

SWE Certification Programs

The Society of Wine Educators offers **three** professional credentials for those seeking to validate and certify their wine knowledge.

The **Certified Specialist of Wine (CSW)** is the first level of certification offered by the SWE. It recognizes a high standard of academic wine knowledge and the mastery of key elements within the world of wine and vine as determined by a team of wine industry educators.

The **Certified Specialist of Spirits (CSS)** recognizes a core of achievement in having mastered the fundamentals of fermentation and distillation of all major spirits types and categories, combining history, production techniques and distinguishing characteristics of style and terroir that makes each spirit unique.

The **Certified Wine Educator (CWE)** is the highest level of certification that not only acknowledges exceptional knowledge, sensory evaluation and analysis of wine, but also recognizes the demonstration of written, presentation and teaching skills to various audiences. Successful candidates possess a depth of insight and analytical perspective that derives from years of hands-on experience within the discipline.

The Benefits of Certification

Although many organizations maintain their own in-house training and wine education programs, they recognize the need for an independent and objective organization to validate their employees' wine proficiency as measured against industry standards. The international recognition of the SWE fulfills this role.

SWE credentials are career-enhancing and resumé-building tools for dedicated wine professionals, and represent the only wine knowledge-based exams approved by a professional U.S. wine society. Certificate holders, if they become members, also have the option to be listed on the SWE website, which maintains a pool of qualified educators and offers other resources.

Many industry leaders have embraced the Certified Specialist of Wine program as a vital credential that validates wine proficiency. The list of corporations and education institutions of higher learning that are actively participating in the program is growing. These leaders include:

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| Banfi Vintners | Kobrand Corporation |
| Ben Arnold Beverage Company | Landry's Restaurants |
| Brown-Forman | National Wine & Spirits Corporation |
| E & J Gallo Winery | Republic National Distributing Company |
| Edison Liquor Corp./Wirtz Beverage | Southern Wine & Spirits |
| Empire Distributors | Trincherro Family Estates Winery |
| General Beverage Sales Company | Young's Market Company |
| Glazer's Distributors | Johnson & Wales University |

▶ *Certified Specialist of Wine Program* -----
 CSW

CSW Book and Study Guide

The body of knowledge required to successfully pass the CSW exam is detailed in the Certified Specialist of Wine Book and Study Guide, that present the fundamentals with which all wine professionals should be familiar.

Information is presented in a comprehensive, practical format and is designed to help participants gain a greater understanding of the complex world of wine. The syllabus covers the following subjects: Viticulture, Grape Varieties, Wine Production, Wine Regions and Wine Appreciation.

In addition, a reference section includes information on wine and health, professional etiquette, tips on wine service and wine storage, commonly used measurements within the industry (with conversions), a recommended reading list and internet resources.

The Guide is designed for self-paced, self-study and each unit includes a set of review questions to help candidates gauge their comprehension of key subject areas. The Study Guide also includes a complete set of color maps of the major wine regions.

CSW Study Guide Shipping

To order your Study Guide, phone the SWE office at 202-408-8777, or go on line to www.societyofwineeducators.org. Orders are fulfilled in the order in which they are received. Please allow 7-10 days from receipt of order for delivery. During unusually high-volume periods, delivery can take up to 15 days. For expedited and international shipping rates, please contact the SWE office.

Certified Specialist of Wine Exam

The Certified Specialist of Wine examination is a comprehensive test consisting of 100 multiple-choice questions which must be answered within a 60-minute time frame. Test questions are based on the content of the Study Guide itself.

Sample Question: -----

All of the following wines are Premier Cru wines of Bordeaux except:

a. Ch. Lafite Rothschild
 b. Ch. Haut-Brion
 c. Ch. Margaux
 d. Ch. Lynch-Bages

Answer: d

Passing the Exam & Proof of Certification

Certification is awarded to those candidates who answer at least 75 percent of the questions correctly.

Successful candidates will receive a Certificate upon completion, a CSW lapel pin and the right to use the post-nominal CSW as part of their professional title.

The SWE Wine Academy

For the specialized trade group, the Society of Wine Educators offers a series of on-line study modules whose content is based on the text contained within the Certified Specialist of Wine Study Guide. Modules include:

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| Australia | Germany & Austria |
| France | Chile & Argentina |
| Italy | Portugal |
| Spain | USA |
| New Zealand | South Africa |
| Grape Varieties | Viticulture |
| Wine Chemistry & Composition | Winemaking |
| Wine Service, Etiquette and Appreciation | |

Each interactive study module is comprised of a pre-test, mini-quizzes, and a post-test. Scoring is immediate. A book marking feature allows the student to pick up a lesson where last left off.

Prep Exam

The Wine Academy also offers an optional 100-question multiple choice exam that is designed to serve as “a litmus test for readiness” for the Certified Specialist of Wine exam. Students are given 60 minutes to execute the test and the result is tabulated upon completion. For proof of certification, see above. The examination will be scheduled at various venues which are posted on the website.

▶ *The SWE Certified Specialist of Spirits* -----
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CSS Book and Study Guide

The body of knowledge required to successfully pass the CSS exam is detailed in a Certified Specialist of Spirits book and Study Guide that presents the fundamentals with which all spirits professionals should be familiar.

Information is presented in a comprehensive, practical format and is designed to help participants gain a greater understanding of the complex world of spirits. The syllabus covers the following subjects: Fermentation and Distillation, Whiskies of the World, Brandies, Vodka, Liqueurs and Cordials, Gin, Rum and Tequila.

The Guide is designed for self-paced, self-study and each unit includes a set of review questions to help candidates gauge their comprehension of key subject areas. The Guide includes a number of illustrations and charts to facilitate comprehension of the material. The CSS may also be completed through ‘Spirits Intensives’ arranged by the Society with qualified CSS instructors for additional fees; contact the SWE office for details.

Study Guide Shipping

To order your Study Guide, phone the SWE office at 202-408-8777, or go on line to www.societyofwineeducators.org. Orders are fulfilled in the order in which they are received. Please allow 7-10 days from receipt of order for delivery. During unusually high-volume periods, delivery can take up to 15 days. For expedited and international shipping rates, please contact the SWE office.

Certified Specialist of Spirits Exam

The Certified Specialist of Spirits examination is a comprehensive test consisting of 100 multiple-choice questions which must be answered within a 60-minute time frame. Test questions are based on the content of the Study Guide itself. The examination will be scheduled at various venues which are posted on the website.

Sample Question: -----

Armagnac VSOP must be aged in barrels for a minimum of how many years?

a. 2 years
 b. 3 years
 c. 4 years
 d. 5 years

Answer: c

Passing the Exam & Proof of Certification

Certification is awarded to those candidates who answer at least 75 percent of the questions correctly.

Successful candidates will receive a Certificate upon completion, a CSS lapel pin and the right to use the post-nominal CSS as part of their professional title.