PRODUCED BY WINE COUNTRY NETWORK

2026 COMPETITION CATEGORIES

JUDGING **NOVEMBER 7–8, 2026** | ENTRY DEADLINE **OCTOBER 26, 2026**

Nine sub-categories, dozens of competitive classes — the Tequila Mezcal Challenge is the most comprehensive agave spirits competition in North America. Enter your Tequila, Mezcal, Sotol, Raicilla, Bacanora, Comiteco, Agave Spirit, or ready-to-drink cocktail today.

Tequila — 700–709

Made only from Blue Weber Agave. Blanco, Reposado, Añejo, Extra Añejo, Crystalino, Flavored, Blended & more.

Mezcal — 720–729

Made from 30+ agave types (excluding Blue Weber). Blanco, Reposado, Añejo, Extra Añejo, Pechuga, Ensemble, Joven, Ancestral.

Sotol — 730–739

Chihuahua-based spirit from the Desert Spoon, a cross between Yucca and Agave. Plata, Reposado, Añejo, Pechuga, Ensemble & more.

Raicilla — 740–749

From Southwestern Jalisco near Puerto Vallarta, produced using 3 agave types. Blanco, Joven, Reposado, Añejo & more.

Bacanora — 750–759

Sonoran-based spirit distilled from the wild Pacifica agave plant. Blanco, Reposado, Añejo, Pechuga, Ensemble, Joven, Ancestral.

Comiteco — 760–769

Native to Chiapas — decanted agave sap fermented like Pulque, then distilled. Blanco through Ancestral styles.

Blended Categories — 770–776

Blends across Mezcal sub-categories — such as Mezquila, a blend of Mezcal & Tequila.

Agave Spirits — 780–786

Covers producers outside of Mexico. Blanco, Reposado, Añejo, Flavored/Infused, Blended, Joven, Extra Añejo.

Also judging: **Cocktails (790)** — canned, bottled & boxed premixed Tequila cocktails | **Mixers (795)** — Tequila cocktail mixers

ENTER TODAY

TeqMezChallenge.com

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Full Category Guide

"Mezcal" is the overall category for the following sub-categories: Tequila, Mezcal, Sotol, Raicilla, Bacanora, Comiteco, and Agave Spirits. Mezcals of any sub-category are not judged differently from one another based on production methodology — organic, biodynamic, barrel wood type, single estate, or any other term of differentiation other than the styles listed below. The category numbering scheme for each sub-category is based on the one established for Tequila.

Tequila

Made only from Blue Weber Agave • 700–709

#	Style	Remarks / Definition
700	**Blanco**	Unaged, also called Silver, Platinum, Plata, Crystal
701	**Reposado**	Aged more than 2 months and less than 1 year
702	**Añejo**	Aged more than or equal to 1 year and less than 3 years
703	**Flavored/Infused**	Includes the following product styles based on Nut, Bean, Seed, Fruit, Herbal, Cream, Vegetal, Bitters, Meat, and Smoked
704	**Blended**	Either blended Tequila of the same style or blended aged styles
705	**Joven/Gold/Oro**	This category has a variety of meanings. Joven means young (aged less than 2 months); Joven is also called Gold, the result of blending 100% agave Tequila (Blanco) with aged or extra-aged styles
706	**Extra Añejo**	Also called Grand Añejo; aged 3 years or greater
707	**Crystalino**	Essentially Añejo, or aged Tequila, that has been filtered to remove the color. The result has the complexity and character of an Añejo with the crisp, bright notes of a Blanco
708	**Mixto/Golden**	Less than 100% agave; a mixed tequila, meaning some agave and additives such as sugar, glycerin, oak tree extracts, and caramel coloring. Golden Tequila is typically a mixto Tequila
709	**Other**	Covers such products as Agave Wine or Pulque

Mezcal

Made from 30+ agave types, not Blue Weber • 720–729

#	Style	Remarks / Definition
720	**Blanco**	Unaged, any type of agave
721	**Reposado**	Aged 2 to 12 months
722	**Añejo**	Aged 1 year to 3 years
723	**Pechuga**	Includes the following product styles based on Nut, Bean, Seed, Fruit, Herbal, Cream, Vegetal, Bitters, Meat, and Smoked
724	**Ensemble**	2 or more different agave species mixed together
725	**Joven**	Unaged or aged less than 2 months
726	**Extra Añejo**	Must be aged more than 3 years
729	**Ancestral**	Agave plant that is at least 20 years old

Sotol

Chihuahua • from the Desert Spoon (Yucca × Agave cross) • 730–739

#	Style	Remarks / Definition
730	**Plata**	Unaged
731	**Reposado**	Aged up to 1 year
732	**Añejo**	Aged at least 1 year
733	**Pechuga**	Includes the following product styles based on Nut, Bean, Seed, Fruit, Herbal, Cream, Vegetal, Bitters, Meat, and Smoked
734	**Ensemble**	—
735	**Joven**	—
736	**Extra Añejo**	—
739	**Ancestral**	—

Raicilla

SW Jalisco, near Puerto Vallarta • 3 agave types • 740–749

Blanco – unaged | Joven – less than 1 year | Reposado – 1 to 2 years | Añejo – more than 2 years

#	Style	Remarks / Definition
740	**Blanco**	—
741	**Reposado**	—
742	**Añejo**	—
743	**Pechuga**	Includes the following product styles based on Nut, Bean, Seed, Fruit, Herbal, Cream, Vegetal, Bitters, Meat, and Smoked
744	**Ensemble**	—
745	**Joven**	—
746	**Extra Añejo**	—
749	**Ancestral**	—

Bacanora

Sonora • wild Pacifica agave • 750–759

#	Style	Remarks / Definition
750	**Blanco**	—
751	**Reposado**	—
752	**Añejo**	—
753	**Pechuga**	Includes the following product styles based on Nut, Bean, Seed, Fruit, Herbal, Cream, Vegetal, Bitters, Meat, and Smoked
754	**Ensemble**	—
755	**Joven**	—
756	**Extra Añejo**	—
759	**Ancestral**	—

Comiteco

Chiapas • Agave Atrovirens Haw • 760–769

Decanted agave sap, fermented like Pulque, then distilled.

#	Style	Remarks / Definition
760	**Blanco**	—
761	**Reposado**	—
762	**Añejo**	—
763	**Pechuga**	—
764	**Ensemble**	—
765	**Extra Añejo**	—
769	**Ancestral**	—

Blended Categories

Blends across Mezcal sub-categories • 770–776

Represents blends of different Mezcal categories, such as Mezquila — a blend of Mezcal & Tequila.

#	Style	Remarks / Definition
770	**Blanco**	—
771	**Reposado**	—
772	**Añejo**	—
773	**Pechuga**	Includes the following product styles based on Nut, Bean, Seed, Fruit, Herbal, Cream, Vegetal, Bitters, Meat, and Smoked
775	**Joven**	—
776	**Extra Añejo**	—

Agave Spirits

Producers outside of Mexico • 780–786

#	Style	Remarks / Definition
780	**Blanco**	—
781	**Reposado**	—
782	**Añejo**	—
783	**Flavored/Infused**	Includes the following product styles based on Nut, Bean, Seed, Fruit, Herbal, Cream, Vegetal, Bitters, Meat, and Smoked
784	**Blended**	Either blended Agave Spirits of the same style or blended aged styles
785	**Joven**	—
786	**Extra Añejo**	—

Cocktails & Mixers

790, 795

#	Style	Remarks / Definition
790	**Cocktails**	Canned/bottled/boxed premixed Tequila cocktails
795	**Mixers**	Tequila cocktail mixers