



MARIO HOFFERER



IWCC
29TH INTERNATIONAL WÖRTHERSEE
COCKTAIL CONGRESS

May 10th - 12th, 2026



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DEAR COMPETITORS

Great bartending is driven by passion, precision, and personality.
Join the IWCC 2026 in Velden am Wörthersee.

From Sunday, 10 May, to Monday, 11 May 2026, the International Wörthersee Cocktail Congress (IWCC) takes place at the elegant Seehotel Europa as part of the Wörthersee Cocktail Week. The IWCC is an international competition focused on creativity, craftsmanship, and exchange. Bartenders from around the world present their personal style on an international stage, judged by an experienced international jury.

For 2026, the competition is limited to 50 competitors. The IWCC brings together established figures from the international bar scene and promising young talents, offering them the opportunity to apply and take part in a high-quality, focused competition.

The competition takes place in two stages:
Sunday, 10 May: Primary Round
Monday, 11 May: Grand Finale during the Gala Dinner

Participation is open to professional bartenders worldwide. Please note that travel, accommodation, and all personal expenses must be covered individually by each participant.

The IWCC is embedded in the Wörthersee Cocktail Week, a unique bar experience in Velden am Wörthersee. Competitors are encouraged to stay one or two additional nights to fully experience the week. During the WCW, selected bars around the lake are hosted by international stars of the bar scene. Guests travel by motorboat from bar to bar, discovering cocktails, drinks, and new inspirations in a truly unique setting.

All details regarding rules, schedule, and registration can be found in this document.

We look forward to welcoming you in Velden and celebrating the art of the cocktail together.

Mario Hofferer &
the MH Cocktail Entertainment Crew



EVENT OVERVIEW & KEY DATES

Wörthersee Cocktail Week:
May 8 - May 10, 2026

IWCC Competition Dates:
May 10 - May 11, 2026

Competitor Briefing:
May 10, 2026, at 10:00 AM

Preliminary Rounds Start:
May 10, 2026, at 11:00 AM

Masterclasses:
May 11, 2026
(Mandatory for Competitors)

IWCC Grand Final - "The Grand Pour":
May 11, 2026, at 6:00 PM

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

NO RULES – ONLY CREATIVITY!

The IWCC is unlike any other cocktail competition. Here, there are no traditional rules – only innovation, creativity, and exceptional bartending skills.

PRODUCT SELECTION

- Competitors must use spirits & liqueurs provided by our official sponsors.
 - Each cocktail must include at least one MONIN syrup.
 - No homemade syrups are allowed.
 - Non-sponsor products are strictly prohibited.
- Our premium partners will be announced by the end of February.

TECHNICAL RULES & EQUIPMENT

- Competitors may use molecular techniques, fire, heated ingredients, infusions, preprepared garnishes, and innovative tools.
- Pre-batched ingredients and garnishes are allowed.
- Each competitor will be assigned a mandatory product after the registration deadline.

COMPETITION FORMAT – PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

May 10, 2026, at 11:00 AM

- Competitors must prepare four portions of their cocktail:
 - 2 for the judges
 - 1 for the audience
 - 1 for official photos & presentation
- Time limit: 10 minutes
- A Sensory Test (Aroma Parcours) will be included, where participants must identify spirits and liqueurs using only their sense of smell.

MASTERCLASSES

May 11, 2026

- Attending masterclasses is mandatory for Competitors.
- Each class contributes points to the overall score.

THE GRAND POUR – IWCC GRAND FINAL

May 11, 2026, at 6:00 PM

The top competitors will advance to the Grand Final. The final round will feature a specially curated challenge developed in close collaboration with our partners. This challenge is designed to test creativity, craftsmanship and adaptability. Full details will be revealed after the registration deadline.

(Dresscode: black tie)

ACCOMMODATION & REGISTRATION DETAILS

Once again, this year's IWCC will take place at the exclusive Seehotel Europa, offering all participants a refined and immersive experience.

OFFICIAL IWCC ROOM PACKAGES

SINGLE ROOM

May 10 - May 12, 2026: €490

May 09 - May 12, 2026: €630

May 08 - May 12, 2026: €770

DOUBLE ROOM

May 10 - May 12, 2026: €880

May 09 - May 12, 2026: €1160

May 08 - May 12, 2026: €1440

INCLUDED SERVICES

Overnight stay at Seehotel Europa**** or Hotel Post, Velden
Daily breakfast | Access to the spa and wellness area with indoor pool, sauna facilities, and dedicated relaxation zones | Beach club access | Airport shuttle service (arrival and departure)

Wörthersee Cocktail Week Pass | Entry to selected side event parties at Boat Marina Schmalzl Friday: Red Bull Opening Party
Saturday: Ready for House event | Speed boat transfers included | 11 cocktails included during the Cocktail Week experience

Sunday - IWCC Primary Round
Light lunch | Official IWCC competitor starter number | Bar Area featuring selected sponsors from the international spirits industry, offering cocktail and drink tastings | Welcome Event - Pizza Party, including all beverages | Afterparty

Monday - IWCC Final Day
Masterclasses | Light lunch | IWCC Grand Final Gala Dinner including all beverages | Bar Area with selected spirits industry partners, featuring cocktail and drink tastings | Champions Party

PAYMENT & BOOKING PROCESS

- Room bookings and the competition entry fee, which is included in the package price, must be paid directly to Seehotel Europa.
- Competitors can book their room independently via the official booking link.

- A prepayment of € 150 is required to confirm the booking. This amount will be deducted from the final invoice upon arrival. In the event of cancellation, the € 150 prepayment will be retained as a handling and administrative fee.

<https://seehotel-europa.at/iwcc-2026/>

For all booking-related inquiries, please contact Sandra Sifkovits directly: sandra@mario-hofferer.com

ARRIVAL & SHUTTLES

We are pleased to arrange an airport pick-up service from Graz, Klagenfurt or Ljubljana, offering a seamless transfer directly to Velden.
Please send us your flight details to
sandra@mario-hofferer.com

SIDE EVENTS – LET’S MAKE THE NIGHT LEGENDARY!

As part of the Wörthersee Cocktail Week, a selection of curated side events will complement the IWCC, creating memorable and legendary nights. Further details will be announced soon.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- Event Registration Deadline: March 31, 2026
- Competition Registration Deadline: February 15, 2026
- Once your hotel package is secured, confirm your participation to johanna@mario-hofferer.com
- Recipe Submission Deadline: April 25, 2026

COMPETITION LEAD

For all competition-related inquiries, please contact
Johanna Breitenberger directly
johanna@mario-hofferer.com