

# Cacao of Excellence Awards Calendar 2026-2027



Date	Activity
June 2026	The 2027 Edition of the Cacao of Excellence Awards is launched. Guide for Participation published: <a href="http://www.cacaoofexcellence.org">www.cacaoofexcellence.org</a>
June to September 2026	Cacao of Excellence communicates with all cacao-producing origins to establish the National Organisation Committees.
June to November 2026	National Organisation Committees announce the 2027 Edition and encourage broad participation of producers. Producers interested in participating contact their National Organisation Committee for details of participation. Origins are encouraged to organise National Cacao of Excellence Competitions to select the best cacao bean samples representative of the genetic diversity within their origin.
November 2026 to January 2027	National Organisation Committees send a minimum of 7 Kg of well fermented and dried beans with all required information and agreements for the use of each sample.
<b>31 January 2027</b>	<p><b>Deadline</b> for receiving:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All cacao bean samples and associated Excel Data Forms</li> <li>2. Registration fees for each sample submitted</li> <li>3. Agreement confirmed on the use of each sample.</li> </ol>
November 2026 to June 2027	All received samples are blind-coded by Cacao of Excellence. Physical quality evaluation is carried out including whole and cut beans aromas. Accepted samples are roasted following precise protocols to best express the flavour potential and are processed into cacao mass for sensory evaluation.
March to July 2027	Cacao mass sensory evaluation is carried out blindly by sensory and cacao sector experts of the Cacao of Excellence Technical Committee.
September 2027	The Best 50 samples are selected and nominated for the 2027 Cacao of Excellence Awards. Producers are notified. Names and contact details of the Best 50 producers are published on the website.
September to October 2027	The Best 50 samples are processed into a dark chocolate (same recipe for all) for blind evaluation by the Cacao of Excellence Technical Committee and a Jury of industry professionals, including chocolate makers and sensory evaluation experts.
November to December 2027	The results are analysed for the selection of the Gold, Silver and Bronze 2027 Cacao of Excellence Awards.
End 2027	2027 Cacao of Excellence Awards Ceremony and Gold, Silver and Bronze winners revealed – <b>date and venue to be confirmed</b>
End of Edition	Detailed Feedback Reports are sent to all participating producers, including results of the physical evaluation, sensory evaluation of the cacao mass and for the Best 50 samples, the sensory evaluation of the chocolate and the Cacao of Excellence 2027 Award certificates.