

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

D6, WSET Level 4 Diploma in Wines



Assignment 1: July 2025 submission – PIWIs

Context

Interspecific hybrids that have been developed for fungal resistance are commonly known as PIWIs. They have received growing interest from producers, a number of whom are experimenting with these new grape varieties. They are considered to have an advantage over traditional varieties in regions that are prone to fungal diseases. PIWIs have also played a leading role in the development of viticulture at its northern European limit in countries such as Poland, Denmark and Scandinavia. However, the future growth and popularity of PIWIs may also be limited by factors such as challenges in the winery, concerns over quality and uncertainty about consumer acceptance.

[See below for required sections and allocation of marks]

Instructions for candidates

- Assignments must adhere to the word count of 3,000 words. A tolerance of 10% will be allowed which means the research assignment should be no fewer than 2,700 words and no longer than 3,300 words in length. The word count excludes references, bibliography, appendices, diagrams or tables.
- Candidates must include a bibliography showing the sources used to research the topic.
- Candidates are reminded of the need to draw on a range of sources in their assignment and that it will be necessary to read around the subject matter. It will not be sufficient to rely solely on the Diploma materials. There should be clear evidence of critical analysis of the source material and well-reasoned personal commentary, together with relevant examples to support the points made.
- There are 100 marks available, of which 15 are allocated to presentation (spelling, grammar, legibility, bibliography and referencing) and answer structure/style (coherence, flair, fluency and use of examples). Footnotes, references and appendices must be used correctly. Candidates are advised to read the *D6 Independent Research Assignment Guidelines* before starting their research.
- Candidates must address all required sections and gain a minimum overall mark of 55% to qualify for a pass grade.

Required sections and allocation of marks

Candidates must address the following required sections:

- 1) Outline the historical development of PIWIs and their current industry use. (25% weighting)
- 2) Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of PIWIs for producers. (35% weighting)
- 3) In your opinion, what does the future hold for PIWIs? (25% weighting)

15% weighting is allocated to presentation and structure, as outlined in Instructions for candidates above.