

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

D6, WSET Level 4 Diploma in Wines



Assignment 2: July 2020 submission – Natural Wine.

Context

Natural wines are becoming better known in the marketplace but continue to divide opinion. As with all wines, the style and quality varies. For some people, natural wines are inherently unpalatable, for others they have positive attributes.

[See below for required sections and allocation of marks]

Instructions for candidates

- Assignments must adhere to the word count of 3,000 words. A tolerance of 10% will be allowed which means the research assignment should be no fewer than 2,700 words and no longer than 3,300 words in length. The word count excludes references, bibliography, appendices, diagrams or tables.
- Candidates must include a bibliography showing the sources used to research the topic.
- Candidates are reminded of the need to draw on a range of sources in their assignment and that it will be necessary to read around the subject matter. It will not be sufficient to rely solely on the Diploma materials. There should be clear evidence of critical analysis of the source material and well-reasoned personal commentary, together with relevant examples to support the points made.
- There are 100 marks available, of which 15 are allocated to presentation (spelling, grammar, legibility, bibliography and referencing) and answer structure/style (coherence, flair, fluency and use of examples). Footnotes, references and appendices must be used correctly. Candidates are advised to read the *D6 Independent Research Guidelines* before starting their research.
- Candidates must address all required sections and gain a minimum overall mark of 55% to qualify for a pass grade.

Required sections and allocation of marks

Candidates must address the following required sections:

- What is meant by the term natural wine? Describe the typical practices in the vineyard and winery associated with the production of these wines. (25% weighting)
- Assess the challenges facing producers of natural wines. (30% weighting)
- Identify the key selling points of these wines and evaluate their market potential. (30% weighting)

15% weighting is allocated to presentation and structure, as outlined in Instructions for candidates above.