



WSET DIPLOMA IN WINES

INTERNATIONAL 2026/2027

... the „Weinakademiker“ qualification



WSET Diploma in Austria and Italy -

Cooperation between Weinakademie Österreich, Vinality and leading Italian wineries

Austrian Wine Academy, Vinality and leading Italian wineries such as Antinori and Gaja will continue their partnership in the field of wine education. They have joined forces to offer the WSET Diploma in Wines, an international wine qualification to take place in Austria and Italy that will commence in May 2026.

The Weinakademie Österreich, the largest educational institution for wine on the European continent, has been offering the WSET Diploma for more than 30 years. Supporting education is one of the cornerstones of the mission of the Italian partner wineries. They will support the Italian Diploma session to be held in Florence by organizing study trips to their wineries as part of the programme.

The specific format of the WSET Diploma International held in block seminars enables students from around the globe to enhance their Diploma study course with workshops, tastings and presentations with leading wine producers in Austria and Italy. A common vision is to offer the WSET Diploma programme, one of the recommended stepping stones for entrance to the Master of Wine programme, to international wine aficionados. A range of bursaries is available to Diploma students to help co-finance study costs.

Austrian Wine Academy and those leading wineries are closely linked to the world's most prestigious wine institution, the Institute of Masters of Wine. The Weinakademie Österreich campus in Rust has been the venue of the European Master of Wine (MW) seminar since 2004.



Dr. Josef Schuller MW
Weinakademie Österreich
Director

WSET Diploma in Wines - International 2026/27



The WSET Diploma in Wines is a globally recognized professional qualification in the international wine trade and a recommended preparation for entrance in the Masters of Wine (MW) study programme. The syllabus covers most 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 **WSET Diploma International** of Austrian Wine Academy is special in many respects. There will be an emphasis on the Austrian and Italian wine regions through study trips to different wine growing regions. It offers a unique opportunity for participants to combine learning about international wines with practical first-hand



experience in viticulture and winemaking. The programme takes place in the unique and picturesque environment of the Austrian Wine Academy's campus in Rust in the Burgenland wine region and in the heart of Tuscany in Florence.

Another difference to WSET Diploma courses in other countries is the fact that



the graduates of this 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 members from 56 different countries.

The first course session in May 2026 will take place at Weinakademie Österreich campus in Rust. Rust is a small, world-famous wine town with a long history. Weinakademie Österreich is located in the romantic setting of the historic Seehof in the city-centre of Rust surrounded by renowned wineries. One full-day study trip to wine regions of Austria and evening events are part of this course session.



The course days of the second session in October 2026 will also be held at Weinakademie Campus in Rust. This course session is also surrounded by visiting programmes and tastings as well as the annual Weinakademiker graduation ceremony at Esterházy Palace.

Finally, students will attend the third session in Florence in March/April 2027. Late afternoons and evenings will be open to students to explore Florence and Tuscan food and wine. Study trips will take students also to other Italian wine regions.



ALL study trips are included in the course fee.

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

Diploma sessions in Austria 2026

The first block session of the WSET Diploma in Wines International at Weinakademie Österreich in Rust will take place from Friday 15 May to Sunday 24 May 2026. This session will include study trips to Austrian wine regions that focus on international varieties in Wachau and Kamptal and on indigenous red wines and noble sweet wines in Burgenland.

The second block session (Wednesday 21 October to Wednesday 28 October 2026) will also be held in Rust. This session will also include a visiting programme. Furthermore Diploma students will be invited to attend the annual Weinakademiker graduation ceremony at Esterházy Palace.



Diploma session in Italy 2027

Leading member wineries of Istituto Grandi Marchi (IGM) will support the Italian Diploma session, which will be held in Florence in March/April 2027.

During the Diploma block in Florence students will have the opportunity to taste wines from members of Istituto Grandi Marchi. They will be invited to Antinori's Tignanello winery and other leading premium wineries in Tuscany. A special field trip will take students to leading wineries in Bolgheri.

Furthermore students will be invited as VIP guests to attend the prestigious OperaWine event ahead of Vinitaly 2027 in Verona.



COURSE DATES 2026/27

AUSTRIA, Rust/Vienna & ITALY, Florence

Diploma in Wines DSI MAY 2026

1. Diploma session:

D 1, D 2, D 4, D 5 and D 6 - Weinakademie Österreich, Rust

Fri, **15 May** - Sun, **24 May 2026** (course including visiting programme)

Diploma exam D 1: Tue, 19 May 2026

Diploma exam D 2: Tue, 20 October 2026 (first option)

Diploma exam D 4 and D 5: Tue, 20 October 2026 (first option)

Submission date D 6: Fri, 31 July 2026 (first option)

2. Diploma session:

D 3 and D 7 - Weinakademie Österreich, Rust

Wed, **21 Oct** - Wed, **28 Oct 2026** (course including visiting programme)

3. Diploma session:

D 3 - Florence

March / April 2027 (*exact date will follow*; course including visiting programme)

Diploma exam D 3: Tue, 11 and Wed, 12 May 2027 (first option)

Weinakademiker thesis (D 7) with a word count of 4,000 - 5,000 and a viva voce exam

Course venues:

Weinakademie Österreich, Seehof, A 7071 Rust

Florence (course venue tbc)

Course fee: The course fee for **D 1 - 7** is EUR 9220.-. For payment by instalments the course fee for D 1 - 7 amounts to EUR 9370.-: The first instalment (EUR 4690.-) ahead of the course start, the second (EUR 2340.-) ahead of the 2. Diploma session and the third (EUR 2340.-) ahead of the 3. Diploma session. Accommodation is not included in the course fee.

Bursaries:

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

Registration deadline: Monday, 23 March 2026

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

APPLICATION FORM

Yes, I would like to register for the

WSET Diploma in Wines - International 2026/27

Course:

DSI May 2026 (registration deadline: Monday, 23 March 2026)

please select:

☐ full course (EUR 9220.-)

☐ Payment by instalments (EUR 9370.-)

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

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