



2026 Culinary Challenge Invites Australia's Best to Compete for Glory and Recognition

Worldchefs Regional Endorsed Competition Brings Australia's Culinary Talent to the National Stage

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA — The Australian Culinary Federation – Victoria is proud to announce the return of the **2026 Culinary Challenge**, a premier culinary competition showcasing and celebrating the skill, creativity and professionalism of Australia's chefs, trainees and apprentices.

Recognised as a **Worldchefs Regional Endorsed Competition**, the 2026 Culinary Challenge provides competitors with the opportunity to test their skills in a professionally judged competition environment aligned with recognised culinary competition standards.

Held as part of **Fine Food Australia**, the Culinary Challenge will bring together emerging talent and experienced culinary professionals for a high-energy program of timed competitions, judged by **ACF-registered industry experts** and presented in front of a live industry audience.

Featured Competitions

The 2026 program includes:

- **ACF National Apprentice Competition**
- **ACF Most Outstanding Chef and Pastry Chef**
- **Street Food Competition**
- **Yum Cha Challenge**
- **3 course Team Challenge**
- **Nestlé Golden Chefs Hat Award Final Series**
- Plus a range of additional competition categories reflecting contemporary culinary skills, trends, creativity and innovation.

“The Culinary Challenge is about much more than winning a medal. It provides chefs and apprentices with an opportunity to challenge themselves, benchmark their skills, learn from industry leaders and develop through competition. We are committed to showcasing the extraordinary talent within Australia's hospitality industry and providing opportunities for culinary professionals at every stage of their careers.”

From rising apprentices taking their first steps into culinary competition to experienced chefs competing for industry recognition, the **2026 Culinary Challenge** provides an opportunity to **compete, learn, connect and inspire**.

Competition plays an important role in professional development, encouraging chefs to refine their technique, work under pressure, embrace innovation and continually raise professional standards.

Registrations Are Closing Soon

Chefs, apprentices and trainees from across Australia are encouraged to enter and be part of one of the country's leading culinary competition programs.

Are you ready to take on the challenge?

For competition information, categories and registrations, visit: www.austculinary.com.au/2026-culinary-challenge/