

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

D6, WSET Level 4 Diploma in Wines

Assignment 2: July 2027 submission – Sherry & Port

Context

The fortified wine market encompasses diverse products with strong regional identities and heritage. It remains a significant but relatively small segment of the global wine market, led by the categories of Sherry and Port.

However, despite the historic importance of Sherry and Port, consumer demand has generally declined over recent decades. To remain relevant, the sector is adapting to changing consumer preferences while continuing to promote its unique character, provenance, and value.

[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 Assignment 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

With reference to Sherry and Port ONLY, candidates must address the following required sections:

- 1) Give an overview of the current state of the market for these categories. (15% weighting)
- 2) Examine why the market for Sherry and Port is declining, and what is being done to address this. (50% weighting)
- 3) In your opinion, what should the sector focus on in the next decade? (20% weighting)

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