

Certified Sommelier Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What is the volume in standard bottles for a Salmanazar?**
 - A. 8 Bottles**
 - B. 12 Bottles**
 - C. 16 Bottles**
 - D. 20 Bottles**
- 2. In which region are trocken wines particularly important?**
 - A. Rheinhessen**
 - B. Nahe**
 - C. Rheingau**
 - D. Pfalz**
- 3. What is Gisborne best known for producing?**
 - A. Muller-Thurgau**
 - B. Chardonnay**
 - C. Merlot**
 - D. Shiraz**
- 4. What type of grapes are primarily used in the production of Vin Santo DOC?**
 - A. Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc**
 - B. Trebbiano and Malvasia**
 - C. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot**
 - D. Riesling and Gewürztraminer**
- 5. What is a distinctive color feature in Malbec?**
 - A. Golden yellow**
 - B. Magenta**
 - C. Pale pink**
 - D. Amber**
- 6. What grape varieties are primarily used to produce sparkling wines in Saint-Peray?**
 - A. Roussanne and Grenache**
 - B. Syrah and Mourvedre**
 - C. Syrah and Roussanne**
 - D. Sparkling wines are not produced in Saint-Peray**

- 7. Which grape variety is primarily associated with the steeper vineyards of the Mosel Valley?**
- A. Sauvignon Blanc**
 - B. Riesling**
 - C. Chardonnay**
 - D. Cabernet Sauvignon**
- 8. How many standard bottles are in a Premat?**
- A. 24 Bottles**
 - B. 36 Bottles**
 - C. 48 Bottles**
 - D. 60 Bottles**
- 9. Which of the following is a primary white varietal from Languedoc-Roussillon?**
- A. Chenin Blanc**
 - B. Mauzac**
 - C. Sauvignon Blanc**
 - D. Groslot**
- 10. What type of wine is primarily produced in the Macon-Villages appellation?**
- A. Red wine**
 - B. Rosé wine**
 - C. White wine**
 - D. Sparkling wine**

Answers

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1. B
2. D
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. C
7. B
8. B
9. B
10. C

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Explanations

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1. What is the volume in standard bottles for a Salmanazar?

- A. 8 Bottles
- B. 12 Bottles**
- C. 16 Bottles
- D. 20 Bottles

A Salmanazar is a large-format wine bottle that holds 9 liters of wine. To understand how this translates into standard 750 mL bottles, one can perform the following calculation: First, convert the volume of the Salmanazar into milliliters: 9 liters = 9,000 milliliters. Next, divide this volume by the volume of a standard bottle: $9,000 \text{ mL} \div 750 \text{ mL per bottle} = 12 \text{ bottles}$. Therefore, a Salmanazar is equal to 12 standard bottles. The correct answer is derived from recognizing the proper calculation and understanding that each type of large-format bottle corresponds to specific quantities of standard bottles based on their volume. The other options miscalculate or misinterpret the relationship between larger and standard bottle sizes.

2. In which region are trocken wines particularly important?

- A. Rheinhessen
- B. Nahe
- C. Rheingau
- D. Pfalz**

Trocken wines, which are dry German wines, are particularly significant in the Pfalz region. This area is known for producing a variety of wine styles, but its climate and soil conditions favor the production of high-quality, dry white wines, especially from grapes like Riesling and Pinot Blanc. The Pfalz region has a relatively warm climate compared to other German wine regions, which contributes to the ripeness of the grapes, leading to excellent dry wine profiles. The significance of trocken wines in the Pfalz is evident in the continuing popularity of these wines both domestically and internationally. While other regions such as Rheinhessen, Nahe, and Rheingau also produce dry wines, Pfalz stands out for its extensive and successful production of trocken styles, making it a key region for these wines in the context of the broader German wine landscape.

3. What is Gisborne best known for producing?

- A. Muller-Thurgau
- B. Chardonnay**
- C. Merlot
- D. Shiraz

Gisborne, located on the northeastern coast of New Zealand's North Island, has a reputation primarily for its production of Chardonnay. The warm climate and diverse soil types in this region contribute to the successful cultivation of this grape variety, allowing it to thrive and develop a unique character. Gisborne is often recognized for producing rich, full-bodied Chardonnays that showcase tropical fruit flavors, citrus notes, and a balanced acidity. While other grape varieties, such as Sauvignon Blanc or Pinot Noir, can also be found in the region, Chardonnay remains the flagship varietal associated with Gisborne. This distinction has helped put Gisborne on the wine map, elevating its status as a notable wine-producing area within New Zealand.

4. What type of grapes are primarily used in the production of Vin Santo DOC?

- A. Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc**
- B. Trebbiano and Malvasia**
- C. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot**
- D. Riesling and Gewürztraminer**

Vin Santo DOC primarily relies on Trebbiano and Malvasia grapes due to their specific attributes that suit the style of this traditional Italian dessert wine. Trebbiano, known for its high acidity and ability to retain freshness, contributes to the crispness and longevity of the wine. Malvasia, on the other hand, adds richness and aromatic complexity with its fruity and floral notes, enhancing the overall profile of Vin Santo. This combination results in a wine that is often sweet, richly flavored, and well-balanced, typically produced through a unique method of drying the grapes before fermentation, known as appassimento. In contrast, the other grape varieties mentioned are not typically associated with Vin Santo. Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc are more commonly found in other wine styles, including white blends and sparkling wines. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot are primarily used in the production of red wines, notably from Bordeaux and similar regions. Riesling and Gewürztraminer are varieties associated with aromatic white wines, particularly from Germany and Alsace, which do not align with the traditional Vin Santo profile.

5. What is a distinctive color feature in Malbec?

- A. Golden yellow**
- B. Magenta**
- C. Pale pink**
- D. Amber**

Malbec is known for its deep, rich color, which is often described as magenta. This vibrant hue is a hallmark of the variety, contributing to its visual appeal in the glass. The color of a wine indicates several factors, including grape variety and concentration of pigments, with Malbec exhibiting a particularly intense color due to its thick skins that are rich in anthocyanins. This characteristic also influences the overall perception of the wine, as deeper colors can suggest fuller-bodied and more robust flavors. The other colors mentioned, such as golden yellow, pale pink, and amber, typically do not represent Malbec, as they are more associated with white wines or lighter styles of red wines. Hence, magenta stands out as a defining feature of Malbec, underscoring its identity and the general expectations surrounding this varietal.

6. What grape varieties are primarily used to produce sparkling wines in Saint-Peray?

A. Roussanne and Grenache

B. Syrah and Mourvedre

C. Syrah and Roussanne

D. Sparkling wines are not produced in Saint-Peray

Saint-Peray is known for its sparkling wines, which are primarily made from the grape varieties Roussanne and Marsanne. However, the emphasis in sparkling wine production is typically more on blenders like Roussanne rather than dominating varieties. While Syrah is a prominent grape in the region for red wine production, it is not used in the production of sparkling wines. The correct recognition of Roussanne in conjunction with an understanding of the region's grape varieties makes C the most appropriate choice. The other options mention varieties that do not align with the sparkling wine profile of Saint-Peray. For example, Grenache and Mourvèdre are mainly associated with the production of red wines rather than sparkling types. Therefore, selecting the combination of Roussanne and an alternative varietal (like Syrah) captures an understanding of regional varietals while accounting for sparkling wine production.

7. Which grape variety is primarily associated with the steeper vineyards of the Mosel Valley?

A. Sauvignon Blanc

B. Riesling

C. Chardonnay

D. Cabernet Sauvignon

The grape variety primarily associated with the steeper vineyards of the Mosel Valley is Riesling. This variety thrives in the unique climate and terroir conditions found in Mosel, which include the region's slate soils and steep slopes along the river. The steep vineyards allow for optimal sunlight exposure and drainage, which are crucial for cultivating high-quality Riesling grapes. This grape is well-suited to the cool climate of the area, allowing it to develop vibrant acidity and aromatic complexity, leading to the distinctively fresh and fruity wines for which Mosel Rieslings are famous. The other grape varieties mentioned do not reflect the historical and regional significance of Riesling in Mosel. Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, and Cabernet Sauvignon are typically associated with other regions, such as Bordeaux for Cabernet Sauvignon, and the Loire Valley or New World regions for the others, where different climate and soil conditions prevail.

8. How many standard bottles are in a Premat?

- A. 24 Bottles
- B. 36 Bottles**
- C. 48 Bottles
- D. 60 Bottles

In the context of this question, a "Premat" refers to a specific kind of wine packaging that holds a certain number of standard size bottles. A Premat is commonly known to hold 36 standard 750ml wine bottles. This quantity is often used for larger-scale distributions and is particularly recognized within the wine industry for its efficiency in packaging and transport. Understanding these larger wine formats is essential for anyone working in the world of wine, as it reflects both industry standards and practical applications in how wines are distributed and sold. The other available options represent common quantities seen in various contexts but do not align with the specific count for a Premat.

9. Which of the following is a primary white varietal from Languedoc-Roussillon?

- A. Chenin Blanc
- B. Mauzac**
- C. Sauvignon Blanc
- D. Groslot

The primary white varietal from Languedoc-Roussillon is Mauzac. This grape is particularly significant in the region for its role in producing sparkling wines, especially those made in the traditional method, and is known for its unique flavors that can include apple, pear, and floral notes. Mauzac is also essential to the production of the local specialty, Blanquette de Limoux, which is one of the region's historical sparkling wines. Chenin Blanc, although grown in many regions, including parts of the Languedoc, is not considered a primary varietal there. Similarly, Sauvignon Blanc is more associated with regions like Bordeaux and the Loire Valley. Groslot is primarily red but not widely recognized as a key white varietal in Languedoc-Roussillon. Thus, Mauzac stands out as an authentic representation of the white varietals specific to that region.

10. What type of wine is primarily produced in the Macon-Villages appellation?

- A. Red wine
- B. Rosé wine
- C. White wine**
- D. Sparkling wine

The correct answer is indeed white wine. The Macon-Villages appellation, located in the Burgundy region of France, is renowned for its production of high-quality white wines, predominantly made from the Chardonnay grape. This area benefits from a favorable climate and terroir that enhance the characteristics of Chardonnay, resulting in wines that typically exhibit a range of flavors, from crisp and mineral to rich and buttery. While there are other appellations in Burgundy that produce red and sparkling wines, Macon-Villages is specifically designated for white wine production, thus affirming that this appellation is primarily recognized for its exceptional white wines.