

Italian Wine Scholar®

The most complete
and in-depth
certification program
on the wines of Italy



- ★ Intermediate Level Course
- 🕒 75 Hours of Study per Unit
- 📍 Study Online or In-Person
- 🏆 Earn your Italian Wine Scholar® (IWS) Certification

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

The Italian Wine Scholar® program sets the industry standard as the most detailed and comprehensive certification program devoted entirely to the wines of Italy. It is composed of two separate units, that can be studied in any order:

- The Wines of Northern Italy (Unit 1)
- The Wines of Central & Southern Italy (Unit 2)

Tailored for dedicated wine aficionados and industry professionals, IWS is your passport to understanding the many regions, myriad international and indigenous grape varieties, viticulture, winemaking and cultural traditions that make Italian wine so exceptional.

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

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

ABOUT WSG

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





Why Choose the Italian Wine Scholar® (IWS) Program?

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

- ✓ Comprehensive coverage of all major Italian wine regions, international and indigenous grape varieties and wine styles
- ✓ Intermediate-level proficiency into the viticultural, winemaking and production methods of Italian wine
- ✓ Thorough understanding of the Italian 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 Italy
- ✓ Use of the IWS post-nominal to enhance your résumé, CV or professional profile

WHO IS ITALIAN WINE SCHOLAR® (IWS) 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 Italian wine styles and regions

Why Study Italian wine?

If you're going to have one book on your shelf as your definitive guide to Italian wines, this should be it.

Studying the wines of Italy is like studying the wines of 20 different countries—each with their own identity. The combination of unique, indigenous grape varieties, wine making traditions and a focus on quality sets the stage for wines of

distinction that cannot be duplicated elsewhere. The wines possess a sense of place and reflect the spirit of the people who have been making them for centuries. By exploring Italian wine, students gain a deeper appreciation for wine in general.

BY THE END OF THIS COURSE, STUDENTS WILL:

Have explored, in-depth, the **major wine regions** and **appellations** of Italy

Be able to explain the characteristics of **grapes** and **wine styles** from each region

Understand and be able to explain the influence of **climate, geography, topography** and **soil** on Italian wine

Understand and be able to explain the influence of **viticultural, winemaking** and **production practices** on the wines of Italy

Understand and be able to explain the influence and significance of **history** and **culture** on the evolution of Italian wines

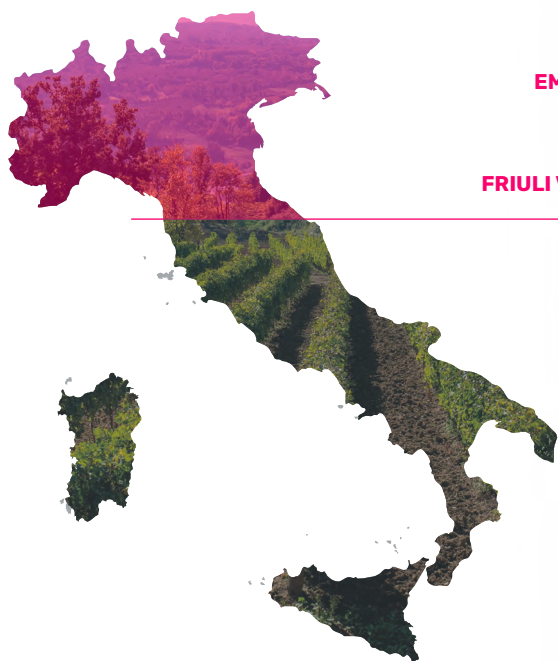
Speak intelligently and **with authority** about Italian wines in any context

How is the curriculum presented?

In order to give students a working knowledge of the extensive material at hand, the Italian 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 Italy. No topic is discussed in isolation.

REGIONS DISCUSSED IN UNIT 1

VALLE D'AOSTA
PIEMONTE
LIGURIA
LOMBARDIA
EMILIA-ROMAGNA
TRENTINO
ALTO ADIGE
VENETO
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA



REGIONS DISCUSSED IN UNIT 2

TOSCANA
UMBRIA
MARCHE
ABRUZZO
LAZIO
CAMPANIA
BASILICATA
MOLISE
PUGLIA
CALABRIA
SICILIA
SARDEGNA

Are there any pre-requisites?

The Italian Wine Scholar® program is an intermediate-level study course conferring a professional, industry recognized IWS post-nominal. It is recommended to have a solid, general wine background before embarking on this course of study.

If you are interested in a beginner-level course, please refer to our Italian Wine Essentials course.



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 Italian wine culture.

COURSEBOOK

Shipped to your address, our beautifully designed coursebooks, rich with photographs, detailed maps, illustrations and infographics contain all the information you need to know. Immediate access to the digital e-books is provided upon registration.

ONLINE STUDY MODULES

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

EXPERT EDUCATORS

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

STUDENT COMMUNITY

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

FINAL EXAM

Each unit includes a 100-question multiple-choice exam. The scores from both exams are added together and averaged for final assessment.

CERTIFICATE

Upon passing both units, receive your coveted Italian Wine Scholar® certificate and lapel pin. Completion of the program confers upon you the sought-after IWS post-nominal initials, symbolizing intermediate-level proficiency in the wines of Italy. Add this reputed credential to your professional profile, résumé or CV.



How much study time is recommended?

Each unit has a minimum requirement of 75 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.

Unit 1 (Northern Italy) and Unit 2 (Central & Southern Italy) can be studied in any order.



How is the exam structured?

Whether taken online or in the classroom, both Unit 1 and Unit 2 include a 100-point multiple-choice exam. Students have one hour to complete each exam separately. The scores from both exams are added together and averaged for final assessment. Passing score is 75.

Candidates scoring 85-90 pass with "Honors". Candidates scoring 91-100 pass with "Highest Honors".

There is no wine tasting component to the exam.

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 10 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 every 10 weeks 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 Manual (Print & E-Book)	✓	✓	✓
Interactive online learning modules, pronunciation exercises, quizzes and flashcards	✓	✓	✓
Live Course Instruction	✗	✓	✓
Online Student Community	✓	✓	✓
Final Exam	✓	✓	✓
Certificate, Lapel Pin and Use of Post- Nominal Upon Passing	✓	✓	✓
Start Date	Start Anytime	See Online Schedule	Varies by Provider
Price	\$725	\$845	Varies by Provider

Register now
(Unit 1)

Register now
(Unit 2)

Register now
(Unit 1)

Register now
(Unit 2)

Find a provider