

# WSET Systematic Approach to Tasting Wine® (Diploma)

## CHECKLIST: EXAMPLES OF TASTING TERMS

APPEARANCE				
<b>Clarity</b>		bright or dull, clear or hazy ( <i>faulty?</i> )		
<b>Intensity</b>		pale – medium (-) – medium – medium (+) – deep		
<b>Colour</b>	white rosé red	lemon-green – lemon – gold – amber – brown pink – salmon – orange – onion-skin purple – ruby – garnet – tawny – brown		
<b>Other observations</b>		e.g. rim vs core, legs/tears, deposit, petillance <b>sparkling wines:</b> comment on size, speed and persistence of bubbles		
NOSE				
<b>Condition</b>		clean – unclean ( <i>fault: oxidised – out of condition – cork taint – other</i> )		
<b>Intensity</b>		light – medium(-) – medium – medium(+) – pronounced		
<b>Development</b>		youthful – developing – fully developed – tired/past its best deliberate oxidation?		
<b>Aroma characteristics</b>		e.g. fruits, flowers, spices, vegetables, oak aromas, other		
PALATE				
<b>Sweetness</b>		dry – off-dry – medium-dry – medium – medium-sweet – sweet – luscious		
<b>Acidity</b>		low – medium(-) – medium – medium(+) – high		
<b>Tannin</b>	level: nature:	low – medium(-) – medium – medium(+) – high e.g. ripe/soft vs unripe/green/stalky, coarse vs fine-grained		
<b>Alcohol</b>		low – medium(-) – medium – medium(+) – high <b>fortified wines:</b> fortified to a low – medium – high level?		
<b>Body</b>		light – medium(-) – medium – medium(+) – full		
<b>Flavour intensity</b>		light – medium(-) – medium – medium(+) – pronounced		
<b>Flavour characteristics</b>		e.g. fruits, flowers, spices, vegetables, oak flavours, other		
<b>Other observations</b>		e.g. texture, balance, overall impression <b>sparkling wines:</b> comment on mousse texture and pressure		
<b>Length</b>		short – medium(-) – medium – medium(+) – long		
CONCLUSIONS				
<b>Quality</b>		faulty – poor – acceptable – good – very good – outstanding		
<b>Reasons for quality</b>		e.g. balance, concentration, complexity, length, typicality		
<b>Origins/variety/theme</b>		e.g. location (country, region) e.g. grape variety/varieties e.g. production methods/climatic influences etc		
<b>Price</b>		(approximate retail price including all taxes)		
<b>Age (in years)</b>		(age in years)		
<b>Readiness for drinking/potential for ageing</b>	too young (how long until ready to drink?)	can drink now, but has potential for ageing (how long will it last?)	drink now: not intended for ageing	too old

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## AROMA AND FLAVOUR CHARACTERISTICS

<b>Floral/ Fruit</b>	<b>Floral</b>	acacia, honeysuckle, chamomile, elderflower, geranium, blossom, rose, violet, iris, neroli (delicate or aromatic?)
	<b>Green Fruit</b>	apple (green/red?), gooseberry, pear (peardrop/amylic?), custard apple, quince, grape (simple/generic or specific? fresh or cooked? ripe or unripe?)
	<b>Citrus Fruit</b>	grapefruit, lemon, lime, citrus peel (orange, lemon) (simple/generic or specific? fresh or cooked? ripe or unripe?)
	<b>Stone Fruit</b>	peach, apricot (fresh/dried?), nectarine (simple/generic or specific? fresh or cooked? ripe or unripe?)
	<b>Tropical Fruit</b>	banana, lychee, mango, melon, passion fruit, pineapple (simple/generic or specific? fresh or cooked? ripe or unripe?)
	<b>Red Fruit</b>	redcurrant, cranberry, raspberry, strawberry, red cherry, plum (fresh/baked?) (simple/generic or specific? fresh or cooked? ripe or unripe?)
	<b>Black Fruit</b>	blackcurrant, blackberry, bramble, blueberry, black cherry (simple/generic or specific? fresh or cooked? ripe or unripe?)
	<b>Dried Fruit</b>	fig, prune, raisin, sultana, kirsch, jamminess, cooked, baked, stewed
<b>Spice/ Vegetable</b>	<b>Underripeness</b>	green bell pepper (capsicum), grass, white pepper, leafiness, tomato, potato
	<b>Herbaceous</b>	grass, asparagus, blackcurrant leaf, pyrazine
	<b>Herbal</b>	eucalyptus, mint, medicinal, lavender, fennel, dill
	<b>Vegetable</b>	cabbage, peas, beans, olive (black/green?) (fresh? cooked?)
	<b>Sweet Spice</b>	cinnamon, cloves, ginger, nutmeg, vanilla
	<b>Pungent Spice</b>	black/white pepper, liquorice, juniper
<b>Other</b>	<b>Simplicity/ Neutrality</b>	simple, neutral, indistinct
	<b>Autolytic</b>	yeast, biscuit, bread, toast, pastry, brioche, lees
	<b>Dairy/MLF</b>	butter, cheese, cream, yoghurt
	<b>Oak</b>	vanilla, butterscotch, toast, cedar, charred wood, smoke, acrid, resinous
	<b>Kernal</b>	almond, marzipan, coconut, hazelnut, walnut, chocolate, coffee
	<b>Animal</b>	leather, meaty, farmyard
	<b>Maturity</b>	vegetal, mushroom, hay, wet leaves, forest floor, game, savoury, tobacco, cedar, honey, cereal
	<b>Mineral</b>	earth, petrol, kerosene, rubber, tar, smoke, stony/steely, wet wool
<b>Faults</b>	<b>Anisoles</b>	mustiness, wet cardboard, TCA
	<b>Brettanomyces</b>	animal, leather, meaty, sticking plaster, vinyl, farmyard
	<b>Oxidation</b>	caramel, toffee, staleness, sherry aromas, aldehydes
	<b>Volatile Acidity</b>	vinegar, solvents, nail varnish remover, 'lifted'
	<b>Reduction</b>	mercaptans, cabbage, eggs, sweat, rubber, onion, garlic, blocked drains
	<b>Other</b>	beetroot/earth (geosmin), rot, mould

## TEXTURE AND BALANCE

<b>Component Balance</b>	<b>Sweetness</b>	austere, thin, drying unctuous, cloying, sticky
	<b>Acid</b>	tart, green, sour, acidic, lively, refreshing, zesty flabby, thick, heavy
	<b>Tannin (reds)</b>	thick, dense, rough, sinewy, robust, harsh, bitter, hard, dried-out well-integrated, supple, rounded, resolved, ripe
	<b>Alcohol</b>	delicate, light, thin warm, generous, hot, heady, spirity, burning
	<b>Fruit</b>	austere, severe, hollow, meagre, neutral well-defined, soft, juicy, fruit-driven, forward, generous
	<b>Texture</b>	<b>Tannin 'grain'</b>
<b>Tannin (whites)</b>		waxy, bitter, drying, coarse
<b>Viscosity</b>		watery, thin, fluid, supple creamy, fleshy, mouthcoating, oily, rich, soupy, thick
<b>Carbon Dioxide</b>		petillant, effervescent, prickly, bubbly
<b>Overall Impression</b>	<b>Ripeness</b>	green, stemmy, cool-climate, refreshing over-ripe, baked, cooked, jammy, hot-climate, warming
	<b>Freshness</b>	vivid, well-defined, expressive evolved, tertiary, fading, dull, tired
	<b>Harmony</b>	well-structured, elegant, well-delineated, mellow, harmonious shapeless, angular, clumsy, disjointed