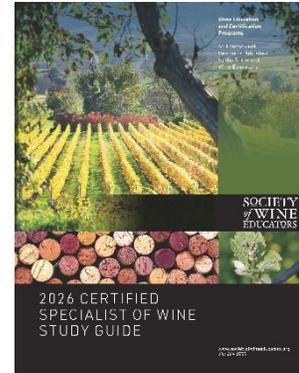


**Addendum regarding:
The 2026 Certified Specialist of Wine Study Guide,
as published by the Society of Wine Educators**

This document outlines the substantive changes to the 2026 Study Guide as compared to the 2025 version of the CSW Study Guide. All page numbers reference the 2025 version.



Note: Several of our regional wine maps have been updated. The new maps are available on the member portal of the SWE website.

Page 92: the information on Bordeaux’s Left Bank has been updated to include the following information: The Graves AOC is approved for dry red, dry white, and sweet white wines. (Note: the Graves Supérieures AOC, which produced sweet white wines only, was declassified in 2025.)

Page 94: the entry for the Graves Supérieures AOC has been removed from Table 9–1: Bordeaux Appellations.

Page 116: the information on the number of current *villages* allowed to use the term *Côtes du Rhône-Villages* has been updated to read as follows: Of these, 21 are permitted to append their names as official subzone designations to the name “Côtes du Rhône-Villages.”

Page 125: the information on the most widely planted white grape varieties in Italy has been updated to read as follows: Trebbiano Toscano (known elsewhere as Ugni Blanc), Pinot Grigio (Pinot Gris), and Glera are the leading white grapes of Italy. Trebbiano Toscano and Pinot Grigio are grown in several regions across the country, while Glera is primarily planted in the Prosecco-producing areas of the northeast. Other important white grapes include Catarratto, Garganega, Moscato (Muscat), Vermentino, and Chardonnay.

Page 126: the information on the DOCGs of Italy has been updated to read as follows: As of December 2025, Italy had 78 DOCGs and just over 330 DOCs—and these numbers are sure to remain in flux for the foreseeable future.

Page 127: the following entries have been updated/added to Table 10-1 (List of Italian DOCGs by region):

- Abruzzo (3) Casauria DOCG
- Calabria (1) Cirò Classico DOCG

Page 131: the information on the appellations of Piedmont has been revised to include the following—Piedmont is known among wine lovers as the home of the great red wines Barolo and Barbaresco—and also, among a wider audience, for its sparkling

wines. While Piedmont is not the leader in total production volume, it is unique in that the region does not currently support any IGTs. As such, it has the highest proportion of PDO wine of any of Italy's regions and is typically the second largest producer of DOC and DOCG wines in Italy behind Veneto.

Page 138: the information on Lambrusco (in Emilia-Romagna) has been updated to include the following—While often thought of as a slightly sweet, simple red wine, Lambrusco is a slightly frizzante wine produced in both dry and sweet, as well as red, white, and rosé, versions.

Page 138: the section on Abruzzo has been updated to include the following information: Abruzzo's three DOCGs—Colline Teramane Montepulciano d'Abruzzo DOCG, Tullum (Terre Tollesi) DOCG, and Casauria DOCG—also specialize in red wines based on the Montepulciano grape variety.

Page 139: the entry for Calabria has been updated to read as follows—Calabria was awarded its first DOCG in July of 2025. This wine—Cirò Classico DOCG—is a red wine based on a minimum of 90% Gaglioppo grapes and requiring a minimum of 36 months of aging, including 6 months in wood. Cirò Classico DOCG is the most prestigious wine produced in Calabria's leading wine area—Cirò—located on the *toe of the boot* along the Ionian Sea. The red wines of the Cirò DOC (like those of the overlapping Cirò Classico DOCG) are based on the Gaglioppo grape, and its white wine—produced in very small quantities—is based on Greco Bianco. Calabria is also known for Greco di Bianco DOC—a copper-colored dessert wine made from partially dried grapes. Produced in the region surrounding the town of Bianco, Greco di Bianco DOC is made from Greco Bianco grapes. (This is somewhat confusing, but the name of the town is *Bianco*, the name of the grape is *Greco Bianco*, and the name of the wine is *Greco di Bianco*.)

Page 144: the entry on Valdeorras has been updated to read as follows—Valdeorras is located on the eastern (inland) edge of Galicia. It is primarily known for white wines based on the Godello grape variety as well as rich, fruity red produced from Mencía. However, the appellation is approved for a long list of wine types and styles, including white blends (Valdeorras blanco), red blends (Valdeorras tinto), dried-grape wine (tostado), and rosé (Valdeorras rosado).

Page 149: the following information was added to the entry regarding Jerez-Xéres-Sherry—It should be noted that while Sherry has—for generations—been known exclusively as a fortified wine, a regulatory update (passed in July of 2025) allows for certain types of Sherry to be unfortified, if the wine has obtained a minimum of 15% abv by natural means. This regulation—as applied to both the Jerez-Xéres-Sherry DO and the Manzanilla Sanlúcar de Barrameda DO—includes the following styles of wine: Fino, Amontillado, Oloroso, Palo Cortado, and Manzanilla.

Page 159: the information regarding Tawny Porto was updated to include the following—Basic tawny Port is sometimes aged for just a few years, but those labeled “Reserve Tawny Port” reflect the true style and are required to be aged in oak casks for at least six years before bottling.

Page 172: the section on the Nahe has been updated to read as follows: The Nahe lies southwest of the Rheingau, encompassing the spot where the Nahe River flows into the Rhine. The Nahe Valley, west of Rheinhessen, produces Rieslings that are well respected, if not especially well-known. White wine dominates the area, with Riesling planted to approximately 30% of the total vineyard area. Other leading grape varieties include Müller-Thurgau, Grauburgunder (Pinot Gris), Weissburgunder (Pinot Blanc), Dornfelder, and Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir). The region has many fine vineyard sites on the south facing slopes of the mainly east–west valleys of the Nahe and its tributaries.

Page 172: the section on the Rheinhessen has been updated to read as follows—The Rheinhessen—Germany’s largest wine region in terms of area under vine and overall wine production—is a valley of gently rolling hills forming a low, flat plateau. Known as “Germany’s Switzerland,” it is located on the south and west bank of the Rhine River across from the Rheingau and north of the Pfalz. Unlike many other German wine regions, the Rheinhessen is a relatively fertile region and several other crops—in addition to grapevines—occupy the area.

As the vineyard areas are surrounded by protective hills and forests, the Rheinhessen enjoys a moderately warm climate and many of the wines of this region tend to be uncomplicated and easy-to-drink. As such, it is not surprising to learn that this is home of *Liebfraumilch*—a mellow white wine blend originally made from grapes grown in vineyards surrounding the *Liebfrauenkirche* (Church of Our Lady) located in the city of Worms. However, top-tier wines—dry, complex, and often labeled as *Selection Rheinhessen*—are produced as well.

While focusing (74%) on white wines, the Rheinhessen grows a wide range of grape varieties. In fact, many of Germany’s famous crosses were developed in the region by Professor Georg Scheu, after whom the Scheurebe grape is named. Riesling is the leading white grape, followed by Silvaner, Pinot Gris, Kerner, and Pinot Blanc. Dornfelder is the leading red variety, followed by Spätburgunder and Portugieser. Sparkling wine and Silvaner are considered local specialties.

Page 173: the section on Franken has been updated to read as follows—Franken—the easternmost Anbaugebiet of the former West Germany—covers a large area of the Main River Valley east of the city of Frankfurt. Due to the region’s cold climate and shortened growing season, the area focuses on earlier-ripening grapes and the plantings of vines are fairly sparse. Approximately 83% of the vineyards—mainly located on the south-facing slopes lining the Main River and its tributaries—are planted to white varieties. Silvaner and Müller-Thurgau are the most widely grown, followed by Bacchus, a regional specialty.

Franconian wines are easily recognizable by the region's use of a traditional Bocksbeutel—a flattened, ellipsoid-shaped, brown or green bottle said (by some) to resemble a Roman flask. Wine has been made here for more than 1,200 years, and these bottles—restricted in use via their status as a protected product (bottle type) of the EU—reflect the region's long and proud history of wine production.

Page 173: the section on Hessische Bergstrasse has been updated to read as follows—Defined by the Rhine River to the west and the protective Oden Forest to the east, Hessische Bergstrasse is basically a spur off the northern portion of the Baden Region. This is a sunny area with sufficient rainfall for viticulture, and the best vineyard sites are planted on steep slopes along the Rhine River. Nevertheless, this area contains just over 1,130 acres (460 ha) planted to vines. The majority (79%) of the vineyards are planted with white grapes. The leading varieties include Riesling, Grauburgunder, Weissburgunder, Spätburgunder, and Silvaner. The name of the region means “Hessian Mountain Road,” in reference to the German state of Hesse.

Page 173: the section on Baden has been updated to read as follows—Stretching over 150 miles along the eastern bank of the Rhine between Mannheim and Switzerland, Baden covers the most ground of Germany's 13 quality winegrowing areas. However, only a fraction of the area is planted to grapes, making it just the third largest Anbaugebiet in terms of vineyard acreage (after Rheinhessen and Pfalz). Baden, known to be “blessed by the sun,” is home to the Kaiserstuhl Bereich—considered the warmest of Germany's growing areas. While 61% of the area's vineyards are planted to white grapes, Spätburgunder—taking up nearly 33% of the overall vineyard acreage—is by far the most widely planted grape variety. Other leading grapes include Müller-Thurgau, Grauburgunder, Weissburgunder, and Riesling. Weissherbst—a single-variety, high-quality, dry rosé based on Spätburgunder—is a specialty of the region.

Page 173: the section on Württemberg has been updated to read as follows—Württemberg is a large region with 65% of the vineyard area dedicated to red grape varieties. Trollinger is the leading red grape, followed by Schwarzriesling (Pinot Meunier), Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir) and Lemberger. Most of the Trollinger-based wine—considered the “national drink” of this wine-loving region—is consumed locally. Schiller wine—a unique rosé made from the co-fermentation of a mixture of red and white grapes—is another regional specialty. The principal white grapes include Riesling and Kerner.

Most of the vines in Württemberg are planted on the slopes of the Neckar River Valley and along the banks of the Neckar's tributaries, but a few are isolated on the shore of Lake Constance—well to the south.

Page 174: the section on the Ahr has been updated to read as follows—One of the northernmost regions, the Ahr is among Germany's smallest, with just over 1,300 acres (526 ha) planted to vines. The Ahr (somewhat surprisingly due to its northerly location)

is known for red wines, which account for over 80% of total production. Spätburgunder is the leading grape variety, although Portugieser and Dornfelder are widely planted as well. In addition, Frühburgunder—an early-ripening mutation of Pinot Noir also known *Pinot Noir Précoce*—is considered a local specialty.

The region follows the short path of the Ahr River from its source in the village of Blankenheim to its confluence with the Rhine. The land surrounding the Ahr River consists of a series of sheltered valleys lined with steep, south-facing slopes. This topography, combined with the heat-retaining properties of the dark slate and greywacke (sandstone) soils, allows the red grapes of the area to reach a consistent level of ripeness. The red wines of the Ahr tend to show relatively high tannins and oak-derived notes of spice—despite the northerly latitude (50°N).

Page 174: the section on the Mittelrhein has been updated to read as follows—The Mittelrhein (Middle Rhine) is located downriver (north) of the Rheingau. It consists of a narrow valley tucked along the Rhine River stretching from Bingen to Bonn. The Mittelrhein is dotted with medieval castles, stately ruins, the legendary rock of Lorelei, and a smattering of vineyards. Most of the vineyards in this rugged area are planted across the steep—almost vertiginous—slopes, making it a challenging area to cultivate. For this reason, plantings in the area—already a minor producer—are decreasing. However, quality can be excellent, as the best vineyards benefit from the steep hillsides, the clay-slate soils, the moderating influence of the nearby river, and the resulting low yields. Of those vineyards that remain, about 66% are planted to white grapes, with Riesling being the most widely planted. Other important white grapes include Müller-Thurgau, Pinot Gris, and Pinot Blanc; the leading red variety is Spätburgunder.

Page 174: the section on Saale-Unstrut been updated to read as follows—Saale-Unstrut is—along with Sachsen—part of the former East Germany. This unique region—named for the two rivers that cut through the landscape and situated at 51°N latitude—qualifies as the northernmost quality wine region of Germany. The area has an overall cool climate, but the river valleys contain a series of heat islands resulting from slope, aspect, dark soils, and stone terraces that release heat at night. As one of the driest regions in Germany, the yields in the vineyards of Saale-Unstrut are naturally low and the wines are known for their complexity and liveliness. The area is currently planted to just over 2,090 acres/847 ha of vines, with approximately 30 different varieties cultivated in the region. Approximately 81% of the vineyards are planted to white grapes; Müller-Thurgau is the most widely grown, followed by Weissburgunder (Pinot Blanc), Riesling, and Dornfelder.

Page 174: the section on Sachsen has been updated to read as follows—Sachsen is the easternmost and—with just over 1,300 acres/520 ha planted to vine—one of the smallest wine regions in Germany. The vineyard areas are planted along the steep granite- and loess-dominant slopes of the Upper Elbe River Valley near the city of Dresden. At 51°N latitude, the area exhibits a cool, continental climate and is largely

planted with white grapes. Riesling is the leading variety, followed by Müller-Thurgau, Weissburgunder, Grauburgunder, and Spätburgunder. The area also grows around two dozen lesser-known varieties including Elbling, Gutedel, and Goldriesling; several of these are considered regional specialties of Sachsen.

Page 197: the information concerning the number of AVAs in the USA has been updated to read as follows: As of December 2025, 277 distinct AVAs had been approved in over 30 different states; of these, 154 are in California (and these numbers are sure to increase in the future).

Page 221: Table 16–2 (Designated Viticultural Areas/DVAs of Ontario, Canada) has been updated to reflect the following:

DESIGNATED VITICULTURAL AREAS (DVAS) OF ONTARIO, CANADA			
Viticultural Area	Regional Appellations		Sub-appellations
Lake Erie North Shore			South Islands (includes Pelee Island)
Niagara Peninsula	West Niagara	Niagara Escarpment	Beamsville Bench
			Short Hills Bench
			Twenty Mile Bench
			Creek Shores
			Lincoln Lakeshore
			Vinemount Ridge
		Niagara-on-the-Lake	Four Mile Creek
			Niagara Lakeshore
	Niagara River		
	St. David's Bench		
Prince Edward County			
Source: Ontario Regulation 406/00: Rules of Vintners Quality Alliance Ontario relating to terms for VQA wine (December 2025)			

Page 251: the introductory information regarding the wines of South Africa has been updated to include the following information: The Wine of Origin Scheme is administered by South Africa’s Wine Certification Authority, which certifies all wines that list a specific place of origin, grape variety, or vintage date on the label. (These certifications were previously fulfilled by the *South African Wine and Spirit Board*.)