



COURT OF
MASTER
SOMMELIERS
Americas

WHAT MAKES A WINE CLASSIC?

? CLASSIC ?



CRITERIA

As you investigate a wide world of wines (and ALL beverages), some questions to ask...

QUESTION	Y	N
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Grape Variety/Blend of Grape Varieties have a unique combination of visual, olfactory and structural characteristics? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the Region's wine amongst the most renowned expressions for this Grape Variety/Blend of Grape Varieties in the world? 		

IS ITS FLAVOR PROFILE UNIQUE AND DISTINCTIVE?

1

GRAPE VARIETY

2

SPECIFIC TO ONE REGION

3

SOLE COMBINATION OF
CHARACTERISTICS

QUESTION	Y	N
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Region's wine have a unique set of Growing Circumstances for this Grape Variety apparent in its flavors? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Region's wine have established Winemaking methods for this Grape Variety apparent in its flavors? 		

DOES IT HAVE AN ESTABLISHED QUALITY LEVEL?

1

WITHIN GRAPE VARIETY

2

WITHIN CATEGORY

3

WITHIN GASTRONOMY
WORLD

QUESTION	Y	N
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Region's wine exhibit unique and similar characteristics in all but the most idiosyncratic vintages? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Region's wine have an established history and connection to place? 		

DOES IT HAVE GLOBAL MARKET PRESENCE?

1

CONSUMERS &
PROFESSIONALS

2

HISTORY & LORE

3

ICONIC PRODUCERS

QUESTION	Y	N
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Region have a quorum of Iconic Producers whose wines exhibit unique and similar characteristics regardless of stylistic differences? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Region's wine have an Established Global Presence? 		

QUESTION	Y	N
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can the Specific Wine I am tasting right now illustrate all of these qualifications? 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can the Region or Type of wine be shown in a fair, consistent manner within the structure of our Deductive Tasting examination? 		



IF THE WINE YOU ARE STUDYING OR TASTING
DOESN'T CHECK 'YES' FOR ALL OF THOSE BOXES,
IT DOESN'T QUALIFY FOR OUR DEDUCTIVE
TASTING EXAMINATION





Go forth! Use this criteria to investigate the alcohol beverage world for yourselves. Create your own list of Classic Wines and Beverages and Cocktails and Food Pairings. This is a pathway to owning your sommelier knowledge.





Thank You

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Sommeliers, Americas

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