

COURSEWORK ASSIGNMENT BRIEF

Unit 1, WSET Level 4 Diploma in Wines and Spirits



Assignment 1: November 2018 – The short and long-term implications of the 2017 vintage

Context

The small size of the 2012 vintage in the Northern Hemisphere brought home to many the narrowing of the gap between supply and demand in the global wine market. Ever since then the wine industry has been watching the progress of each harvest with heightened concern. The big shortfall in the 2017 crop in many parts of the world saw the fear of a supply crunch realised. Industry participants and commentators are still working through the commercial implications of this acute drop in production.

[See next page for required sections and allocation of marks]

Instructions for candidates

- Assignments **must** be between 2500 and 3000 words in length (excluding references, bibliography, appendices, diagrams or tables) and contain 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 (including the course materials, trade/general press and relevant industry sources such as the OIV and other trade publications). There should be clear evidence of critical analysis of source material and well-reasoned personal commentary, together with relevant examples to support the points made.
- There are 100 marks available, of which 20 marks 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 Coursework Assignment Guidelines set out in the Candidate Assessment Guide 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. Introduction (10 marks)

The candidate should present a summary of the data that shows the narrowness of the gap between supply and demand in the global wine market over the last ten years.

2. The 2017 vintage (30 marks)

A vintage report should be written that explains why the 2017 harvest in parts of Europe and the New World was small in terms of volume. The report should focus on the issues that had a bearing on quantity rather than quality.

3. The supply crunch (20 marks)

The candidate should describe the implications of the acute drop in global production in 2017.

4. Personal commentary (20 marks)

The candidate should discuss how they see the global wine industry evolving in the light of the narrow gap between supply and demand that now seems to be a permanent feature of the market.

The remaining 20 marks are allocated to presentation and structure, as outlined in *Instructions for candidates* on previous page.