

WSET Diploma in Wine Benelux 2023

The logo for WineWise, featuring the word "Wine" in a white serif font above the word "Wise" in a white sans-serif font, both set against a dark purple circular background.

The WSET Diploma in Wines is globally the most recognized professional qualification in the international wine trade and recommended by the Institute of Masters of Wine for proceeding to the MW study program. This qualification, offered by the British Wine and Spirit Education Trust (WSET®), is established in 20 countries – from London to New York, from Oslo to Tokyo. Since 2000, WineWise has been a partner of WSET® and has been offering the Diploma course in the Benelux since 2003.

WSET Level 4 Diploma is the flagship qualification from WSET and consists out of 6 units (D1 till D6). It takes generally 18 months up till 3 years to complete all classes and exams.

Course content and exams

D1: WINE PRODUCTION

Viticulture, vinification, maturation, treatments and packaging.

This unit is part of the start module of the course and consists of a 6-week online course with interactive teaching on the WSET Online Learning platform.

1 EXAM: D1 Wine production: open-response exam

D2: THE GLOBAL WINE BUSINESS

Production and consumption of wines worldwide, the local market and the marketing of wines. This unit 1 is also part of the start module and consists of an introduction class (1,5h) followed by a 6-week online course with interactive teaching on the WSET Online Learning platform.

1 EXAM: D2 Wine Business: open-response exam

D3: WINES OF THE WORLD

Northern and Western Europe

France (Bordeaux, South West France, Burgundy, Alsace, Loire), Germany

Central and South Eastern Europe

Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Cyprus

Southern Europe

France (Rhône, Southern France), Italy, Spain, Portugal

America

North, Central and South America

Australia, New Zealand, Africa and Asia

2 EXAMS: D3 Wines of the World – Tasting exam – 2 papers
D3 Wines of the World – Theory exam – 2 papers

D4: SPARKLING WINES

Methods of production, types and styles of sparkling wines

1 EXAM: D4 Theory and Tasting exam – 1 combined paper

D5: FORTIFIED WINES

Methods of production, types and styles of fortified wines

1 EXAM: D5 Theory and Tasting exam – 1 combined paper

D6: INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

WSET will publish in August briefs for two research assignments per year. The topics will be designed to assess the candidate's ability to research beyond the WSET learning materials provided and evaluate current trends in wine. Topics could include: a specific type or style of wine in a global context; one or more specified countries, regions or varieties or a contemporary issue in the wine world.

This unit is part of the start module because you receive all information at registration for the WSET Diploma course, but students can submit the D6 assignment at a later moment.

@HOME: D6 Research assignment of 3.000 words

Important information?

A key point of the WSET Level 4 diploma: it is for the most part self-study. If the student is being taught in class, he/she is expected to have read the study material of the topic beforehand. The classroom is there to flesh out knowledge. Also, for the online courses, the student should have read the study material content **before** the start date of the course.

New upset in the Benelux

Since 2019, students can START the WSET Diploma in Wines offered by WineWise at 3 different moments. The START module is "blended learning", partly online and partly classroom tuition.

For the other units' students can opt for classroom classes or online tuition, or a mix of both.

The START module is always built-up as followed:

- Subscription deadline: Please respect this deadline
- Introduction ALL diploma units – ZOOM group meeting of 1,5 hour
- Personal Skype meeting ½ hour – upon demand
- D1 – Viticulture & Vinification ONLINE + WineWise LifeLong Learning platform
- D1 – Exam Viti/Vini – 9.30 am till 11 am in Antwerp (BE) **OR** Woerden (NL)
- Diploma course INTRO – always on the day you have D1 exam – 11.30 am till 1 pm
- Diploma Tasting Technique – always on the day you have D1 exam – 2 pm till 5 pm
- D2 – Wine Business ONLINE + WineWise LifeLong Learning platform
- D2 – Exam Wine Business
- D6 – Exam Independent Research Assignment

The start module, including the D1 exam, will be offered in Antwerp (BE) **OR** Woerden (NL). The start dates and location are announced on [the registration page](#) of the WineWise website. The student can start this module with WineWise in September, December or May.

Please, respect the registration deadlines.

All Diploma students have access to the online classroom where they can find the academic content (study materials) for studying the diploma. They have access for 3 years. After 3 years the student can renew their access at extra cost.

There is also the possibility to go to an "**optional**" study trip with focus on viti/vini among other topics, that will be organized every academic year. The next one will be in spring 2023. This offers a unique opportunity to participants to combine learning about international wines with practical firsthand experience in viticulture, winemaking and business-related topics. This study trip is not mandatory or necessary to pass the exams.

Other units (D3, D4, D5)

After the start module, students can continue with classroom courses, online tuition or a mix of both for the other units (D3, D4 and D5). Each student can decide in which order he/she follows the D3, D4 and D5 units. But please be aware that you always have to take the **D1 Viti/Vini** exam before you can do the D2 and D6 exam or start the other modules.

D3, Wines of the World is the most important unit of the WSET Diploma in Wines qualification. Classroom courses are always given in Breda (NL).

For D3 we strongly recommend the classroom courses, to improve your tasting skills. In addition, it is a unique opportunity to meet and interact with fellow candidates from all over Europe who share the same passion and goals within the wine industry. A network giving business opportunities and enriching a multicultural learning environment.

The D3 unit starts twice a year, in March (exam in October) and in October (exam in May). The dates are grouped in 5 blocks of 2 days and at the end there is an exam training.

D4, Sparkling and D5, Fortified classes will be offered 2 times a year in Breda (NL).

The exact dates and locations are mentioned below and will be announced on your personal WineWise platform.

For all D3, D4 and D5 classes we need a minimum of 15 students registered before the announced registration date. Otherwise, the students will be informed to postpone this class to the next possible option or to follow the online tuition.

DipWSET

WSET® Diploma graduates are recognized by the distinguishing letters **DipWSET** after their name, giving them the recognition that they deserve. They become automatically part of the WSET Diploma Alumni Club. This organization offers an expanded range of activities and communities to Diploma graduates around the world.

Diploma Graduates have access to the **WSET Global Campus**. The global campus contains limited information for WSET Diploma graduates, including market reports and a full list of fellow alumni. It has been designed to maintain your knowledge through continued professional development after you have graduated.

Weinakademiker

DipWSET® graduates can apply for the Weinakademiker title. Upon completion of a thesis and a viva-voce exam, successful candidates will gain the European title **Weinakademiker**, awarded by the Austrian Wine Academy. Graduates are requested to sign a code of conduct and join the international alumni association with more than 700 graduates from 25 different countries. An ideal network platform in the European Wine Industry. This qualification is optional and can only be done once you are a WSET® Diploma graduate (DipWSET®).

Who should participate?

The WSET® DIPLOMA IN WINES imparts a broad, up to date knowledge about the wines, fortified wines and wine countries of the world, viticulture and vinification as well as professional wine tasting and wine assessment skills.

This qualification is recommended for the following groups:

- wine trader
- wine wholesaler
- wine producer
- wine collector
- wine consultant
- wine manager
- wine journalist
- sommelier
- restaurant holder
- wine & spirit related jobs
- This qualification is also suitable for the dedicated wine enthusiast wishing to build on knowledge gained at Level 3 and acquire further expertise in wine tasting.

Lecturers Benelux course

- **Frank Smulders MW**, Weinakademiker h.c., Netherlands
- **Matthias Schmitt**, Hochschule/University Geisenheim, Germany (optional)
- **Fiona Morisson MW**, Belgium
- **Michael Palij MW**, UK
- **Job de Swart MW**, Netherlands
- **Romana Echensperger MW**, Germany
- **Anja Vondenhoff DipWSET - WA**, Netherlands
- **Sybille Troubleyn DipWSET - WA**, Belgium

Entrance qualifications

It is mandatory to hold the **WSET® Level 3 Award** (former WSET® Advanced Certificate) to start the WSET® Level 4 Diploma in Wines course.

This course can be followed at several locations in the Benelux. For all available locations, please consult the www.wsetglobal.com website where you can find a list of Approved Program Providers who offer this qualification.

An online Level 3 program is available for Vinologen, Sommelier (Conseil) or Sommelier (Syntra). Please contact info@winewise.be for more information.

Start Module 2023 – Course information – Benelux – obligatory for everybody

D1, D2 and D6 are the START module (blended learning).

All students need to start with this module, followed by the other units (D3, D4 and D5), in random order and in classroom and/or online form.

START MODULE DECEMBER 2022 – WOERDEN (Netherlands):

Registration deadline 12/12/22

Introduction ZOOM meeting on the 2nd of January 2023 from 6 till 7.30 pm.

Personal skype moment upon demand: date and hour on request.

D1 and D2 are given by **online tuition**. Start of the online courses:

- D1 Viti/Vini Start: 9/01/23 Finish: 19/02/23
- D2 Wine Business Start: 10/04/23 Finish: 21/05/23

Exams of the Start module:

- D1 Viti/Vini exam 27/03/23 9 am + class tuition until 5 pm (Woerden NL)
- D2 Wine Business 7/06/23 11.30 am (Breda – Hotel Princeville)
- D6 Independent Research Assignment – Jun 2023 **OR** January 2024

START MODULE MAY 2023 – ANTWERP (Belgium):

Registration deadline 10/05/2023

Introduction ZOOM meeting on the 30th May 2023 from 6 till 7.30 pm.

Personal skype moment: if wanted – date and hour on request.

D1 and D2 are given by online tuition. Start - Finish of the online courses:

- D1 Viti/Vini Start: 5/06/23 Finish: 16/07/23
- D2 Wine Business Start: 14/08/23 Finish: 24/09/23 (ntbc)

Exams of the Start module:

- D1 Viti/Vini exam 21/08/23 9 am + class tuition until 5 pm (Antwerp BE)
- D2 Wine Business 24/10/23 11.30 am (Breda – Hotel Princeville)
- D6 Independent Research Assignment – January 2024 **OR** June 2024

START MODULE SEPTEMBER 2023 – WOERDEN (Netherlands):

Dates will be announced in April 2023

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE ONLINE TUTIONS D3, D4 and D5

For the online classes, all registration need to be done before the registration deadlines. Payment at the latest 14 days before the start date.

- Students can combine the online and classroom formula at extra cost of € 195 / day. The full program can be found on our website www.winewise.online
- **IMPORTANT:** Online courses **cannot** overlap. Keep the start and end dates in mind when registering.

D3 Module – Wines of the World – Benelux – 2023

D3 MODULE: Wines of the World – 11 days + 2 exam days

Can be followed in classroom formula, online formula **or** a combination of the two.

Location: **ALWAYS** Breda – Hotel Princeville

Classroom formula – Mon & Tue from 9 am till 5 pm (see our website for the exact dates)

- March start 13 & 14/03/23 Exam: 25 & 26 October 23
- October start 9 & 10/10/23 Exam: 14 & 15 May 24 (ntbc)

Online formula (can be combined with classroom formula at extra cost)

- April start ST: 24/04/23 FI: 8/10/23 Exam: 25 & 26 October 23
- October start ST: 30/10/23 FI: 22/04/24 Exam: 14 & 15 May 24 (ntbc)

D4 Module – Sparkling wines – Benelux – 2023

D4 MODULE: Sparkling wines – 1 day + 1,5 hour exam

Can be followed in classroom formula, online formula **or** a combination of the two.

Classroom formula – 1 day from 9 am till 6 pm – **Location:** Breda (NL)

- Monday 3/04/23 Exam: 7/06/23
- Monday 27/11/23 Exam: 24/01/24

Online formula (can be combined with classroom formula at extra cost)

- OL April Start: 17/04/23 Finish: 21/05/23 Exam: 7/06/23
- OL July Start: 17/07/23 Finish: 20/08/23 Exam: 24/10/23
- OL November Start: 6/11/23 Finish: 10/12/23 Exam: 24/01/24 (ntbc)

D5 Module – Fortified wines – Benelux – 2023

D5 MODULE: Fortified wines – 1 day + 1,5 hour exam

Can be followed in classroom formula, online formula **or** a combination of the two.

Classroom formula – 1 day from 9 am till 6 pm – **Location:** Breda (NL)

- Monday 25/09/23 Exam: 24/10/23
- Monday April/24 Exam: June 2024

Online formula (can be combined with classroom formula at extra cost)

- OL April Start: 17/04/23 Finish: 21/05/23 Exam: 7/06/23
- OL August Start: 21/08/23 Finish: 25/09/23 Exam: 24/10/23 (ntbc)
- OL November Start: 6/11/23 Finish: 10/12/23 Exam: 24/01/24 (ntbc)

ATTENTION – WSET DIPLOMA EXAMS

Students are registered for fixed exams but can transfer the exam ONCE to the next possible exam date **BEFORE** the exam registration deadline. These dates can be found on the WineWise website and on the student's WineWise portal.

In case the candidate does not show up for an exam he/she is registered for, the exam right expires, and the re-sit fee will be charged for the next participation in the exam.

Course locations

Hotel Princeville – Breda – D3 classes and all exams (except D1 Viti/Vini exam) [Breda - Hotel Princeville \(NL\)](#) is easy to reach by public transport (direct line) from Amsterdam, Brussels and Antwerp. There is free parking and if you want you can stay overnight at the location at a special student rate. There are also a lot of B&B's in the surroundings.

Kasteel Woerden – Start module (D1 exam and tasting), D4 and D5 classes:

Kasteel Woerden – www.kasteelwoerden.nl

Kasteel 3, 3441 BZ Woerden, Netherlands

Train station Woerden is 5 min walk from the location.

WineWise Antwerp – Start module (D1 exam and tasting), D4 and D5 classes:

WineWise Antwerp – www.winewise.be

Eglantierlaan 68, 2020 Antwerp, Belgium

Antwerp Central Station – Bus 17 – Della Faillelaan stops at 50 m from the Academy.

Course fee - All prices excluding 21% VAT (from 1/02/22)

- **Invoice START module (D1, D2, D6):** € 2.245 (+ 21% VAT if applicable)
 - 50% payment before start date
 - 25% payment 2 month after start date
 - 25% payment 3 months after start date

- **Invoice D3 (Wines of the World):**
 - Classroom formula € 3.195 (+ 21% VAT if applicable)
 - 50% before start date
 - 25% payment 2 month after start date
 - 25% payment 3 months after start date

 - Online formula € 1.545 (+ 21% VAT if applicable)
 - Full payment before registration date
 - Extra classroom course: 195 €/day

- **Invoice D4 (Sparkling) and D5 (Fortified):**
 - Classroom formula € 495 (+ 21% VAT if applicable)
 - Payment before start date

 - Online formula € 405 (+ 21% VAT if applicable)
 - Payment before registration date
 - Extra classroom course: 195 € / day

Not included:

- Hotel and/or dinner, if wanted, in Breda – Hotel Princeville
- Re-sit exams
- Lunch @ D2, D4 and D5 (re-sit) exam days in Breda
- Books on the recommended reading list (not mandatory to pass the exams)
- Optional study trips and insurance
- Transfer from station Breda to Hotel Princeville (there are busses)

General terms and conditions

See our website – <http://www.winewise.online/>

IMPORTANT

Please note that from 1 January 2023, all our prices at WineWise will increase due to rising inflation.

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