, document, unequivocally and under their own responsibility, that the sample(s) of extra virgin olive oil presented have been produced in a quantity of not less than 500 kg.

Participation is reserved exclusively for those companies that in the years 2023 and 2024 took part in the 'Concorso Internazionale Aipo d'Argento', winning one of the categories in the competition (first place), or took part in national and international olive oil competitions, again in the years 2023 and 2024, finishing first or second.

As proof, an official document attesting to the classification achieved or a documented self-certification that will have legal value in the event of a dispute is requested.

**Therefore, all samples from companies that do not comply with the provisions of this regulation and those that do not comply with the required documentation (art. 6) and/or the payment of the secretariat fees due will be excluded.**

#### **Art. 5 – Categories and/or subgroups of the event**

Each submitted sample will be regularly registered for the **23rd edition of the Competition**, in one of the following categories:

#### **ITALIAN AND INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTION AREA**

##### **Category 1**

**Extra virgin olive oil with PROTECTED ORIGIN / GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION (DOP /PGI).**

- subgroup: light fruity, medium fruity "3.1", medium fruity "4.6", intense fruity

##### **Category 2**

**ORGANIC extra virgin olive oil**

- subgroup: light fruity, medium fruity "3.1", medium fruity "4.6", intense fruity

##### **Category 3**

**EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL MONOVARIETAL**

- subgroup: light fruity, medium fruity "3.1", medium fruity "4.6", intense fruity

##### **Category 4**

**Extra virgin olive oil EXTRA VIRGIN**

- subgroup: light fruity, medium fruity "3.1", medium fruity "4.6", intense fruity

##### **Category 5**

**10° EVOO TOP WINNERS AWARD**

- subgroup: light fruity, medium fruity "3.1", medium fruity "4.6", intense fruity

##### **Category 6**

**Condiments based on FLAVORED extra virgin olive oil**

Each sample will be inserted, as required by art. 9, in one of the following subgroups:

- **spices** (type: nutmeg, cloves, cinnamon, pepper, turmeric, other)
- **citrus** fruits (type: lemon, lime, orange, mandarin, cedar, grapefruit, other)
- **vegetables: vegetable/fresh herbs** (type: green pepper, chilli, dill, thyme, mint, chives, basil, eucalyptus, rosemary, marjoram, bay leaf, tomato, other).

##### **Category 7**

**OLIVES FOR CONSUMPTION**

Each sample shall be placed, as provided for in Article 9, in one of the following subgroups

- olives in brine (whole or pitted)
- olives in oil (whole or pitted)
- dressed/tinned olives (whole or pitted);
- dehydrated olives (whole or pitted).

##### **Category 8**

**OLIVE PATE'**

Each sample shall be placed in one of the following subgroups, as provided for in article 9:

- **Black olives pâté;**
- **Green olives pâté**

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#### **Art. 6 – Forms, sending and participation fees**

For each registered sample, the competing Company must fulfill the following commitments:

**a) send by courier and / or "priority" postal package:**

- **by and no later than 31st March 2025** to the Organisational Secretariat (AIPO, Viale del Lavoro 52, 37135 Verona - Tel. +39 045 8678260), **no. 3 bottles packaged and labelled, of at least 500 ml. (or larger), for olives for consumption No. 3 jars/pouches packed and labelled, minimum 212 ml/190 g (or larger) for olives for consumption and olive pâté.**

Each carton must, compulsorily, bear the following inscription on the outside: "**NON-COMMERCIAL SAMPLE participating in the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the International Olive Oil Competition "AIPO D'ARGENTO 2025".**

**b) Oil/olives data sheet of each sample registered together with the company data sheet, both completed, in all their parts, in a legible way, or alternatively sent to the [email info@aipoverona.it](mailto:info@aipoverona.it) (format: word, jpg, pdf), necessary for the traditional **Catalog of Samples and Companies** participating in the Competition.**

Publication that will be disseminated, mainly through the official website of the Competition ([www.aipodargento.it](http://www.aipodargento.it)) and / or through a selected mailing, to the world of Ho.Re.Ca.

The Organization (AIPO) also reserves the right to use part of the samples received for educational activities and / or promotional purposes, and / or through tasting sections.

**c) application form, drawn up in block letters, with legible writing, signed by the legal manager of the Company or Mill or Cooperative or competing company, Italian or foreign, compulsorily accompanied by a VAT number and Tax Code.**

The Organizers, after receipt of the application(s), may carry out a check, also by e-mail, to verify and / or modify the company data. All to avoid any errors of insertion in the database of the Competition.

**d) receipt of payment of secretarial fees to be made by:**

- **bank transfer**, payable to Associazione Interregionale Produttori Olivicoli – A.I.P.O. (Intesa San Paolo - Verona Branch, Vicolo Ghiaia n.9 **IBAN: IT35A0306918463100000003934 - SWIFT BIC BCITITMM**) to be sent at the same time as the application for participation (under penalty of exclusion from the Competition).
- **cash**, it must take place at the same time as the submission of the application by attaching the amount to the documentation, in a sealed and waterproofed envelope, inserted inside the packaging containing the sample (s) registered. The participating company, in this case, will be issued a regular receipt.

**e) The amount of the participation fee is set at: Entry fee per sample. This fee grants the right to enter one's sample(s) in any compatible category of the competition. The amounts to be paid are as follows:**

- €150.00 per sample (VAT included) for the first sample.
- €100.00 per sample (VAT included) from the second sample onwards.

**f) For samples coming from foreign countries, VAT will not be separated as it is a service rendered in Italy.**

**The sample(s) without, even in part, of the required documentation will not be admitted to the competition and payments other than those made by bank transfer and / or cash will not be accepted.**

#### **Art. 7 – Reasons for exclusion**

The technical-organizational secretariat of the Competition declines all responsibility for:

- any late arrival** of the samples with respect to the date referred to in Article 6 of this Regulation,
- the total or partial loss** of samples during transport.
- the partial and/or total breakage** of the product during transport.
- any chemical-physical and organoleptic alterations of the samples** due to thermal excursions.
- other anomalies suffered by the sample/s** during transport.

The **costs of shipping, customs clearance, and subsequent** transport to the place of destination of the package with the sample (s) are always charged by the participating companies.

Failure to comply with these provisions may be a reason for excluding the sample(s) from the Competition, therefore the company will not be able to request the return of the registration fee paid and the samples sent or the reimbursement of shipping costs.

Samples sent at the expense of the recipient will be refused.

#### **Art. 8 – Receiving and anonymisation**

From the receiving to the beginning of the sensory analysis, the organizational secretariat will take care of the correct conservation, in a suitable environment and temperature, of the sample (s).

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Each sample will be doubly anonymized.

The person in charge of the organization is legally responsible for the correct and transparent execution of each phase and will be able to make use of the collaboration of personnel of his trust and proven professionalism.

The same will be responsible, for the entire duration of the Competition, for the respect of the formal and substantial aspects of the regulations and operating methods of the Competition as well as the correct behavior of the individual members of the tasting commission.

It will also be the sole guarantor of the procedures for receipt, storage, and anonymization of the samples as well as the verification of the evaluation sheets, their correct compilation and the subsequent realization and approval of the partial and / or final rankings of the Competition.

#### **Art. 9 – Evaluation process**

The analysis activities of the samples registered in the Competition will be articulated for the categories 1) 2) 3) 4) 5) referred to in art. 5 in 4 steps:

- **1st Stage:** each sample will undergo **chemical analysis** to assess its belonging to the product category of extra virgin olive oils.
- **2nd Stage:** The Tasting Commission (and/or Panel), coordinated by the panel leader and the organizational manager of the Competition, will proceed **with the sensory analysis** of the oils received, will identify the samples with smell/taste differences and the inclusion of all the oils received in the different subgroups (light, medium and intense fruity).
- **3rd Stage:** The Tasting Commission (and/or Panel), coordinated by the panel leader and the organizational manager of the Competition, will proceed to the selection of the samples who have passed the 2nd phase who will access the final phase by assigning them a score expressed in cents.
- **4th Stage:** The Tasting Commission (and/or Panel), coordinated by the panel leader and the organizational manager of the Competition, will proceed to evaluate the best oil samples that have passed the 3rd stage by assigning them a score expressed in cents and the consequent ranking.

The Panel will be composed of 8 tasters regularly registered in the appropriate Register and part of the **AIPO Official Tasting Committee, officially recognized by the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (Masaf).**

The method of evaluation of the samples is the one adopted (COI model) commonly in similar international competitions.

The Panel, at any stage of the planned activities, will express its judgment, independently and in cents.

The final score will be the result of the arithmetic average of the judgments of each panel member expressed in cents.

The ratings of the Tasting Committee are irrevocable.

The chemical and/or sensory evaluation will be sent by e-mail to all producers who request it by 31/05/2025 and who are up to date with the payment of the secretariat fee

#### **Art. 10 – Awards –AIPO SILVER**

To the samples of each category and subgroup referred to in art. 5 paragraph 1 points 1), 2), 3), 4), 6), the Panel will assign, at its sole discretion, the following awards:

- score from 70/100 to 79,99/100 - **Goccia di Bronzo, Bronze Drop;**
- score from 80/100 to 89,99/100 – **Goccia d'Argento, Silver Drop.**
- score from 90/100 to 100/100 – **Goccia d'Oro, Gold Drop.**
- to the highest score – **Gran Goccia d'Oro, Grand Gold Drop "FIRST ABSOLUTE SILVER AIPO"**

#### **Art. 11 – Awards EVOO TOP WINNERS**

To the samples of each category and subgroup referred to in art. 5 paragraph 1 points 5), the Panel will assign, at its sole discretion, the following awards:

- score from 70/100 to 79,99/100 – **Goccia di Bronzo, Bronze Drop.**
- score from 80/100 to 89,99/100 – **Goccia d'Argento, Silver Drop.**
- score from 90/100 to 100/100 – **Goccia d'Or, Gold Drop.**
- to the highest score – **Gran Goccia d'Oro, Great Gold Drop "FIRST ABSOLUTE EVOO TOP WINNERS"**

#### **Art. 12 – SPECIAL Awards**

To further reward the efforts of the participants, the AIPO D'ARGENTO also assigns "**SPECIAL**" awards, such as:

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1. **Best extra virgin olive oil by Country of Origin** e.g., Italy, Spain, etc. (minimum 10 participating companies from that Country, the sample that has reached the highest absolute score will be awarded);
2. **Best extra virgin olive oil by Region of Origin for the "ITALIAN" category** e.g., Puglia, Abruzzo, etc. (minimum 10 participating companies from that Region, the sample that has reached the highest absolute score will be awarded);
3. **Best packaging.**

**Art. 13 – Promotion and dissemination**

Wide visibility will be given to the companies and the samples they sent through the main social channels.

**Art. 14 – Label or promotional collar AIPO D'ARGENTO "SELECTED COMPANY"**

The participating Companies, whose sample (s) has passed the preparatory selection phase (art. 9 phase 1 and 2), and intend to underline the event in their promotional and marketing activities (in any case complying with the regulations in force in each country), may make a written request (with the appropriate form attached to the application form or by email to the organizing secretariat) of the logo of the Competition illustrated below:

**Selected Company  
 AIPO D'ARGENTO INTERNATIONAL OLIVE OIL COMPETITION  
 Selected Company  
 INTERNATIONAL OLIVE OIL COMPETITION AIPO SILVER**



The minimum stock that can be purchased will be n. 500 Labels or collars at cost, purely as reimbursement of expenses of € 0.20 for each mark (Label).

The Labels or collars will be available only in reels or packages, not divisible, of n. 500 pieces.

**Art. 15 – Promotional Label EVOO TOP WINNERS "SELECTED COMPANY"**

The participating Companies, whose sample(s) have passed the preparatory selection phase (art. 9 phase 1 and 2), and intend to underline the event in their promotional and marketing activities (in any case complying with the regulations in force in each country), may make a written request (on the appropriate form attached to the application form or by email to the Organizing Secretariat) of the logo of the Competition illustrated below:

**Selected Company "EVOO TOP WINNERS"  
 Selected Company "EVOO TOP WINNERS"**

**LABEL**  
 (Size 30mm x 30mm)

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The minimum stock that can be purchased will be n. 500 Labels at cost, as reimbursement of expenses of € 0.20 for each mark (Label).

The Labels or collars will be available only in reels, not divisible, of n. 500 pieces.

#### **Art. 16 – Promotional Label of the "PRIZES"**

The participating Companies, whose sample (s) are among the winners as **required by articles 10, 11 and 12** and who intend to emphasize the event in their promotional and commercial activity (in any case complying with the regulations in force in each country), may make a written request to receive the **high-definition file** of the Label showing the category of prize won (**Bronze Drop, Silver Drop, Gold Drop, Golden Drop FIRST ABSOLUTE**) to be printed and affixed on the label, on the collar, on the packaging or on your promotional material (brochure, website, media, press, social networks, etc.).

Price list of the files with the Label certifying the prize category won:

- One Label: € 50,00
- Up to 2 Labels: € 30,00/each
- Over 2 Labels: € 25,00/each

Technical printing specifications for adhesives: **print size: 30 mm x 30 mm** – edge requirements (**standard and minimum dimensions**).

You can request the file by writing to the e-mail address: [info@aipoverona.it](mailto:info@aipoverona.it) attaching the relative receipt of payment (**in advance**).

The winners are authorized to affix the reproduction of the Label provided for a fee by the organization, only on the bottles of the same year of production and containing the same extra virgin olive oil or condiment and with the same packaging of the winning sample. Any other use of the prize Label is not allowed, and the organizing secretariat declines all responsibility.

#### **GREAT DROPS (size 30mm X 35mm)**



#### **Art. 17 – Award ceremony**

##### **Art. 17 - Award Ceremony**

The proclamation of the winners will take place on Lake Garda on Friday, May 15, 2026, in Bardolino (Verona) on the occasion of the 2nd edition of "**OLIVUM BARDOLINO - olive oil festival**".

Each winning company will be notified, by e-mail or otherwise, of the time and place where this ceremony will take place.

**The prizes of the first prize winners not collected** during the award ceremony will remain available 60 days at the competition secretariat and may be requested by telephone or e-mail, at the applicant's expense.

**All other awards will be sent, ONLY upon request, in digital format**

AIPO declines all responsibility for any loss or non-delivery of the required titles.

The **Competition Management Committee** reserves the right to modify, in whole or in part, the provisions of these Regulations if it deems it essential for the best performance of the event, its success and in the interest of the participating companies.

**For any dispute, the competent court is that of Verona.**