



January 12, 2026

Dear California Olive Oil Producers,

You're invited to participate in the **11th Annual San Joaquin Valley Olive Oil Competition** sponsored and organized by The Big Fresno Fair, celebrating the quality, innovation and growth of California's olive oil industry. Each year this competition grows and we sincerely hope that you will consider participating in 2026!

This competition not only recognizes excellence as discerned by our panel of renown judges, but also provides meaningful exposure. **All Gold Medal winners** will be invited to participate at the **2026 Big Fresno Fair** on select dates (October 10, 11, 17 and 18), where winners may be featured in the SJVOOC area, **sip and sell their olive oils**, and engage directly with Fairgoers to educate the public about their products and the olive oil industry.

In 2025, **Best of Show winner Olivaia OLA** and **Best of Valley winner La Torre Olive Ranch** both participated on-site at the Fair, resulting in a highly successful and well-received showing.

We encourage you to submit your entry and help us to continue to grow and shine a light on California's growing olive oil industry! Please share this competition and opportunity with other California Olive Oil producers.

Entry materials are enclosed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at agriculture@fresnofair.com or 559-285-9209. We look forward to the 2026 competition!

Respectfully,

Cindy Suarez

Cindy Suarez
Agriculture Superintendent / SJVOOC Manager
The Big Fresno Fair





SJVOOC GENERAL RULES

1. All olives used in the production of the olive oil must be from the most recent harvest and must have been harvested within the state of California.
2. All entries must be completed properly, signed and submitted with your competition oils on an official entry form by April 15, 2026.
3. Once an entry has been submitted, the entry fee will not be refunded.
4. The judge's decisions are final and determines all awards.
5. The same olive oil (composition/blend) may not be entered in more than one class even if that oil is marketed under different labels/brands. However, a producer may submit multiple entries of oils with different compositions/blends in the same category.
6. An official entry is to consist of at least two (2) 250 ml bottles of each olive oil to be entered with retail labels attached. Competition reserves the right to request additional bottles of award-winning oils for display purposes for The Big Fresno Fair.
7. Each entry must also contain a third-party chemical analysis for free fatty acid (up to 0.5%) and peroxides (up to 15 meq/kg) in order to verify extra virgin status. Flavored oils do not need to submit a chemical analysis.
8. Any entry delivered by mail, freight or express must be prepaid. No entry will be accepted for which carrier charges have not been prepaid. No deliveries will be accepted after April 15, 2026 and the SJVOOC will not be responsible for delayed deliveries. All entries become the property of the SJVOOC.
9. The SJVOOC, management and staff are not responsible for errors in entries. No entry shall be entitled to an award for which it has been disallowed on the basis of the producer's error.
10. Producers/Entries found in violation of rules or ethical practices will forfeit award and other privileges deemed appropriate by the SJVOOC Management and the Chief Judge.
11. Olive oil entered must be available for commercial sale with commercial labels at the time of entry.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 15, 2026 – Entry forms and competition oils due at the Fresno Fairgrounds

May 2-3, 2026 – SJVOOC Judging

May 20, 2026 by 5:00 PM – SJVOOC Release of Results



2026 SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY OLIVE OIL COMPETITION (SJVOOC)

ENTRY FEE: \$60 PER OLIVE OIL

Please make checks payable to The Big Fresno Fair. Entry fees are non-refundable. MC and VISA accepted (there is 3.99% service charge for Credit Card transactions) NO AMEX WILL BE ACCEPTED.

ENTRY FORMS AND COMPETITION OILS DUE: Friday, April 15, 2026

SHIP OILS TO:

SJVOOC – Big Fresno Fair
1121 S. Chance Ave.
Fresno, CA 93702

QUESTIONS?

PLEASE CONTACT: Cindy Suarez, Big Fresno Fair at Agriculture@fresnofair.com
or call 559-285-9209

Each entry must contain at least two (2) 250 ml bottles of each olive oil entered with retail labels attached. Each entry must also contain a third-party chemical analysis for free fatty acid (up to 0.5%) and peroxides (up to 15meq/kg) in order to verify extra virgin status. Please identify, in large, legible letters, the name of the producer on the outside of the shipment. No olive oil will be accepted for which carrier charges have not been prepaid.

- All entries must be available for sale to the general public at full price at the time of entry. All bottles must be labeled and ready for market with retail labels and not be open.
- All flavored oils must meet the established standards set by the State of California Regulations Title 17, Section 12400.

SJVOOC is limited to all Extra Virgin and flavored Olive Oil produced in California.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY 
Olive Oil
COMPETITION

CLASSES WILL BE DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Division 90 Extra Virgin Class	Division 91 Flavored Class
1 Spanish Blends (arbequina, arbosana, etc.)	1 Citrus
2 Spanish Singles	2 Herbal (rosemary, basil, etc.)
3 Italian Blends (Tuscan blends, ascolano, etc.)	3 Pepper (chile, jalapeno, habanero, etc.)
4 Italian Singles	4 Other (garlic, truffle, etc.)
5 Other Blends (picholine, barouni, etc.)	
6 Other Singles	

NOTE: Blends shall be based on the variety with the largest percentage i.e. a blend containing arbequina (Spanish), arbosana (Spanish) and koroneiki (Greek) would be judged in the Spanish Blend Class 1.



MEDALS (AWARDS)

The judges shall award all medals and judges' decisions are final.

Oils will be considered for Gold and Silver medals in their respective classes, as well as "Best of Show". Extra virgin and flavored oils will be judged separately.

Gold Medal is awarded to an oil that demonstrates its type and/or varietal character, balance, structure and complexities to the highest standards. Gold Medals will be awarded to those oils receiving scores between 86 – 100 points.

Silver Medal is awarded to an oil reflecting the correct distribution of balance and character of its type or variety; an oil deemed to be well crafted and of excellent quality. Silver Medals will be awarded to those oils receiving scores between 76- 85.99 points.

Best of Show is awarded to an oil recognized to possess special characteristics of the highest quality overall. All Gold medal winners will be eligible to compete for Best of Show in their division.

Best of the Valley is awarded to the oil that scored the highest overall with the ranch or office located in the San Joaquin Valley across both EVOO and Flavored Olive Oil divisions. (Kern, Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties eligible)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Producers will be informed ONLY of the medal won and WILL NOT be privy to the score or other judge's notes.

BEST OF SHOW, GOLD, SILVER AND BEST OF THE VALLEY STICKERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS.

GOLD MEDAL WINNERS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISPLAY, SIP AND SELL WEEKEND DAYS (Oct 10, 11, 17 AND 18) DURING THE 2026 BIG FRESNO FAIR, OCTOBER 7 - 18, IN THE AGRICULTURE BUILDING'S SPECIAL SJVOOC EXHIBIT AREA.



**2026 SJVOOC ENTRY FORM
Big Fresno Fair**

ENTRIES & COMPETITION OILS DUE: April 15, 2026

PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF THIS FORM IF ENTERING MORE THAN 5 OILS

DIVISION	CLASS	OIL BRAND – NAME OF OIL ON LABEL	OLIVE VARIETY(IES)	*% Blend	*I/C?

*FOR BLENDS – PLEASE LIST VARIETIES FROM THE LARGEST TO SMALLEST

*FOR FLAVORED OILS ONLY – INFUSED (I) OR CRUSHED (C)

Total oils multiplied by \$60/each	\$
Credit Card Transaction Fee	3.99%
TOTAL PAYMENT	\$

*Make checks payable to The **Big Fresno Fair** (for SJVOOC office – check # _____)

* For Credit Card Transactions, there is a 3.99% service charge. Visa and Mastercard are accepted.

VISA/MC # _____ EXP. _____ CVV# _____

NAME ON CARD: _____

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE: _____

Contact Name _____

Company Name _____

Address _____

Ranch Location _____ County _____

E-mail Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Signature _____

**Send all entry forms & oil to:
SJVOOC, Big Fresno Fair
1121 S. Chance Ave.
Fresno, CA 93702**

- 1) An entry is 2 bottles of at least 250 ml each with retail labels.
- 2) **Entry fee, chemical analysis and oil(s) MUST accompany this entry form.**
- 3) SJVOOC will not accept any entries after April 15, 2026.
- 4) By signing and submitting this entry form, the exhibitors and their agents acknowledge and agree that they have read and understand the rules.