



2024 SPIRITED AWARDS® FAQs

Q: When is this year's Spirited Awards Ceremony?

A: The 18th annual Spirited Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday, July 25, 2024, at The Fillmore New Orleans.

Q: When is the nomination period?

A: The 2024 Spirited Awards nomination form opens on Monday, January 29, and closes on Tuesday, February 20 at 11:59 PM ET. Nominations will not be accepted after 11:59 PM ET on February 20.

Q: Are there any fees involved in submitting a nomination?

A: No, Tales of the Cocktail Foundation does not charge any fees to submit a Spirited Awards nomination.

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 [2024 Spirited Awards Nomination Form](#).

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 2024 [Spirited Awards Nomination Form](#).

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: Can I submit a post-mortem nomination?

A: Individuals considered for the categories of Best (International/U.S.) Bar Mentor, (International/U.S.) Bartender of the Year, Best (International/U.S.) Brand Ambassador and Tales Visionary Award must be living at the time of nomination and through the judging periods. Post-mortem nominations during the nomination and judging periods will not be considered.

Q: Can I nominate a bar that is temporarily closed?

A: All bars and establishments must be open to the public and in accordance with all local and federal laws and conditions they are obliged to adhere to at the time of submitting a Spirited Awards

nomination. If a bar or venue closes at any time during the Spirited Awards nomination or judging period, the Spirited Awards Committee has the right to disqualify them and name a replacement Nominee or Regional Honoree.

Q: Which Spirited Awards will be awarded in 2024?

A: The awards that will be judged and awarded for 2024 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
- Tales Visionary 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: To be eligible for all five awards under the Writing & Media and Books categories, books must have been published between **January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023**. This also applies to 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, 2023 and December 31, 2023**.

- A product that may have been launched before January 1, 2023, 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, 2023, and December 31, 2023.
 - 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

Q: When will the nominees be announced?

A: 2024 Spirited Awards announcement timeline:

- April 22: Top 10 Regional Honorees Announced
- May 29: Top 10 Nominees Announced
- June 14: Top 4 Finalists Announced
 - Timeless (International & U.S.) Awards, Tales Visionary, and Helen David Lifetime Achievement recipients will also be announced at this time
 - Ceremony tickets will also be on sale on June 14

Q: Who are the judges this year?

A: This year's committee can be found [here](#). The judges will be listed in early April after Round 1 judging concludes.

Q: How can I become a judge?

A: Judges are selected by their region's Co-Chairs. However, if you meet the qualifications to be a judge and would like to be considered, [submit this form](#) and we will review it in the Fall of 2024.

Q: What are the requirements to be a Spirited Awards Judge?

A: Below are the requirements to be considered and serve as a judge

- Must currently work in the industry as a bartender, bar owner, brand ambassador, educator or writer.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience in the cocktail/bar industry.
- Regularly visits bars locally and within their region.
- Has regularly visited bars locally, nationally and internationally within the last 5 years.
- Within the last 5 years has regularly traveled to other markets (outside of their region) for a broader perspective of the industry.
- Required to submit at least 5 nominations in their region (these can be in any of the Spirited Awards® categories).
- In order to protect the integrity of the voting process, judges are required to complete ALL of their voting assignments across all rounds of voting (barring recusals).

More information on the judging process can be found [here](#).

Additional information to keep in mind:

- Any person or establishment that has previously won a Spirited Award is not eligible for nomination in the category for which it won.
- 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 that already exists in another geographical location, and has the same name, the same or similar cocktail menus, and the 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, the same or similar menu, and the 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, the 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.