

# WSET Diploma in Wine Benelux 23/24

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: 3 webinars + recordings 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.

All modules should be taken up within the three years of registration. For possible re-sit exams, students can re-register for a new 3-year block and thus retain their positive exam results 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 2024. 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 at least 2 times a year.

The exact dates and locations 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 (online)
- **Christophe Heynen MW**, Belgium (online)
- **Rod Smith MW**, France
- **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](http://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](mailto: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 SEPTEMBER 2023 – WOERDEN (Netherlands):**

Registration deadline 10/09/2023

Introduction ZOOM meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 from 5 till 6.30 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: 2/10/23 Finish: 12/11/23
- D2 Wine Business Zoom sessions will be announced to group - recordings available

Exams of the Start module:

- D1 Viti/Vini exam 4/12/23 9 am + class tuition until 5 pm (Woerden NL)
- D2 Wine Business 6/03/24 11.30 am (Breda – Hotel Princeville)
- D6 Independent Research Assignment – January 2024 **OR** June 2024

### **START MODULE DECEMBER 2023 – ANTWERP (Belgium):**

Registration deadline 10/12/23

Introduction ZOOM meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2024 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: 8/01/24 Finish: 18/02/24
- D2 Wine Business Zoom sessions will be announced to group - recordings available

Exams of the Start module:

- D1 Viti/Vini exam 18/03/24 9 am + class tuition until 5 pm (Antwerp NL)
- D2 Wine Business 12/06/24 11.30 am (Breda – Hotel Princeville)
- D6 Independent Research Assignment – Jun 2024 **OR** January 2025

### **START MODULE MAY 2024 – WOERDEN (Netherlands):**

Registration deadline 10/05/2024

## **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](http://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 – 2023/2024**

**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 25 & 26/03/24 Exam: 23 & 24 October 24
- October start (ntbc) 28 & 29/10/24 Exam: 13 & 14 May 25

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

- April start ST: 22/04/24 FI: 6/10/24 Exam: 23 & 24 October 24
- October start (ntbc) ST: 28/10/24 FI: 12/04/25 Exam: 13 & 14 May 25

## **D4 Module – Sparkling wines – Benelux – 2023/2024**

**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 27/11/23 Exam: 24/01/24
- Monday 9/09/24 Exam: 22/10/24

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

- OL November Start: 6/11/23 Finish: 10/12/23 Exam: 24/01/24
- OL March Start: 4/03/24 Finish: 7/04/24 Exam: 12/06/24
- OL July Start: 15/07/24 Finish: 18/08/24 Exam: 22/10/24

## D5 Module – Fortified wines – Benelux – 2023/2024

**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 22/04/24 Exam: 12/06/24
- Monday November 24 Exam: 22/01/2025

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

- OL November Start: 6/11/23 Finish: 10/12/23 Exam: 24/01/24
- OL April Start: 15/04/24 Finish: 19/05/24 Exam: 12/06/24
- OL August (ntbc) Start: 19/08/24 Finish: 23/09/24 Exam: 22/10/24

## 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.

All modules and exams need to be done for the first time within the 3-years registration.

## Course locations

**Hotel Princeville – Breda – D3, D4 and D5 classes and all exams (except D1 Viti/Vini)**

[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):**

Kasteel Woerden – [www.kasteelwoerden.nl](http://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):**

WineWise Antwerp – [www.winewise.be](http://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 1/01/23)

- **Invoice START module (D1, D2, D6):** € 2.300 (+ 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 € 3.275 (+ 21% VAT if applicable)
    - 50% before start date
    - 25% payment 2 month after start date
    - 25% payment 3 months after start date
  - Online formula € 1.585 (+ 21% VAT if applicable)
    - Full payment before registration date
    - Extra classroom course: 195 €/day
- **Invoice D4 (Sparkling) and D5 (Fortified):**
  - Classroom formula € 505 (+ 21% VAT if applicable)
    - Payment before start date
  - Online formula € 415 (+ 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 January 2024, all our prices at WineWise will increase due to rising inflation.

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### **Version 1/06/23**