



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
STOCKHOLM, Sweden
2 September 2025

Star Wine List of the Year UAE is returning to Dubai on 8 December 2025 – entries are now open

Star Wine List, the international guide to great wine bars and restaurants, has announced the launch of its 2025/26 Star Wine List of the Year awards tour, spanning Europe, Asia and North America. The competition celebrates the exceptional wine lists of the world and the talented sommeliers who create them.

Entries are now open for the third Star Wine List of the Year event in the UAE, and all restaurants and wine bars across the states are invited to submit their wine lists – free of charge. The winners in 10 categories will be awarded Gold Stars at an awards ceremony at [Sexy Fish Dubai](#) on 8th December. The submitted wine lists will be evaluated by a stellar panel of judges, including Raimonds Tomsons, Best Sommelier of the World 2023. The full list of judges is below:

- Mikk Parre – Best Sommelier of Europe, Africa and Middle East 2024
- Raimonds Tomsons – Best Sommelier of the World 2023
- Salvatore Castano – Best Sommelier of Europe, Africa and Middle East 2021
- Vincent Truong – Dubai-based wine expert and educator

“We are thrilled to be back in Dubai to experience its world-class wine scene,” says Krister Bengtsson, Founder and Publisher of Star Wine List. “The standard here is remarkable, and we know the judges face a difficult task ahead due to the sheer level of talent.”

For the 2025/26 global tour, the competition has introduced some exciting new categories, including “**Best Italian Wine List**” and a formal “**Special Jury Prize**” rewarding a wine lovers’ place that does something out of the ordinary. Winners in the international categories will all go on to compete in the Star Wine List of the Year International Final, which will be held in June 2026. This year, the UAE competition also includes a local category celebrating the “**Best California Wine List**.”

Key dates:

- **Entries open:** 4 September 2025
- **Deadline for entries:** 19 October 2025
- **Finalists announced:** 13 November 2025



- Awards event: 8 December 2025

Star Wine List of the Year 2025/'26 tour schedule:

Autumn 2025:

- The Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) – 15 September
- Belgium and the Netherlands – 29 September
- Norway – 12 October
- 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

Media contact:

Asa Johansson
Project Manager
asa@starwinelist.com
+393389303056
starwinelist.com

Photos: <https://starwinelist.com/media>

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. 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.