

Certified Wine Educator (CWE) Exam – Practice Essay Questions



- While many vinifera grapes thrive in warm Mediterranean climates, some successful vineyards are planted in marginal climates and extreme locations—such as those involving high altitudes, low latitudes, winter freezes, or dry deserts (to name a few). Citing at least three specific examples, describe the grapes and the wines that are produced in the extreme locations of the wine-making world.
- Consumers may consider rosé a modern wine trend, but in reality it has been an Old World staple for generations. Citing at least one example each from France, Spain, and Italy, discuss some of the world’s classic rosé wines.
- 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 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.
- 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.