

German Wine Scholar®

The most advanced
and comprehensive
certification on the
wines of Germany



- ★ Intermediate Level Course
- 🕒 100 Hours of Study
- 📍 Study Online or In-Person
- 🏆 Earn your German Wine Scholar® (GWS) Certification

Embark on a journey deep into the heart of Germany with the German Wine Scholar® Program (GWS), the quintessential offering from Wine Scholar Guild—the international authority on authentic wines of place.

The German Wine Scholar® program sets the industry standard as the most in-depth and comprehensive certification program devoted entirely to the wines of Germany.

Tailored for dedicated wine aficionados and industry professionals, GWS is your passport to exploring the rich historical and cultural traditions, appellation and classification structures, viticultural and winemaking practices that make German wine a global benchmark.

Completion of the program doesn't just reward you with a certificate; it confers upon you the sought-after GWS post-nominal initials, symbolizing intermediate level proficiency and industry-wide respect.

With the German Wine Scholar® program, you're not just learning; you're enriching your understanding and appreciation of German wine.

ABOUT WSG

-  **10,000+** Graduates
-  **150+** Expert Educators
-  **130+** Partner Schools
-  **35+** Countries
-  **6,500+** Community Members



Why choose the German Wine Scholar® (GWS) Program?

Set off on a curated journey through the most revered wine regions of Germany. GWS students learn and benefit from:

- ✓ Comprehensive coverage of all major German wine regions, grape varieties and wine styles
- ✓ Intermediate-level proficiency into the viticultural, winemaking and production methods of German wine
- ✓ Thorough understanding of the German appellation, classification and labelling systems
- ✓ Region-specific wine knowledge to complement more general wine studies
- ✓ Interactive learning through online modules and/or expert-led teaching sessions
- ✓ Globally recognized certification communicating proficiency and expertise on the wines and wine regions of Germany
- ✓ Use of the GWS post-nominal to enhance your résumé, CV or professional profile

WHO IS THE GERMAN WINE SCHOLAR® (GWS) PROGRAM FOR?

Hospitality and wine industry **professionals** aiming for expertise

Sommeliers seeking a competitive edge

Passionate wine **enthusiasts**, aficionados and collectors

Students of wine

Avid **travelers**

Life-long learners craving deeper knowledge of German wine styles and regions

Why Study German wine?

Though small in comparison with other global benchmarks of wine production, Germany is an essential region to understand. Its wines are reference points

for a range of terroirs, varieties and styles. By exploring German wine, students gain a deeper appreciation for wine in general.



BY THE END OF THE COURSE STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO

Explore in-depth, the **major wine regions**, **villages**, and **vineyards** of Germany

Explain the characteristics of **grape varieties** and **wine styles** from each region

Explore and **explain** the influence of **climate**, **geography**, **topography** and **terroir** on German wine

Explore and **explain** the influence of **viticultural**, **winemaking** and **production practices** on the wines of Germany

Explore and **explain** the influence and significance of **history** and **culture** on the evolution of German wines

Explain intelligently and **with authority** about German wines in any context

How is the curriculum presented?

In order to give students a working knowledge of the extensive material at hand, the German Wine Scholar® course presents each wine region as an integrated whole. By exploring the impact of history, geography, geology, topography, climate, soil, viticulture, winemaking, legislation, classification and culture on the wines of Germany; no topic is discussed in isolation.

REGIONS DISCUSSED INCLUDE:

AHR
BADEN
FRANKEN
HESSISCHE BERGSTRASSE
MITTEL RheIN
MOSEL
NAHE PFALZ
RHEINGAU
RHEINHESSEN
SAALE-UN STRUT
SACHSEN WÜRTTEMBERG



Are there any pre-requisites?

The German Wine Scholar® program is an intermediate-level study course conferring a professional, industry recognized GWS post-nominal.

It is recommended to have a solid, general wine background before embarking on this course of study.



What's included?

From a comprehensive study manual to interactive online modules, expert instruction and an engaging student community, every element is meticulously designed to foster a profound understanding and appreciation of German wine culture.

COURSEBOOK

Shipped to your address, the 250+ page study guide, rich with photographs, detailed maps, illustrations and infographics contains all the information you need to know. Immediate access to the digital e-book is provided upon registration.

ONLINE STUDY MODULES

Access online e-learning activities designed to enrich the study guide and support different learning styles.

EXPERT EDUCATORS

Learn from the most notable names in the industry — expert educators and wine professionals accredited by the Wine Scholar Guild.

STUDENT COMMUNITY

Network with the other students taking the German Wine Scholar® course, form a tasting group and build your wine network.

FINAL EXAM

Your course includes a 100-question multiple-choice exam based on the study manual, covering all the wine regions of Germany.

CERTIFICATE

Upon passing, receive your coveted German Wine Scholar certificate and lapel pin. Completion of the program confers upon you the sought-after GWS post-nominal initials, intermediate-level proficiency on the wines of Germany. Add this reputed credential to your professional profile, résumé or CV.



How much study time is recommended?

This certification has a minimum requirement of 100 hours of study time, including approximately 20 hours spent in the classroom, viewing online review lectures or e-learning modules depending on the study format selected. The number of total hours you spend will vary greatly based on your previous wine knowledge.



How is the exam structured?

Whether taken online or in the classroom, the exam consists of 100 multiple-choice questions. Students have one hour to complete the exam. There is no wine tasting component to the exam.

Passing score is 75. Candidates scoring 85-90 pass with "Honors" Candidates scoring 91-100 pass with "Highest Honors".

Have more questions? Check out our **Exams FAQ** for more details.

Have a different question? Feel free to **contact us**.

Study options



Choose from online or classroom formats based on your schedule and preferred learning style. Rest assured that the final exam and certification remain consistent across all formats.

	ONLINE Independent Learning	ONLINE Educator-Led Learning	IN-PERSON Classroom Learning
Format	Study at your own pace, from anywhere at any time.	Study from anywhere, anytime with the addition of live educator-led lectures.	Study in-person at one of our 130 Course Providers around the world.
Educator Support	Interact with WSG Educators via the online community.	Interact with WSG educators via live sessions and online community.	Receive in-person classroom support from WSG-certified educators.
Length of Study	12 months from date of enrollment to take the exam.	1 live course per month for 6 months with 12 months from date of enrollment to take the exam.	Schedule and length of term vary by Course Provider.
Wine Tasting	Maximize learning with a list of recommended wines to sample on your own.	Maximize learning with a list of recommended wines to sample on your own.	Enjoy tutored wine tastings in the classroom.
Study Guide Print & E-Book	✓	✓	✓
Interactive online learning modules, pronunciation exercises, quizzes and flashcards	✓	✓	✓
Live Course Instruction		✓	✓
Online Student Community	✓	✓	✓
Final Exam	✓	✓	✓
Certificate, Use of Post- Nominal and Lapel Pin (for purchase) Upon Passing	✓	✓	✓
Start Date	Start Anytime from Early 2026	See Online Schedule	Coming to a school near you in 2026
Price	\$945	\$1095	Varies by Provider
	Available in Early 2026	Register now	Find a provider