



## 2019 SoCal VegFest Vegan Cupcake Competition

### Official Rules

1. All cupcakes must be **VEGAN** (no dairy, no eggs, no honey, no meat, no poultry, no seafood or animal products of any kind).
2. Online entry deadline is **Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 11:55pm**.
3. Cupcake turn-in is **Saturday, October 19, 2019 between 11am and 12:15pm** at the Cooking Demo Booth at the SoCal VegFest (OC Fair and Event Center, Costa Mesa, CA, USA).
4. Entry Fee is US \$5.00 per entrant, and includes a VegFest General Admission One-Day Pass for Saturday. All entrants must pre-register and pay cupcake competition entry fee online at [bigtentvegan.com/cupcake](http://bigtentvegan.com/cupcake). Once registered, each contestant will receive a unique one-time use coupon code to obtain a SoCal VegFest General Admission One-Day Pass at [socalvegfest.org](http://socalvegfest.org).
5. **Submit a completed Ingredients List Form** to [cupcake@bigtentvegan.com](mailto:cupcake@bigtentvegan.com) by **Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 11:55pm**. Do not put your name or any other identifying marks on the form itself. Use the template provided on the website.
6. Two Separate Divisions:
  - a. General Division: Includes all recreational bakers, cupcake enthusiasts, and anyone not competing in the Elite/Professional Division.
  - b. Elite/Professional Division: Includes any entrant for whom one or more of the following conditions apply:
    - i. currently works or has ever worked as a pastry chef, chef, baker, or decorator at a restaurant, bakery or other food establishment, including at pop-ups and through online businesses;
    - ii. has graduated from culinary/pastry school;
    - iii. is an advanced-level student currently attending culinary/pastry school;
    - iv. has ever won a 1<sup>st</sup> Place award at the SoCal VegFest Cupcake Competition (either in General or Elite/Professional), the Orange County Fair, or any major baking competition; -OR-
    - v. has been a serious home baker/cook for 10+ years.

Please note that the criteria for the General and Elite/Professional Divisions are guidelines only, and each contestant should enter the category they feel best describes

their level. Judges and organizers may move entrants into another Division if they deem appropriate.

7. Within each Division (General and Elite/Professional), there will be two Categories: Chocolate and Specialty.
8. For both the General Division and the Elite/Professional Division, a maximum of two entries per competitor are allowed (limit one entry in the Chocolate Category and one in the Specialty Flavor Category). Each competitor needs to register just once, and pay only one registration fee of \$5 whether they are entering one or two flavors.
9. First 15 entries accepted for each Division (all others may be put on a waitlist). Organizers may at their discretion, accept more entries, and/or separate cupcakes into categories if they deem it appropriate.
10. Recipes need not be original, however, all cupcakes and frosting must be made from scratch by the entrant. No box mixes or packaged frostings. Standard-sized cupcakes only; no jumbos or minis.
11. **Deliver six (6) baked and decorated cupcakes of each recipe to the Cupcake Competition Check-In Table at the Cooking Demo Booth between 11:00am and 12:15pm on Saturday, October 19, 2019.** Cupcakes will be transferred into official competition containers, which will be the same for everyone. Each container will be identified with a contestant number only; no names. Three cupcakes are for the judges, and three cupcakes will be put on display.
12. Entries become the property of SoCal VegFest and will not be returned.
13. All entrants agree to have their names and photos published online and in print by SoCal VegFest and Big Tent Vegan.
14. No refrigeration is available, so cupcakes must not require refrigeration (no cream fillings, etc.).
15. **Awards Ceremony will begin at 2:00 pm on Sat, Oct 19 at the Cooking Demo Stage.** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbons plus gift bags will be awarded. Approximate gift bag values: \$50 for 1<sup>st</sup>, \$35 for 2<sup>nd</sup>, \$25 for 3<sup>rd</sup>. Winners need not be present to win; HOWEVER; entrant or their authorized representative (family member or friend) must be present in order to receive the ribbon and gift bag.
16. See Judging Criteria for weighted breakdown. Judging will be closed and not accessible to the public. All judges' decisions are final.
17. For questions email: [cupcake@bigtentvegan.com](mailto:cupcake@bigtentvegan.com)