



WSET DIPLOMA IN WINES

**Rheingau / Burgenland / Alto Adige
2026/2027**

... the „Weinakademiker“ qualification



WSET Level 4 Diploma in Wines programme to start in Germany in 2026

The Austrian Wine Academy is a non-profit organization and the largest wine education institution in Europe. It has been active particularly in German-speaking Europe since the early 1990s and these countries also include some of the most beautiful wine growing areas in the world: the river valleys of Rheingau, Mosel, Wachau, Kamptal or the lake regions of Burgenland and Switzerland, and mountainous Südtirol (Alto Adige).

The Academy has cooperated with WSET in London for more than 30 years, offering the prestigious WSET Level 4 Diploma in Wines and these world-class wine regions will host a WSET Level 4 Diploma in Wines programme to be held in the wine growing areas of Germany, Austria and Alto Adige.

Leading institutions in the world of wine such as Geisenheim University have joined forces with Austrian Wine Academy and support this programme. Diploma students are invited as VIP guests to highly prestigious wine events and exclusive tastings with celebrity winemakers. This course is supported in Germany by VDP, in Austria by Austrian Wine Marketing, in Alto Adige by Südtirol Wein and in Switzerland by Swiss Wine. These partners are organizing field trips and educational tastings and also provide generous bursaries for Diploma students.

Upon completion of a supplementary thesis and a viva voce exam, successful graduates are awarded the prestigious title "Weinakademiker" and are requested to sign a code of conduct and join the international "Weinakademiker" alumni association. This worldwide network is a perfect platform for advanced professional education, business contacts and friendships in wine.

Dr. Josef Schuller MW
Weinakademie Österreich
Director



Weinakademie Österreich

The **Weinakademie Österreich** (**Austrian Wine Academy**) was established in Rust in 1991 as a training centre for private wine lovers and professionals alike. The Austrian Wine Academy is a non-profit institution and endorses the philosophy that the more the society develops wine knowledge and culture, the more likely it is that it will respect and consume high-quality wines. More than 13,000 wine enthusiasts attend seminars annually. Already in 2001 the Academy formed a partnership with the Geisenheim University in Rheingau. A partnership with Zurich University, Campus Wädenswil in Switzerland followed in 2007. Other course centres are located in Alto Adige/Südtirol and Florence.

Course venues

This specific WSET Level 4 Diploma will take place in three different wine growing areas of Central Europe. The **Geisenheim University** in the Rheingau wine region in Germany, the **Weinakademie Campus** in Rust, a small but famous wine town in the Burgenland wine region of Austria as well as the **Kloster Neustift** in Brixen/Alto Adige are the course venues for this Diploma format.



Geisenheim



Rust



Brixen

WSET Diploma in Wines - Rheingau / Burgenland / Alto Adige 2026/27

The WSET Diploma in Wines is a globally recognized professional qualification in the international wine trade and also recommended by the Institute of Masters of Wine as preparation for entrance in the Masters of Wine (MW) study programme. The syllabus covers the wine countries of the world and the most important wines. This qualification offered by the British Wine and Spirit Education Trust (WSET) is established in more than 20

countries from - London to New York, from Oslo to Tokyo.

This particular **Diploma course** is special in many respects. Block sessions will be held in all these wine countries and there will be an additional emphasis on their wine growing regions through wine study trips and tastings. It offers a great opportunity to learn about international wines combined with practical first-hand experience in the areas of viticulture and winemaking.



Another difference to WSET Diploma courses in other countries is the fact that the graduates of this course are awarded the prestigious title "Weinakademiker". Upon completion of a thesis and a viva-voce exam, successful graduates are requested to sign a code of conduct and join the international alumni association with more than 1300 graduates from 57 different countries.



C o u r s e



The course will start with the first block sessions for D 1 and D 2 in September and November 2026 at the Campus of Geisenheim University, the leading university in the area of viticulture and vinification. The September session will include a study trip to wine regions of Germany as well as a regional VDP tasting.

During the November session in the Rheingau the first exam (D 1) will take place and Diploma students have the opportunity to visit other Rheingau wineries and attend the annual Weinakademiker graduation ceremony at Schloss Johannisberg.



These sessions will be followed by D 3 in spring 2027, where students will have the possibility to explore the wines and wine regions of Austria and Alto Adige. The first block session of D 3 will take place in the unique and picturesque environment of Austrian Wine Academy's campus in Rust surrounded by renowned wineries. A study trip will focus on international

and indigenous varieties as well as noble sweet wines in the manifold wine growing regions of Burgenland.

s e s s i o n s

The second block session of D 3 will be held at the Kloster Neustift in Alto Adige, surrounded by vineyards, the mountains and a great monasterial ambience. On a study trip Diploma students will also get to know the different wine styles of Alto Adige, from fresh Alpine white wines in the north to fruity and elegant red wines in the south.



The third D 3 block session will take place again at the Austrian Wine Academy's campus in Rust. A special study trip will take students to fantastic Steiermark wine regions at the Slovenian border. In addition Swiss Wine will organize a study trip to Swiss wine regions in June.

The final courses D 4 - 7 will be held in September 2027 at the Austrian Wine Academy's campus in Rust also surrounded by a wine study trip to Wachau and the Danube valley wine regions.



The wine study trips and tastings are included in the course fee, accommodation is not included.

Qualification

The WSET DIPLOMA IN WINES imparts a broad, up to date knowledge about the wines, fortified wines and wine countries of the world, viticulture and vinification as well as professional wine tasting and wine assessment skills. Successful candidates may be awarded the title **Weinakademiker**.

This qualification is recommended for the following target groups:

- wine trade
- wine wholesale
- restaurant business
- sommeliers
- wine management
- wine production
- wine journalists
- wine collectors

Entrance qualification

The following qualification is a prerequisite for acceptance to the Diploma in Wines:

- WSET Level 3 Award in Wines

For more information please contact Weinakademie Österreich.

Lecturers

- Willi Balanjuk, Weinakademiker, Austria
 - Prof. Dr. Monika Christmann, Weinakademiker h.c., Geisenheim University, Germany
 - Thomas Curtius MW, Weinakademiker, Germany
 - Mag. (FH) Roman Horvath MW, Weinakademiker, Austria
 - Caro Maurer MW, Weinakademiker, Germany
 - Dr. Norbert Reinisch, Weinakademiker, Italy
 - Dr. Josef Schuller MW, Austria
 - DI Georg Schweitzer, Weinakademiker, Austria
 - Frank Smulders MW, Weinakademiker h.c., Netherlands
 - Prof. Dr. Manfred Stoll, Geisenheim University, Germany
 - Andreas Wickhoff MW, Weinakademiker, Austria
- and others

Course contents

D 1:Wine Production

The vine; growing environment; style, quality and price; approaches to grape growing; grape growing options; grape yields and quality; wine components; winemaking options; postfermentation options; quality control procedures

D 2:Wine Business

Supply and demand; costs; legislation; currency exchange; types of businesses engaged in the production of wine; options for getting wine to the point of sale; considerations in wine marketing

D 3:Wines of the World

Principal wine regions in

France	Germany	Austria	Hungary
Greece	Italy	Spain	Portugal
USA	Canada	Chile	Argentina
South Africa	Australia	New Zealand	China

growing environment; grape growing options; winemaking options; postfermentation options; wine law and regulation; wine business

D 4: Sparkling Wines

Principal sparkling wines (Australia, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, South America, Spain, UK, USA); growing environment; grape growing options; winemaking options; postfermentation options; industry associations and labelling terms; wine business

D 5: Fortified Wines

Principal fortified wines (Australia, France, Portugal, Spain); growing environment; grape growing options; winemaking options; postfermentation options; industry associations and labelling terms; wine business

D 6: Independent Research Assignment

Research a specified wine-related subject

D 7:Weinakademiker thesis

Thesis with a word count of 4,000 - 5,000 and a viva voce exam

COURSE DATES 2026/27

Rheingau / Burgenland / Alto Adige

Diploma in Wines course DSC SEP 2026	
COURSE NO. DSC SEP 26 - D 1 AND D 2	
1. Diploma session:	Thu, 17 Sep - Sun, 20 Sep 2026 (Geisenheim)
2. Diploma session:	Sat, 21 Nov - Sun, 22 Nov 2026 (Geisenheim)
Diploma exam D 1:	Sat, 21 November 2026 (Geisenheim)
Diploma exam D 2:	Wed, 20 January 2027 (Rust)
COURSE NO. DSC SEP 26 - D 3	
3. Diploma session:	Thu, 21 Jan - Sun, 24 Jan 2027 (Rust)
4. Diploma session:	Wed, 24 Feb - Sat, 27 Feb 2027 (Brixen)
5. Diploma session:	Tue, 13 Apr - Sun, 18 Apr 2027 (Rust)
Diploma exam D 3:	Tue, 11 and Wed, 12 May 2027 (Rust)
COURSE NO. DSC SEP 26 - D 4 and D5	
6. Diploma session:	Thu, 2 Sep - Sun, 5 Sep 2027 (Rust)
Diploma exam D 4 and D 5:	October 2027 (Rust)
COURSE NO. DSC SEP 26 - D 6	
Independent Research Assignment	
COURSE NO. DSC SEP 26 - D 7 - Thesis	
Thesis with a word count of 4,000 - 5,000 and a viva voce exam	

Course venues:

Geisenheim University, Von-Lade-Strasse 1, D 65366 Geisenheim
 Weinakademie Österreich, Seehof, A 7071 Rust
 Kloster Neustift, Stiftstrasse 1, I 39040 Neustift/Brixen

Course fee: The course fee for **D 1 and D 2** is EUR 2360.-, for **D 3** EUR 3440.- and for **D 4 - 7** EUR 2580.- (total EUR 8380.-). If you register for **D 1 - 3** for EUR 5730.- and afterwards for **D 4 - 7** for EUR 2580.- the total course fee comes to EUR 8310.-. By booking **D 1 - 7** the course fee accounts for EUR 8230.-.

Bursaries:

For more information please visit: www.weinakademie.at/Diploma_Bursary_Scheme26.pdf

Registration deadline: Friday, 24 July 2026

For detailed information please visit: www.weinakademie.at/diploma-dsc.php

APPLICATION FORM

Yes, I would like to register for the

WSET Diploma in Wines - Rheingau / Burgenland / Alto Adige

Course:

DSC Sep 2026 (registration deadline: Friday, 24 July 2026)

please select:

☐ D I - 2

OR

☐ D I - 3

OR

☐ D I - 7

first name / surname: _____

address: _____

(street, postcode, town) _____

phone number (daytime): _____

fax: _____

e-mail: _____

occupation/area of business: _____

employer: _____

qualification: _____

(Please include a copy of your certificate.)

WSET candidate no: _____

invoice address: _____

Herewith I accept the registration and cancellation terms of the Diploma in Wines.
(www.weinakademie.at/english.php)

date _____

signature _____

Contact details:

Weinakademie Österreich

Mag. (FH) Irene Bachkönig

Seehof

A 7071 Rust

phone: +43 (0) 2685/68 53

fax: +43 (0) 2685/68 53-30

e-mail: i.bachkoenig@weinakademie.at

web: www.weinakademie.at





WSET
WINE & SPIRIT
EDUCATION TRUST



Weinakademie Österreich

Seehof . A-7071 Rust

phone: +43 (0) 2685/6853 . fax: +43 (0) 2685/6853-30

e-mail: info@weinakademie.at

www.weinakademie.at