



Competition categories

Deciding where to enter your wine in the Sommelier Wine Awards? Designed for the on-trade, our categories reflect the way a wine list is put together.

There are three main sections: Essentials, New World, and Old World. The below gives you an idea of those categories and their sub-categories.

ESSENTIALS

For those wines found on all wine lists

Sparkling

- Prosecco: (Prosecco - Valdobbiadene)
- Franciacorta
- Cava
- England & Wales
- Champagne: (NV; Vintage; Ultra-dry; off-dry)
- Other France
- Other Italy
- Other Europe
- New World
- Rosé Champagne
- Sparkling Rosé: England/Wales; Other regions
- Red
- Frizzante, semi-sweet & lower abv inc. rose
- No/Low Alcohol

Still

- House Wines - under £6 ex-VAT (Red; White; Rosé)
- Rosé - over £6 (Provence; Other regions)
- Orange Wines
- No/Low Alcohol - up to 5.5% abv (Red, White Rose)

Sweet

- White: (botrytis; non-botrytis)
- Eiswein
- Red & Tawny
- White - Lower alcohol

Fortified

- Port: (White - young & aged; Ruby LBV; Tawny; Colheita; Vintage)
- Sherry: (Fino & manzanilla; Dry amontillado/ oloroso/ Palo Cortado; Medium/ sweet amontillado/ oloroso/ Palo Cortado)
- Sweet (pale/ PX)

Other fortified wines & specialties:

- Madeira & Vin Santo
- Lighter & white-port styles
- VDN & port-style
- Richer & PX-style
- Vermouths & other aromaticised wines

NEW WORLD

White

- Chardonnay*
- Chenin Blanc
- Gewurztraminer
- Pinot Gris
- Riesling*
- Sauvignon Blanc*
- Semillon & Semillon/Sauvignon blends
- Torrontés
- Viognier
- Other White varieties & blends

Red

- Cabernet/ Merlot/ Cab Franc & Bordeaux blends*
- Cabernet Franc
- Cabernet Sauvignon/ Shiraz
- Carmenère
- Malbec
- Pinot Noir*
- Pinotage
- Syrah/ Grenache/ Mourvèdre & SGM blends*
- Grenache
- Zinfandel
- Other Red varieties & blends

** These categories have sub-categories relating to the region of the New World the wines have been produced in*

OLD WORLD

France

White

- Bordeaux
- Burgundy, inc Cot Bourguignon
- Rhône
- Chablis (Chablis Cru)
- Loire: (Sauvignon; Sancerre; Chenin; Other whites)
- Alsace: (Riesling, Gewurztraminer, Other whites)
- Jura
- South-west –white
- South of France & other regions – (light varieties, Viognier)

Red

- Alsace
- Burgundy
- Beaujolais & Cot Bourguignon
- Loire
- Bordeaux: (Left Bank; Right Bank)
- Rhone: (Côtes Rhône: North; South)
- South-west
- South: (Languedoc; Roussillon; Provence & other regions)

Spain

White

- Rioja
- North- west: (Albariño; Other whites)
- North: (Txacoli; Catalonia; Duero, inc. Rueda
- Other regions

Red

- Rioja: (Joven/other; Crianza; Reserva; Gran Reserva)
- North: (Catalonia; Duero, inc. Ribera)
- North-west
- Other regions

Portugal

White:

- Vinho Verde
- Other whites

Red:

- Douro
- Alentejo
- Other reds

Italy

White

- North-west: (Gavi; Other whites)
- North-East: (Soave; Veneto; Trentino, Alto Adige, Friuli Venezia Giulia – (Pinot Grigio; Others) Pinot Grigio)
- Central: (Verdicchio; Pecorino Other whites)
- South
- Sicily & Sardinia

Red

- North-west: (Barolo; Barbaresco; Nebbiolo; Barbera, Other reds)
- North-east: (Amarone; Valpolicella; Veneto; Trentino, Alto Adige & Friuli Venezia Giulia
- Central: (Chianti; Classico; Riserva; Gran Selezione; Montalcino; Montepulciano; Montepulciano d’Abruzzo; Tuscany; Other reds)
- South: (Sicily & Sardinia (Nero d’Avola); other (Nero d’Avola))

Germany

White

- Riesling: (Dry; Medium; Late harvest)
- Gewürztraminer; (Other whites)

Red

Austria

White

- Grüner Veltliner;
- Riesling;
- Other whites

Red

- Blaufränkisch;
- Zweigelt;
- Other reds

England • White • Red

Turkey • White • Red (Kalecik Karasi; Okuzgozu, Bogazkere; international varieties)

Hungary • White • Red

Greece • white • red

Lebanon • red

Slovenia • white

Other old world countries • White • Red • Switzerland

• Romania • Bulgaria • Georgia • Kazakhstan • Armenia
• Croatia • Slovenia (red)