



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **The first in-person Star Wine List of the Year awards for the Netherlands, in joint ceremony with Belgium**

**Star Wine List, the celebrated international guide to great wine bars and restaurants, has announced the launch of its 2025/2026 Star Wine List of the Year awards tour, spanning Europe, Asia, the UAE, and North America. The competition celebrates the world's most exceptional wine lists and the talented sommeliers who create them.**

For the first time, Star Wine List of the Year will celebrate the Netherlands' finest wine lists with a live awards ceremony at **Zalmhuis in Rotterdam**, during a combined event also recognising Belgium, on 29 September 2025.

This marks the highly anticipated debut of the Star Wine List of the Year awards in the Netherlands (following a previous virtual event), a move prompted by the country's exceptional showing in the International Open, Star Wine List of the Year's digital awards for countries without an in-person event.

"We've had so many strong entries from the Netherlands to our International Open awards. We are very happy to add an in-person in the Netherlands to our tour," says Krister Bengtsson, Founder and Publisher of Star Wine List.

The Dutch winners will be celebrated alongside their Belgian counterparts, for whom this is the third annual awards event.

The entries will be assessed by an elite panel of world-renowned judges, including:

- **Nina Jensen**, Second-Best Sommelier of the World 2019 and 2023 (ASI)
- **Mikk Parre**, Best Sommelier of Europe, Middle East and Africa 2024 (ASI)
- **Toru Takamatsu**, Master Sommelier
- **Jonathan Gouveia**, Master Sommelier



As part of the 2025/2026 global tour, the competition introduces exciting new categories, including “**Best Italian Wine List**” and a formal “**Special Jury Prize**” for a venue offering a truly extraordinary experience. Gold Stars will be awarded to winners from both the Netherlands and Belgium, honouring the best of each nation at the combined ceremony.

### **Key Dates:**

- **Entries open:** 3 July 2025
- **Deadline for entries:** 10 August 2025
- **Finalists announced:** 4 September 2025
- **Awards event:** 29 September 2025

Restaurants and wine bars in Belgium and the Netherlands are now invited to submit their wine lists for free.

### **Star Wine List of the Year 2025/2026 tour schedule:**

#### **Autumn 2025:**

- The Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) – 15 September – *entries now open!*
- Belgium and the Netherlands – 29 September – *entries now open!*
- Norway – 12 October – *entries now open!*
- Ireland (Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland) – 10 November
- Denmark – 24 November
- United Arab Emirates – 8 December

#### **Spring 2026:**

- Asia
- Austria, Germany & Switzerland
- Florida
- France
- International Open (for countries not covered by their own event)
- Japan
- New York
- Spain
- Sweden
- UK

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**About Star Wine List:**

*Star Wine List is the award-winning guide to great wine bars and wine restaurants around the world. It is available as an app and at [starwinelist.com](http://starwinelist.com). It was launched in Stockholm (Sweden) in 2017, and is now live in more than 45 countries. All venues are selected by top wine professionals. **Star Wine List of the Year** is an international competition celebrating the wonderful wine lists of the world and the dedicated sommelier teams who create them. Since its inception in 2018, this global tour has evolved to cover numerous territories, hosting events that recognise excellence in the wine and hospitality industries.*