

Certified Wine Educator (CWE) Exam – Practice Essay Questions for 2018



- While PDO wines are held in high esteem, a growing number of wine producers in Europe are choosing to break away from these traditional styles of wines. Naming at least two specific instances, discuss why a winemaker would purposely choose to make a non-PDO wine in a traditional wine-making area.
- Sonoma County is a relatively large wine-growing area with a great diversity of climates, soils, and elevations (among other aspects of terroir). Citing at least three specific AVAs, discuss three distinctly diverse areas within Sonoma County, and detail each area's unique aspects of terroir.

Further practice questions:

- Describe and discuss how Chardonnay became known to consumers as an overly-manipulated wine and how producers are combatting this perception. Discuss the current state of Chardonnay in the marketplace, including your opinion as to the three most important styles of Chardonnay-based wines today.
- Describe and discuss how you would teach a two-hour class on the wines of Provence for consumers. Include details on the wines you would offer, how you would present your information, and the learning objectives for the class.
- Compare and contrast the Old World and New World styles of Malbec. Include a discussion of the typical characteristics of the Malbec grape variety. Citing specific examples, describe the production techniques and viticultural practices that are utilized to create both styles of wine from the Malbec grape variety.
- Compare and contrast the red wines of the Rioja region along the lines of traditional style wines and "modern" wines. Include details on viticulture, vinification, and the typical tasting profile of both styles of wine.
- Compare and contrast the red wines of the Northern Rhône with the wines of the Southern Rhône. Include detailed information on the grape varieties and styles of wine produced in both regions.
- "If it grows together, it goes together." We've all heard this said—but as a wine professional, do you agree with this statement? Using specific examples of regional foods and wines, state and defend your opinion on this oft-repeated wine and food pairing advice.
- Many of the traditional wine-producing regions of Eastern Europe are being revived and modernized. Citing three specific countries, discuss the revival and/or modernization of the wine cultures of Eastern Europe.
- Tuscany is known as "red wine country" for good reason, and yet the region produces white wines as well. Using at least three specific examples, discuss the various styles of white wine produced in Tuscany.