

# FAQ 2025: TASTING AND REVIEW

(As of September 2024)

## WHAT PRODUCTS CAN BE SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW?

We review wines (grape-based only), low-alcohol wines, spirits, and RTDs that are available for sale in the U.S. All sample submissions must be processed through the new Wine Enthusiast Ratings Platform. Please review the supporting documents found on [wineenthusiast.com/submit-for-rating](https://wineenthusiast.com/submit-for-rating) for submission guidelines.

If a product is not currently imported into the U.S., we cannot review it through the Wine Enthusiast Ratings Platform. Please visit [www.importer-connection.com](https://www.importer-connection.com) for more details on our Importer Connection program, where these products are eligible for review.

## HOW MANY SAMPLES DO I SHIP?

Please provide two bottles for each wine submission and one bottle for each spirits submission. Single bottles for wine submissions will also be accepted.

## WHERE DO I SHIP SAMPLES FOR REVIEW?

Please refer to page 3 for a list of reviewers and their regional coverage. For shipping addresses, refer to pages 4-7.

**Submissions sent in packages made from Styrofoam or non-recyclable plastics will not be accepted for review. We thank you for supporting our environmental initiatives.**

## WHAT DO I HAVE TO INCLUDE WITH MY WINE/SPIRIT SUBMISSION SHIPMENT?

At the end of the Ratings Platform submission process, print out the QR code sheet. Place it inside the box with the wine/spirit samples. Make sure the sheet is not hard to find inside the box.

## HOW DO I FIND OUT IF MY WINE/SPIRIT HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND SCORED?

Check the Ratings Platform for real-time status updates of your wine/spirit submission.

## WHERE WILL MY WINE/SPIRIT REVIEW APPEAR?

All wine and spirit reviews are published online at [wineenthusiast.com/wine-ratings](https://wineenthusiast.com/wine-ratings). Select reviews will appear in the print magazine. Reviews are separate from editorial coverage.

## IS THERE A FEE FOR SUBMITTING SAMPLES?

There is a processing fee of \$65 per SKU. This processing fee supports the Wine Enthusiast Ratings Platform operations; the administrative, staffing, and logistical needs to maintain the ethical blind standard; and the production of the buying guides. It does NOT affect the score and has no bearing on the outcome of a wine or spirit's rating. Reviewers will continue to taste without knowledge of whose product is in front of them.

### What the \$65 Fee Covers:

- **Receiving and Storage:** We will take the samples in, organize and cellar them in our top-of-the-line storage facilities.
- **Blind Tasting Protocols:** Our trained tasting staff will set up balanced flights to meet blind tasting standards, including proper glassware, temperature, presentation, and scoring calibration.
- **Real-Time Updates:** The Ratings Platform eliminates manual PDFs and provides visibility into the status of your submissions digitally. You may track the progress of your wine/spirit samples directly on the platform.
- **Guaranteed Review:** Your wine/spirit submission is guaranteed to be reviewed.
- **Print/Online Preview:** The Ratings Platform provides a preview of how a wine/spirit will appear on Wine Enthusiast's website and in the print magazine.

### What the \$65 Fee Does Not Cover:

- **Shipping or Customs Costs:** The fee does not include any costs related to shipping or customs. Any billing or legal issues with U.S. Customs, delivery services or freight vendors must be resolved by the submitter. Wine Enthusiast cannot clear deliveries held by these agencies.
- **Review Timeline:** While we guarantee your sample will be reviewed, we cannot guarantee that the review will be completed within a specific timeframe.
- **Rejected Submissions:** If your submission is rejected, there is no refund on the processing fee. Reasons for rejection may include not being imported to the U.S.; the label is illegible, handwritten, manipulated, or not TTB approved; Styrofoam packaging; there is a duplicate submission.
- **Corked or Off Samples:** If your submission is corked or off, the tasting panel cannot move forward with the review. A second sample will need to be submitted. There is no refund on the processing fee.

## HOW ARE SHIPPING FEES AND CUSTOMS FEES HANDLED?

Shipping is the full responsibility of the submitter. This includes all shipping charges, customs and duty fees, and logistics related to wine sample submissions. Any shipping charges, including customs and duty fees, incurred by Strum Media Inc. for wine submissions will be billed to the submitting company. Unpaid shipping fees may result in packages being held by the delivery or carrier companies. The submitter should confirm all shipping charges, including customs and duty fees, are prepaid to avoid this issue. Wine Enthusiast is not responsible for shipping logistics or costs. Wine Enthusiast is not involved with the delivery or carrier companies. We strongly recommend a submitter ships samples through their US importer.

## WHO WILL TASTE MY WINES?

Anna-Christina Cabrales

**Tasting Director**

*France (Burgundy, Champagne,  
Rhône Valley)*

Danielle Callegari

**Writer-at-Large**

*Tuscany & Southern Italy*

Jeff Porter

**Writer-at-Large**

*Piedmont & Northern Italy,  
Slovenia, Switzerland*

Jesica Vargas

**Writer-at-Large**

*Latin America & Africa*

Elaine Chukan Brown

**Writer-at-Large**

*California (Napa) &  
Northeast Spain (Aragon,  
Castilla-La Mancha, Catalunya,  
La Rioja, Madrid,  
Navarra, País Vasco)*

Tom Capo

**Writer-at-Large**

*California (Sonoma County),  
Arizona, Louisiana,  
New Mexico, Texas*

Tonya Pitts

**Writer-at-Large**

*California (Northern California &  
California AVA), Arkansas, Colorado,  
Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska,  
Nevada, Oklahoma, Utah*

Matt Kettmann

**Writer-at-Large**

*California (Central Coast &  
Southern California), France  
(Languedoc-Roussillon)*

Michael Alberty

**Writer-at-Large**

*Oregon, Washington, Alaska,  
North & South Dakota, Hawaii, Idaho,  
Iowa, Minnesota, Montana,  
Wisconsin, Wyoming & Canada*

Christina Pickard

**Writer-at-Large**

*Australia, New Zealand,  
England, New York*

Roger Voss

**Writer-at-Large**

*France (Bordeaux, Corisca  
Southwest France) & Portugal*

Reggie Solomon

**Writer-at-Large**

*France (Beaujolais, Loire Valley),  
Southern Coastal Spain (Andalucia,  
Murcia, Valencia), Bosnia and  
Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Israel,  
Macedonia, Montenegro & Asia*

Aleks Zecevic

**Writer-at-Large**

*Austria, Germany, France  
(Alsace, Jura/Savoie, Vin  
de France), Armenia, Czech  
Republic, Moldova, Serbia,  
Slovakia, Turkey*

Brandon Borcomon

**Writer-at-Large**

*Northwest Spain (Castilla y Leon,  
Extremadura, Galicia)*

Cheron Cowan

**Writer-at-Large**

*US States from Michigan,  
Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee,  
Mississippi to the East Coast  
(excluding New York)*

Kara Newman

**Writer-at-Large**

*Spirits & Ready-to-Drink  
(Spirit based)*

Emily Saladino

**Writer-at-Large**

*Croatia, Georgia, Greece,  
Hungary, Lebanon*

Cody Wexler

**Tasting Manager**

*France (Provence, Bandol,  
Other France)*

## SHIPPING INFO

### CALIFORNIA SHIPPING INFORMATION

All wine samples must be shipped through a carrier for tracking purposes. Drop-offs to any of these facilities will not be accepted. The name of the reviewer must be indicated on the box. If you're not sure who to send wines to, a complete AVA breakdown for California can be found at [wineenthusiast.com/submit-for-rating](http://wineenthusiast.com/submit-for-rating).

<b>Napa</b>  <b>Elaine Chukan Brown</b> Crown Wine Shipping 101 Grant Ave, Unit D Healdsburg, CA 95448  1-707-473-0644  <a href="mailto:ebrown@wineenthusiast.com">ebrown@wineenthusiast.com</a>	<b>Sonoma</b>  <b>Tom Capo</b> Crown Wine Shipping 101 Grant Ave, Unit D Healdsburg, CA 95448  1-707-473-0644  <a href="mailto:tcapo@wineenthusiast.com">tcapo@wineenthusiast.com</a>
<b>Central Coast &amp; Southern California</b>  <b>Matt Kettmann</b> 318 Loreto Place Santa Barbara, CA 93111  1-805-284-2097  <a href="mailto:mkettmann@wineenthusiast.com">mkettmann@wineenthusiast.com</a>	<b>Northern CA &amp; California AVA</b>  <b>Tonya Pitts</b> SF Wine Center 175 Green Street San Francisco, CA 94111  1-415-272-4046  <a href="mailto:tpitts@wineenthusiast.com">tpitts@wineenthusiast.com</a>

### OREGON, WASHINGTON, ALASKA, NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA, HAWAII, IDAHO, IOWA, MINNESOTA, MONTANA, WISCONSIN, WYOMING & CANADA SHIPPING INFORMATION

<b>Michael Alberty</b> Portland Wine Storage 306 SE Ash St. Portland, OR 97214  (503) 231-1121  <a href="mailto:malberty@wineenthusiast.com">malberty@wineenthusiast.com</a>
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# WINEENTHUSIAST

## Ratings Platform

### ITALY

Wines from Italy will be tasted at the Wine Enthusiast headquarters in Valhalla, NY. There is currently no tasting calendar for 2025. All wines will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Please submit your samples through the Ratings Platform.

Do not send shipments in Styrofoam packaging.

**Wine Enthusiast**  
c/o Tasting Department  
200 Summit Lake Drive  
4th Floor  
Valhalla, NY 10595  
  
(914) 345-9463

### PORTUGAL and FRANCE

(EXCEPT ALSACE, BURGUNDY, BEAUJOLAIS, CHAMPAGNE, LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON, LOIRE VALLEY, RHÔNE VALLEY, PROVENCE and VIN DE FRANCE)

All shipments must be sent from within the EU (non-EU originating shipments cannot be accommodated).

**Roger Voss**  
4 Route de Mondebat à Laclaverie  
32160 Beaumarchés FR  
  
+33 (0)782620579  
  
[rvoss@wineenthusiast.com](mailto:rvoss@wineenthusiast.com)

Wines from Languedoc-Roussillon will be tasted and reviewed by Matt Kettmann, and should be sent to him at the below address:

**Matt Kettmann**  
318 Loreto Place  
Santa Barbara, CA 93111  
  
1-805-284-2097  
  
[mkettmann@wineenthusiast.com](mailto:mkettmann@wineenthusiast.com)

# WINEENTHUSIAST

Ratings Platform

## SPAIN

### NORTHEAST SPAIN:

(Aragon, Castilla-La Mancha, Catalunya, La Rioja, Madrid, Navarra, País Vasco)

All samples from Northeast Spain will be tasted and reviewed by Elaine Chukan Brown, and should be sent to them at the below address:

#### **Northeast Spain**

**Elaine Chukan Brown**  
Crown Wine Shipping  
101 Grant Ave, Unit D  
Healdsburg, CA 95448

1-707-934-8789

[ebrown@wineenthusiast.com](mailto:ebrown@wineenthusiast.com)

### NORTHWEST & SOUTHERN COASTAL SPAIN:

(Castilla y Leon, Extremadura, Galicia, Andalucía, Murcia, Valencia)

These regions will be tasted in our NY Headquarters by Brandon Borcoman and Reggie Solomon.

#### **Wine Enthusiast**

c/o Tasting Department  
200 Summit Lake Drive  
4th Floor  
Valhalla, NY 10595

(914) 345-9463

## REGIONS TASTED IN OUR NY HEADQUARTERS

**US:** From Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi to the East Coast

**FRANCE:** Alsace, Beaujolais, Bandol, Burgundy, Champagne, Jura/Savoie, Loire Valley, Provence, Rhône Valley & Vin de France

**EUROPE:** All countries except Portugal and Northeast Spain

**MEXICO, CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA**

**AFRICA**

**AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND**

**ASIA**

**Wine Enthusiast**  
c/o Tasting Department  
200 Summit Lake Drive  
4th Floor  
Valhalla, NY 10595  
  
(914) 345-9463

## SPIRITS & RTD

Spirits & Spirit based RTD Beverages may be shipped to Kara Newman, spirits Writer-at-Large, at her New York City office. Please send one bottle for each spirit submission.

**Spirits & RTD**  
  
**Kara Newman**  
116 West 23rd Street, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10011  
  
For deliveries only:  
212-268-2103  
  
[knewman@wineenthusiast.com](mailto:knewman@wineenthusiast.com)