

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

D6, WSET Level 4 Diploma in Wines



Assignment 2: July 2026 submission – Orange Wine

Context

Although the roots of orange wine date back thousands of years, they only started to gain recognition in western Europe and the wider wine world around the turn of the 21st century. The term ‘orange wine’ was established a few years later in 2004. Since then, there has been a steady increase in the style globally, albeit from a small base. This growth has made orange wine an accepted part of the wine industry.

[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 Assignment 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:

- 1) What is meant by the term ‘orange wine’? Describe the typical practices in the winery associated with the production of these wines around the world. (25% weighting)
- 2) Assess the challenges of selling orange wines in both the on-trade and off-trade. (30% weighting)
- 3) What are the current market opportunities and future outlook for orange wine? (30% weighting)

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