



# WSET DIPLOMA IN WINES

## CENTRAL EUROPE 2026/2027

... the „Weinakademiker“ qualification

# CAMPUS OF WEINAKADEMIE ÖSTERREICH IN RUST



# WSET DIPLOMA IN WINES - CENTRAL EUROPE

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 for proceeding to the 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. Since 1993, the Austrian Wine Academy has been a partner of WSET and has been offering Diploma courses in Rust.

The Austrian Wine Academy – a not for profit organisation – was founded in 1991 and has acquired the formidable status of being the largest wine educational institution in Europe, with more than 15,000 wine enthusiasts attending seminars annually. In addition to courses offered in Austria, Wine Academy runs Diploma course centres in Germany (Campus Geisenheim), Switzerland (Campus Wädenswil), Italy (Florence) as well as in Südtirol/Alto Adige.

There will be an additional emphasis on Austrian wine regions through in-depth lectures and visit programmes as well as tastings. It offers a unique opportunity to participants to combine learning about international wines with practical first hand experience in viticulture and wine-making and all of this in the unique and picturesque environment of the Academy's training centre in Rust in the Burgenland wine region. Furthermore a range of bursaries is available to Diploma students to help to co-finance study costs.

Another difference to WSET Diploma courses in other countries is the fact that the graduates of this Diploma course will be 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 Weinakademiker alumni association with more than 1000 graduates from 56 different countries.



Dr. Josef Schuller MW  
Director, Weinakademie Österreich



## Qualification

The WSET DIPLOMA IN WINES imparts a broad, up to date knowledge about the wines, sparkling wines, fortified wines and wine countries of the world, viticulture and vinification as well as professional wine tasting and wine assessment skills. Successful candidates will 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., Hochschule Geisenheim University, Germany
- Thomas Curtius MW, Weinakademiker, Germany
- Mag. (FH) Roman Horvath MW, Weinakademiker, Austria
- Caro Maurer MW, Weinakademiker, Germany
- Ferdinand Mayr, Weinakademiker, Austria
- Dr. Josef Schuller MW, Austria
- Frank Smulders MW, Weinakademiker h.c., Netherlands
- Prof. Dr. Manfred Stoll, Hochschule 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

## AUSTRIA, Rust

This Diploma programme has been designed as a residential course and late afternoons and evenings are designated to workshops, visits to vineyards and wineries and educational tastings.

The study trips in the Austrian wine regions will focus on international varieties in areas such as Wachau and Kamptal or in Styria, but also on indigenous red wines and noble sweet wines in Burgenland.

**All visits/tastings including 4 full-day wine study trips as well as lunches and coffee/tea breaks are included in the course fee.**

### Diploma in Wines course DSE MAY 2026

#### COURSE NO. DSE MAY 26 - D 1 AND D 2

1. Diploma session:	Fri, 15 May - Fri, 22 May 2026
Diploma exam D 1:	Tue, 19 May 2026 or Mon, 24 Aug 2026
Diploma exam D 2:	Tue, 20 October 2026 (first option)

#### COURSE NO. DSE MAY 26 - D 3

2. Diploma session:	Tue, 25 Aug - Fri, 28 Aug 2026
3. Diploma session:	Fri, 11 Sep - Sun, 13 Sep 2026
4. Diploma session:	Wed, 7 Oct - Sun, 11 Oct 2026
Diploma exam D 3:	Wed, 21 and Thu, 22 Oct 2026 (first option)

#### COURSE NO. DSE MAY 26 - D 4 and D 5

5. Diploma session:	Thu, 18 Mar - Sun, 21 Mar 2027
Diploma exam D 4 and D 5:	Wed, 9 Jun 2027 (first option)

#### COURSE NO. DSE MAY 26 - D 6

Independent Research Assignment

#### COURSE NO. DSE MAY 26 - Weinakademiker thesis (D 7)

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

#### Course venue:

Weinakademie Österreich, Seehof, A 7071 Rust

**Course fee:** The course fee for **D 1 and 2** is EUR 2030.-, for **D 3** EUR 2900.- and for **D 4-7** EUR 2310.- (total EUR 7240.-). If you register for **D 1-3** for EUR 4860.- and afterwards for **D 4-7** for EUR 2310.- the total course fee comes to EUR 7170.-. By booking **D 1-7** the course fee accounts for EUR 7090.-.

#### Bursaries:

For more information please visit: [www.weinakademie.at/Diploma\\_Bursary\\_Scheme26.pdf](http://www.weinakademie.at/Diploma_Bursary_Scheme26.pdf)

**Registration deadline:** Monday, 23 March 2026

For detailed information please visit: [www.weinakademie.at/diploma\\_course.php](http://www.weinakademie.at/diploma_course.php)

# APPLICATION FORM

Yes, I would like to register for the

## WSET Diploma in Wines - Central Europe

### Course:

DSE May 2026 (registration deadline: Monday, 23 March 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](http://www.weinakademie.at/english.php))

date .....

signature .....

### Contact details:

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**WSET**  
WINE & SPIRIT  
EDUCATION TRUST



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