

TERMS FOR PARTICIPATION WORLD PAELLA DAY CUP 2026

DESCRIPTION

The **VII World Paella Day CUP** is underway to celebrate the **IX World Paella Day**. An international competition where **14 to 18 chefs** will advance to the grand final and defend their country with their paella on **20 September**.

This year, once again, the finalist chefs will participate in the **World Paella Day Stage Valencia** experience, spending five days in Valencia to immerse themselves in the culture of paella and its Mediterranean pantry: with scheduled visits to the Huerta de València, the rice fields of the Albufera Natural Park, the city's Central Market and much more.

This year, there will be **10 national semi-finals** held in person and **three continental semi-finals**: two in Europe (**Nordics & Baltics** and **South & Central**) and one in America. The calendar information is updated on [the website](#).

Spain continues to host the competition without participating in it. Finalists from the previous three editions are also ineligible to participate.

PARTICIPATION PROCEDURE

Participation is divided into **five phases**:

PHASE 1. HOW TO PARTICIPATE

A) COUNTRIES WITH NATIONAL SEMIFINAL:

Each candidate must complete their country's semi-final form within the specified time frame and send the required information to: worldcup@worldpaelladay.org.

B) EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN COUNTRIES WITHOUT NATIONAL SEMIFINAL:

Each candidate must complete the continental semi-final form within the corresponding deadline and send the required information to: worldcup@worldpaelladay.org.
Two semi-finals will be held in **Europe**, one in **Copenhagen** (Denmark) for **Scandinavia** and the **Baltic Republics**, and another in **Burgas** (Bulgaria) for the rest of the countries; and one in America, to be held in **Piriápolis** (Uruguay).

C) OTHER COUNTRIES:

Each candidate from Africa, Oceania, or Asia (except Japan) must complete [this form](#) and send the required information to: worldcup@worldpaelladay.org.

D) DIRECT INVITATION (WILD CARD):

With the aim of reinforcing the global, inclusive and representative nature of the **World Paella Day Cup**, the Organisation reserves the right to admit participants from countries that have not obtained representation through the official calendar of face-to-face semi-finals.

Such admission will be made by special invitation, based on criteria such as the guest's international profile, proven gastronomic excellence and connection to the promotion of paella as culinary heritage, videos submitted, letters of support/reference and criteria of

PHASE 2. SELECTION OF SEMIFINALISTS

Each semi-final will have a mixed jury composed of members of the **World Paella Day Cup** organisation together with the organisers of the qualifying rounds. The jury will be responsible for selecting the semi-finalists to participate in the various competitions.

The selection will be made taking into account the profile of each candidate, their gastronomic background, their presence on social media and the videos submitted. Criteria of geographical representation will also be applied.

Those selected will be notified by personalised email.

PHASE 3. SELECTION OF FINALISTS

The winners of the qualifying rounds (**see Phase 1, A and B**) will earn a place in the **GRAND FINAL in Valencia**.

A jury composed of members of the World Paella Day organisation will decide whether to add any more finalists (**see Phase 1, C and D**) – criteria similar to those used to select the semi-finalists will be taken into account: gastronomic background and social media presence, videos submitted, possible letters of support/reference and geographical representativeness criteria.

The names of all the finalists will be announced in **July 2026**, once all the in-person semi-finals have been completed

PHASE 4. WORLD PAELLA DAY STAGE (FROM 17 TO 21 SEPTEMBER)

The selected finalists will be invited to travel to the city of Valencia to compete on **20 September** and take part in a full programme of activities that will allow them to get to know the **city of Valencia** and its province: the birthplace of paella and its Mediterranean larder.

The **World Paella Day Cup** organisation, together with the organisers of the qualifying rounds, will cover the travel expenses (train or economy class flights) and accommodation of each finalist chef plus one assistant (in a double room), as well as the activities included in the stage.

Acceptance of the conditions of participation is mandatory in order to confirm finalist status.



PHASE 5. THE GRAND FINAL IN VALENCIA: 20 SEPTEMBER 2026

Once the stage phase is complete, the finalists will compete with a single live cooking session on 20 September at a venue designated by the organisation.

PRIZE

All finalists and their assistants will be able to enjoy the **World Paella Day Stage**.

The **organization** will cover the following travel expenses:

- Travel expenses.
- Economy class or train ticket for the finalist and his/her assistant.
- Accommodation (four nights in a double room with breakfast at the MELIÁ VALENCIA hotel).
- meals/dinners included in the official programme in the days leading up to the final.

The winner of the competition will receive the trophy (*) as a prize, accrediting them as the winner of the **7th edition of the World Paella Cup**.

The second and third place winners will receive a certificate of honour.

All finalists will receive a commemorative jacket and a certificate of participation.

(*) The organisation will not cover the cost of transporting the winner's trophy. The prize and/or trophy shall not be transferable, redeemable for cash, nor substitutable for any form of monetary compensation, in whole or in part.

ASPECTS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR PARTICIPATION

- Materials (texts, images, videos, etc.) that are not submitted correctly for participation and within the established dates will be disqualified.
- Any entries received after the established deadlines will be rejected.
- A single finalist will be selected per country.
- Participants assign the image rights for the dissemination of the content in this promotional action indefinitely.
- The World Paella Day Cup Organisation reserves the right to interpret, modify or extend these rules, as well as to resolve any situation not provided for therein, in order to ensure the proper conduct of the event and its international projection.