



Junta de
Castilla y León

Cincho

CHEESE AWARDS 2026

CONCURSO INTERNACIONAL DE QUESO



CHEESE AWARDS 2026

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DISCOVER OUR HISTORY



Year 2000

The Cincho Awards were established in 2000, promoted by the Regional Government of Castilla y León, with the aim of creating a national competition to recognize excellence among Spain's finest cheeses and to promote cheese culture and consumption.

Year 2004

After being held annually in its early editions, the competition adopted a biennial format in 2004. In 2008, it gained international reach, with the opening participation to producers from around the world.

Year 2024

From the outset, the competition has stood out for its pioneering spirit and commitment to technical innovation, incorporating computerized systems that positioned it as a national and international benchmark in sensory cheese evaluation.

With more than two decades of history, the Cincho Awards are a symbol of excellence and prestige, widely recognized for their commitment to quality and worldwide promotion of cheese.



THE CINCHO INTERNATIONAL AWARDS
COMPETITION 2024 AT A GLANCE

16

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

1220

SAMPLES SUBMITTED

60

EXPERT TASTERS

MISSION

To recognize outstanding quality in cheese production.

OBJECTIVES

Our objective is to become the leading international cheese competition in Spain, **promoting cheese culture** through the recognition of its most outstanding stakeholders.

Since its inception, the competition has maintained a **strong commitment to**:

- Bringing cheese culture **closer to consumers**.
- Creating a **meeting point** for the finest international cheeses
- **Promoting** technical and scientific knowledge in cheese evaluation
- Promoting **cheese culture** at an international level
- Recognizing **excellence** in cheese production
- **Encouraging** the consumption of high-quality cheese

WHY ENTER?

The Cincho Awards offer the opportunity to take part in an **internationally recognized** competition where sensory quality is the sole criterion for recognition.

A Cincho Award is synonymous with **prestige, quality, and trust**, translating into greater visibility among the market and consumers.

With its long-standing track record and global reach, the competition has established itself as a **symbol of recognition** and continuous improvement, encouraging producers to keep refining their craft.

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National and
international exposure



Position your cheese in
an international arena



High-level international
tasting panel



Technical rigor and
anonymity in tastings



20 years of experience.
10 years at international level



DO YOU WANT TO TAKE PART IN THE COMPETITION?

Don't miss the opportunity to have your cheese recognized as one of the finest on the international stage. Take part in the next edition of the competition in **2026!**



KEY BENEFITS

ACCESS A **NETWORK OF**
CHEESE PROFESSIONALS
AND ENTHUSIASTS



INTERNATIONAL
RECOGNITION



GAIN PRESTIGE AND
ENHANCE YOUR CHEESERY'S
REPUTATION



TASTING PANEL

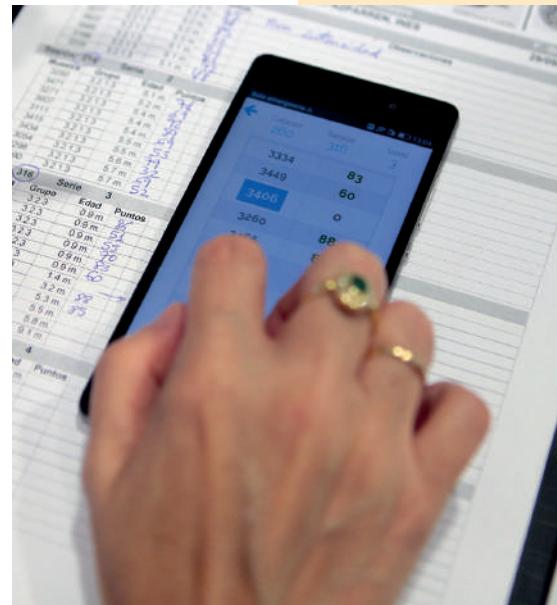
Have your cheese evaluated in a global setting by both national and international experts.

PROFESSIONAL TASTINGS June 2–4, 2026

Tordesillas (Valladolid, Castilla y León) Spain

All tastings are conducted blind, using a **computerized procedure** that guarantees impartiality and confidentiality throughout every stage of the competition.

Their work ensures that the Cincho Awards are the result of a professional, independent, and transparent evaluation process, **widely recognized** by the sector at international level.





THE JURY

The Cincho Awards Jury is composed of **highly respected national and international tasters** with extensive experience in the dairy sector and a strong commitment to quality and excellence.

Their role is to ensure an **objective and rigorous evaluation** of all samples in accordance with international standards.

The Jury combines technical training, expertise in sensory analysis, and professional ethics, ensuring that each cheese is assessed with the highest level of rigor and transparency.

AWARDS



GRAND GOLD CINCHO

The highest distinction, awarded to recognize in an outstanding manner the three cheeses of the highest quality and international prestige.



GOLD AND SILVER CINCHO

An honorary distinction rewarding the quality and unique character of each cheese across the 43 competition categories.



CINCHO AWARD FOR MILK QUALITY

Recognizes excellence in sheep, cow, and goat dairy farms in Castilla y León.



SPECIAL AWARDS

A prestigious recognition granted to:

- Best Organic Cheese
- Best Sheep's Milk Cheese in Spain
- Best Cheese from Castilla y León



CINCHO HONORARY AWARDS

Awarded to individuals and/or organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to the promotion and development of the dairy sector.

COMPETITION ORGANIZATION

The Cincho International Cheese Awards are organized by the Technological Institute of Agriculture of Castilla y León (ITACyL), a public body under the Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Rural Development of the Government of Castilla y León.



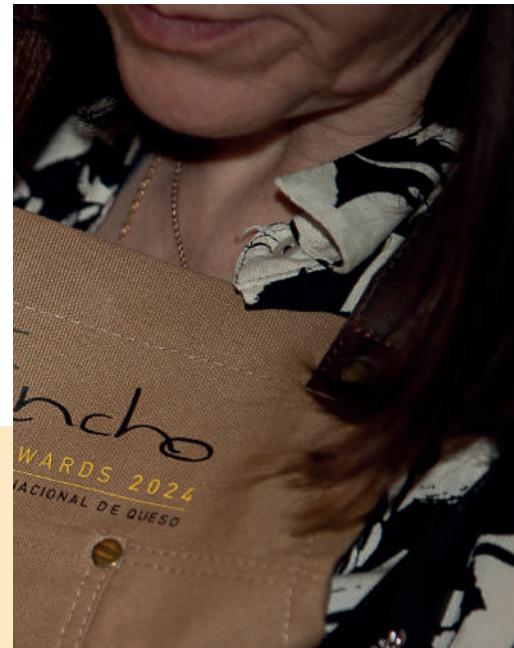
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The Technical Directorate, made up of expert technicians and researchers specializing in the dairy sector, ensures the proper functioning of the competition, guaranteeing impartiality and technical rigor.





REGULATIONS

The Cincho Awards are governed by Regulations that establish the **rules for participation and operation**, ensuring transparency, technical rigor, and equal conditions for all participants.

This regulatory framework defines the competition guidelines, evaluation criteria, and award rules, **ensuring impartiality and confidentiality** throughout the entire tasting process.

ENTRIES

ENTER YOUR CHEESE

**From April 6
to May 24, 2026**

ENTRIES LIMITED TO
1,500 CHEESES

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CONCURSO INTERNACIONAL DE QUESO

PUT YOUR CHEESE ON
THE INTERNATIONAL MAP

Cincho Awards

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