

Do the visually impaired have a chance to become good connoisseurs of wine, and what are their educational opportunities in the world of wine in today's global world?

Abstract

Motivation for choosing this topic

As needs of different groups are being catered for, vegan –friendly wines, sugar –free and carb – free wines can be bought. Nonetheless needs of the visually impaired people are not talked about. Little is known about educational possibilities of this particular group in the wine industry. Moreover, is it possible to tailor wines in terms of Braille labels or tactile closures. I am keen to find answers to these questions.

Structure of the thesis

Section 1 - The focus of research/problem

I am surprised that this topic is so little discussed. According to the WHO out of 150 million people with severe visual impairment, 38 million are blind. Gradually the numbers are increasing as well as the number of age-related vision problems. Nearly every sixtieth person in Europe has vision problems. The aim of this paper is to find out whether these people can know wine and to what extent and if they have a chance to become good wine experts. Is it possible to describe wine without sight at all?

Section 2 - Research methods

Collection of information on the possibilities of education for visually impaired people in the wine sector. How can a visually impaired person benefit from visiting a vineyard or winery. A visit to the United Organization of sightless and visually impaired People (SONS), conducting interviews with these people. Meeting other visually impaired people outside this organization. Visiting a restaurant for the blind, so that I can better understand these people, finding information about the wineries that use Braille labels. Other sources of information include the Internet, professional literature, newspapers and e-mail correspondence.

Section 3 – Presentation of results

Presentation of the results of my survey: available current options for the visually impaired - overview and analysis; necessary changes that are to be done so that these people could become wine experts in the future. Presentation of possibilities and possible adjustments for easier integration of the visually impaired into the world of wine.

Section 4 - global conclusion and recommendations

An overview of all the gathered facts. Conclusions arising from the surveys. Summary of the answers to the questions, emerge from the text. Recommendations and suggestions relating to the topic.

Section 5 - brief references

List of research resources

SOURCES:

The United Organization of sightless and visually impaired People (SONS)

OKAMŽIK, z. ú. - The centre of active life for visually impaired people

Interviews with visually impaired People

Světluška

Tyfloservis, o. p. s. - Field and outpatient social rehabilitation of the visually impaired and partially sighted

Main Literature (internet source, online magazine)