

# INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

D6, WSET Level 4 Diploma in Wines



## Assignment 1: January 2021 submission – Australia.

### Context

The twenty years from the mid 1980s to the mid 2000s were a Golden Age for Australian wine. The vineyard area expanded enormously, winemaking skills and wine styles were perfected and the whole process of marketing and selling Australian wine became very professional and successful. Troubled times followed however, with surplus wines unable to find markets, winery closures, vineyard sales and job redundancies. Yet a positive mentality has prevailed, with new strategies being put in place to safeguard the future of the Australian wine industry.

[See below for required sections and allocation of marks]

### Instructions for candidates

- Assignments must adhere to the word count of 3,000 words. A tolerance of 10% will be allowed which means the research assignment should be no fewer than 2,700 words and no longer than 3,300 words in length. The word count excludes references, bibliography, appendices, diagrams or tables.
- Candidates must include 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 and that it will be necessary to read around the subject matter. It will not be sufficient to rely solely on the Diploma materials. There should be clear evidence of critical analysis of the source material and well-reasoned personal commentary, together with relevant examples to support the points made.
- There are 100 marks available, of which 15 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 *D6 Independent Research Guidelines* 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:

- Briefly identify the factors that resulted in Australian wine exports increasing rapidly in the 1980's and 1990's. (15% weighting)
- Examine the reasons for the shift from "global success" to the period of overproduction and devaluation that occurred after the mid 2000's. (40% weighting)
- What strategies have been put in place to address this downturn? What additional challenges might the Australian wine industry face in the short and long term? (30% weighting)

15% weighting is allocated to presentation and structure, as outlined in Instructions for candidates above.

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## Assignment 2: July 2021 submission – Wine production in a changing climate.

### Context

Climate change can be briefly defined as the rapid and sustained change to climate resulting from increased amounts of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Its effects on the global wine industry are being felt at all levels, from production through to the supply chain. Producers are having to adapt and change long-established practices to maintain the quality of their wines, packaging and shipping methods are being scrutinised for their “green credentials” and, on a positive note, consumers are being presented with wines from new and dynamic areas and producers.

*[See below for required sections and allocation of marks]*

### Instructions for candidates

- Assignments must adhere to the word count of 3,000 words. A tolerance of 10% will be allowed which means the research assignment should be no fewer than 2,700 words and no longer than 3,300 words in length. The word count excludes references, bibliography, appendices, diagrams or tables.
- Candidates must include 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 and that it will be necessary to read around the subject matter. It will not be sufficient to rely solely on the Diploma materials. There should be clear evidence of critical analysis of the source material and well-reasoned personal commentary, together with relevant examples to support the points made.
- There are 100 marks available, of which 15 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 *D6 Independent Research Guidelines* 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:

- Using examples from wine regions around the world, discuss how climate change is affecting grape growing. (35% weighting)
- Evaluate the ways in which vineyard and winery practices can be managed to adapt to climate change. (30% weighting)
- Identify how the supply chain and wine retail sectors are changing in the light of climate change. (20% weighting)

15% weighting is allocated to presentation and structure, as outlined in Instructions for candidates above.