



CMS-A Modified Format for the Advanced Sommelier Examination

The Court of Master Sommeliers, Americas (CMS-A) is excited to announce the launch of a modified format for the Advanced Sommelier Examination beginning in 2022. This evolution will provide candidates with greater access to the examination and improved feedback. The new format, which is outlined below, mirrors the format of the Master Sommelier exam in which the Theory portion of the exam is decoupled from the Practical and Tasting portions of the exam. **The New Format:**

Theory

Beginning with the 2022 exams, candidates pursuing the Advanced Sommelier Certification will be required to successfully complete the Theory portion of the exam first. The Theory portion remains a written exam, that will now be administered at a local-to-you, industry-leading [Pearson VUE](#) testing center.

- Upon passing the Theory portion, candidates will be invited to sit the Practical and Tasting portions later in the year.
- Candidates that do not pass the Theory portion must wait until the next calendar year to re-take it.
- Candidates are still required to pass all three portions of the examination within a calendar year; if a candidate passes Theory but does not pass the Practical and/or Tasting portions, they must begin again with Theory the following year.

Practical and Tasting

There is no change to the Practical and Tasting Portions of the exam. These will continue to be administered in-person by a team of experienced Master Sommelier examiners at appropriate hospitality venues.

Based upon our learnings from the same transition for the MS Diploma examination in 2014, we found that individuals who passed Theory first achieved greater success at earning the full certification. It is our firm belief that Advanced Sommelier candidates will do likewise.

Candidates that have been invited to sit the Advanced Sommelier Exam will receive an email from Pearson VUE with an authorization to test and information on scheduling their exam. Candidates will be required to schedule their local Theory Examination. For the 2022 Theory exam, scheduling opens February 1, 2022 and must be completed by March 1, 2022; they may sit one Theory segment per year. To provide flexibility to candidates, two options will be offered in 2022:

- **1 PM EST on Tuesday, April 26**
OR
- **1 PM EST on Tuesday, May 3**

About Pearson VUE

Many of you may already be familiar with Pearson VUE, as they have administered the Advanced Sommelier Knowledge Assessment for CMS-A for the past two years. We have received positive feedback from candidates on their experience, as well as the accessibility of the 5,300 Pearson VUE Testing Centers globally (<https://home.pearsonvue.com/worldwide>). We highly recommend candidates book with Pearson VUE ASAP in order to secure your seat.

Candidates who pass the 2022 Advanced Sommelier Theory exam will be invited to attend the other portions of the examination by May 15, 2022. There will be two opportunities, assigned by the CMS-A with consideration of but no guarantee in honoring candidate requests:

- **Phoenix, AZ on July 11-12, 2022**
OR
- **St Louis, MO on October 17-18, 2022**

Cost

- **Advanced Sommelier Theory: \$299 US**
- **Advanced Sommelier Practical & Tasting: \$899 US total for both portions**

We have scheduled a Town Hall Zoom Conference for Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 11AM PT / 2:00 PM ET to answer any questions you might have regarding this new format. Advanced registration is required and can be completed using this [ZOOM Link](#). As always, you may also reach out to our Director of Operations Kathleen Lewis at 707.255.5056 x 11 or klewis@mastersommeliers.org with any queries. Candidates who applied for the Advanced Examination and took the Sommelier Knowledge Assessment will receive their results in mid-January.

We hope you are as excited by our evolution as we are! We wish you all the best in your preparations, and look forward to watching you demonstrate the exemplary knowledge, skills, and humility that will enable you to achieve professional success.

Yours in service,

Shayn Bjornholm, Examination Director

Julie Cohen Theobald, Executive Director

Emily Wines, Board Chair, on behalf of the CMS-A Board of Directors