



## 2023 SPIRITED AWARDS® FAQs

### **Q: When are this year's Spirited Awards?**

**A:** The 17th annual Spirited Awards ceremony will take place on Thursday, July 27, 2023, at The Fillmore, New Orleans.

### **Q: When is the nomination period?**

**A:** The 2023 Spirited Awards nomination form opens on Wednesday, February 1 and closes Wednesday, February 22 at 11:59 PM ET.

### **Q: What are the key changes or updates to the Spirited Awards this year?**

**A:**

- What was previously named the "Pioneer Award" will now be called the "Visionary Award."
- The criteria for the "World's Best Spirits Selection" Award has been updated to consider a venue's expertise and focus on a specific spirit or category of spirits.
- To qualify for "Best (International or U.S.) Brand Ambassador," an individual must have worked in that position for at least 1 year or since January 1, 2022.
- For "Best New Spirit or Cocktail Ingredient," A product that may have been launched before January 1, 2022 under one of the following classifications will still be eligible for nomination in this category as long as it established distribution in at least 3 states or countries between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022.
  - Non-Commercial Special Occasion Launch – whereby a product has been made for gifting and/or educational purposes and not released for general sale
  - Distillery Release – whereby a product is made available for purchase at the distillery where it is made for the immediate geographical area only
- **In light of the ongoing global events with the Russian government's invasion of Ukraine, Tales of the Cocktail Foundation's policy will remain unchanged for the 2023 Spirited Awards. The Spirited Awards Committee and Tales of the Cocktail Foundation Board will not consider nominees from Russia for this year's awards, nor will the Spirited Awards committee include any Russian-based judges.**
  - The Foundation stands in solidarity with colleagues and friends in the hospitality industry in Ukraine and to all citizens impacted by this catastrophic invasion. And, the organization acknowledges industry colleagues in Russia who do not support this war, but also have minimal ways to protest this war without risking their own personal safety.

### **Additional information to keep in mind:**

- If a bar has previously won "**World's Best Bar**," they are no longer eligible to win another Spirited Award, except for "Timeless" (which is selected through a different set of criteria).

- If a bar is determined to be a part of a “franchise bar” and one of its locations has previously won a specific award, other locations are no longer eligible for consideration for that award.
  - However, they are eligible for **“Best (International/U.S.) Bar Team”**
- If a bar has previously won **“Best (International/U.S.) High Volume Bar”** (now retired), they are NOT eligible to be considered for another “establishment” award: “Best Cocktail Bar,” “Best Hotel Bar,” and “Best Restaurant Bar” as they have already been recognized in the establishment category.
- **“Best Cocktail & Spirits Publication” & “Best Broadcast, Podcast, or Online Video Series”**: Winners are limited to no more than one (1) award every five (5) years.
- **“Best Cocktail & Spirits Writing”**: The writer of the winning piece is limited to no more than one (1) award every five (5) years.
  - This does not impact future nominations with the same publisher.
- **“Best New Cocktail or Bartending Book” & “Best New Book on Drinks Culture, History, or Spirits”**: An author may not win the same category two (2) years in a row and is limited to no more than two (2) awards in the same category within five (5) years.

**Q: What is considered a “franchise bar”?**

**A:** The Spirited Awards Committee defines a “franchise bar” as a bar concept which already exists in another geographical location, and has the same name, same or similar cocktail menus, and same or undeniably similar other key elements to the guest experience.

If a bar is replicated by the same owners in another location using the same name, same or similar menu and same or similar key elements of the guest experience then that bar is considered a “franchise bar.”

If a former Spirited Award winning bar is later replicated by the same owners in another location using the same name, same or similar key elements of the guest experience then that new (or those new) bars will not be eligible for nomination in an establishment category as the bar concept has already been celebrated for its excellence. Those subsequent bars will be eligible for the “Bar Team,” “World’s Best Cocktail Menu,” and “World’s Best Spirits Selection” awards.

**Q: How do I nominate?**

**A:** To nominate a bar, product, or person (or yourself) for a Spirited Award, you will need to complete the 2023 Spirited Awards Nomination Form online via [OpenWater](#).

**Q: I want to nominate a bar but not sure if they’ve won before. How can I find out?**

**A:** If you’d like to nominate a bar or person but want to make sure they haven’t won before you can view the [Spirited Awards Winner Archive](#), where you can view the winners by year or by category.

**Q: Can I self nominate?**

**A:** Yes, self nominations for bars, products, and/or people are accepted and encouraged! To nominate yourself for a Spirited Award, you will need to complete the 2023 Spirited Awards Nomination Form online via [OpenWater](#).

**Q: How many times can I nominate a bar, product, or person?**

**A:** A single nomination is all it takes to be recognized for a Spirited Award - categories open for public nomination are **NOT** based on the volume of nominations submitted.

**Q: Which Spirited Awards will be awarded in 2023?**

**A:** The awards that will be judged and awarded for 2023 include:

- (International/U.S.) Bartender of the Year
- Best (International/U.S.) Bar Mentor
- Best (International/U.S.) Brand Ambassador
- Best (International/U.S.) Bar Team
- Best (International/U.S.) Cocktail Bar
- Best (International/U.S.) Hotel Bar
- Best (International/U.S.) Restaurant Bar
- Best New (International/U.S.) Cocktail Bar
- Timeless (International/U.S.) Award
- World's Best Cocktail Menu
- World's Best Spirits Selection
- Best New Spirit or Cocktail Ingredient
- Best Cocktail & Spirits Writing
- Best Cocktail & Spirits Publication
- Best Broadcast, Podcast, or Online Video Series
- Best New Cocktail or Bartending Book
- Best New Book on Drinks Culture, History, or Spirits
- Visionary Award (previously named Pioneer Award)
- Helen David Lifetime Achievement Award\*
- World's Best Bar\*

\*Not open for public nominations.

**Q: What is the eligibility period for new books?**

**A:** The eligibility period for all five awards under the Writing & Media and Books categories is January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022. So, to be considered, the book must have been published between the dates listed above. This also applies for the writing piece, as well as the sample pieces submitted for "Publication" and "Broadcast/Podcast."

**Q: What is the eligibility period for "Best New (Intl./U.S.) Cocktail Bar" & "Best New Spirit or Cocktail Ingredient"?**

**A:** For "Best New (International/U.S.) Cocktail Bar," and "Best New Spirit or Cocktail Ingredient\*," the bar, or product must have opened or launched, respectively, **between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022.**

- A product that may have been launched before January 1, 2022 under one of the following classifications will still be eligible for nomination in this category as long as it had established distribution in at least 3 states or countries between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022.
  - Non-commercial Special Occasion Launch – whereby a product has been made for gifting and/or educational purposes and not released for general sale
  - Distillery Release – whereby a product is made available for purchase at the distillery where it is made for the immediate geographical area only