INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

D6, WSET Level 4 Diploma in Wines

Assignment 1: January 2026 submission – Wine Fraud

Context

Wine fraud can be traced back as long ago as the Roman era. Wine fraud includes adulteration, counterfeiting and misrepresentation of wine quality or origin. It occurs at all quality levels, from mass-market to super-premium wines. In an effort to guarantee authenticity, geographical indication systems have been developed globally. More recently, measures have been taken at a producer or retailer level to combat wine fraud and ensure consumer confidence.

[*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) Explain the different types of wine fraud that have occurred over the centuries

(35% weighting)

2) Discuss the measures that have been taken to combat wine fraud. Make reference to regulation, legislation and industry practices. (35% weighting)

3) In your opinion, how successful are the current measures at combating wine fraud?

(15% weighting)

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