

BRITISH COLUMBIA GUILD OF WINE JUDGES Wine Tasting Guide Revision 2



"WITH SKILL AND INTEGRITY"

APPEARANCE

CLARITY	SHEEN	DEPTH
Turbid	Flat	Shallow
Hazy	Dull	Pale
Clear	Bright	Light
Brilliant	Glossy	Medium
	Vivid	Deep
		Dark

COLOR GUIDE

WHITE	ROSE	RED
Colorless	Lavender	Purple
Green Tinged	Rose	Violet
Green/Straw	Salmon	Ruby
Straw	Strawberry	Garnet
Straw/Yellow	Copper	Mahogany
Yellow	Orange	Red
Yellow/Gold		Brick Red
Gold		Tile Red
Old Gold		Orange Red
Amber		Amber
Brown		Brown

AROMA/FLAVOUR DESCRIPTORS

HERBACEOUS VEGETATIVE

FRESH
Basil
Capsicum
Eucalyptus
Fresh cut grass
Green Leaf
Green Pepper
Mint

DRIED
Basil
Bay Leaf
Camphor
Cereal Grain
Chervil
Dill
Hay/Straw
Lavender
Marjoram
Mint
Oregano
Sage
Tea
Thyme
Tobacco

CANNED/COOKED
Artichoke
Asparagus
Green Beans
Olives

FLORAL

Acacia
Carnation
Flowery
Geranium
Honeysuckle
Magnolia
Orange Blossom
Peony
Roses
Sweet briar
Violets

FRUITY

BERRY
Black Berry
Blackcurrant
Blueberry
Brambleberry
Cassis
Gooseberry
Mulberry
Raspberry
Strawberry

CITRUS
Grapefruit
Lemon
Lime
Mandarin
Orange

DRIED FRUIT
Fig
Jammy
Prune
Quince
Raisin

TREE FRUIT
Apple
Apricot
Black Cherry
Black Olive
Green Apple
Green Olive
Peach
Pear
Plum
Red Cherry
Sour Cherry
Wild Cherry

TROPICAL
Banana
Kiwi
Lychee Nut
Mango
Melon
Passion fruit
Pineapple

SPICY

Allspice
Aniseed
Black Pepper
Caraway seed
Cinnamon
Clove
Fennel
Ginger
Juniper berries
Licorice
Nutmeg
Saffron
Vanilla
White Pepper

WOODY

Cedar
Charred wood
Cigar box
Coffee
Green wood
Oak
Pencil shavings
Phenolic
Resinous
Sandalwood
Sawdust
Smoky
Toast
Vanilla

EARTHY

Barnyard
Dusty
Flinty
Forest floor
Mildew
Mineral
Mouldy
Mushroom
Musty
Tree moss
Truffle
Undergrowth

MICRO- BIOLOGICAL

Baked Bread
Butter
Butterscotch
Flor Yeast
Leesy
Sweaty
Yeasty
Yoghurt

CHEMICAL

Candle wax
Diesel
Iodine
Kerosene
Medicinal
Petroleum
Plastic
Soap
Tar
Wet wool

Savory

Bacon
Feral
Gamey
Honey
Meaty
Musk
Oyster
Salami
Soy
Vegemite

Nutty

Almond
Cashew
Coconut
Hazelnut
Peanuts
Pecan
Pistachio
Walnut

BALANCE DESCRIPTORS

ACID

Refreshing
Piquant
Fresh
Crisp
Lively
Racy
Zesty
Sharp
Tart
Sour
Citric
Lactic
Malic
Acetic

SUGAR

Flaccid
Gentle
Soft
Mellow
Supple
Ripe
Heavy
Sweet
Luscious
Unctuous
Syrupy
Cloying
Flabby
Sickly sweet

BODY

Empty
Thin
Narrow
Light
Lean
Stingy
Medium
Ample
Muscular
Full
Thick
Heavy
Robust

TANNIN

Fine
Light
Soft
Smooth
Silky
Velvety
Balanced
Integrated
Rounded
Flat
Dusty
Powdery
Chalky
Drying
Puckering
Big
Aggressive
Coarse
Harsh
Hard
Persistent
Stalky
Woody

ASTRINGENCY

Aggressive
Astringent
Drying
Fine
Puckering
Phenolic
Tannic
Short
Medium
Long

ALCOHOL

Thin
Appropriate
Warm
Generous
Hot
Heady
Powerful

FINISH DESCRIPTORS

LENGTH

Short
Short/Medium
Medium
Persistent
Medium/Long
Long

FINISH

Dry
Clean
Fresh
Crisp
Acidic

BITTERNESS

Acrid
Bitter
Coarse
Dense
Firm
Hard
Harsh
Pungent
Sharp
Raw
Rough

CONSISTENCY

Hard
Firm
Supple
Soft
Flat
Silky
Velvety
Mellowed
Rich
Fleshy
Sticky
Unctuous
Cloying
Ropy
Oily
Viscous

GENERAL DESCRIPTORS

AGE

Young
Youthful
Needs aging
Approachable
Developing
Ready
Developed
Mature
Descending
Tired
Worn out
Past it's prime
Advanced
Over the hill

STRUCTURE

Formless
Flat
Closed
Angular
Small
Light
Short
Simple
Hollow
Disjointed
Uncomplicated
Austere
Delicate
Consistent
Flowing
Round
Medium
Open
Solid
Seamless
Harmonious
Integrated
Layered
Finesse
Elegant
Bold
Big
Full
Heavy
Robust

SPARKLING WINE DESCRIPTORS

BUBBLES
Large size
Medium size
Small size

Bubble Retention
Don't last
Dissipate Quickly
Linger
Persistent
Long Lasting

Mousse
Non-existent
Coarse
Delicate
Creamy texture

AMPLIFYING DESCRIPTORS

INTENSITY

Overpowering
Potent
Pungent
Powerful
Intense
Concentrated
Strong
Deep
Distinct
Pure
Obvious
Consistent
Persistent
Varietal
Medium
Delicate
Slight
Shallow
Weak
Dull
Diluted
Inspid

COMPLEXITY

Overwhelming
Elaborate
Ethereal
Intricate
Complex
Diverse
Sophisticated
Refined
Defined
Developed
Harmonious
Agreeable
Plain
Simple
Obscure
Uncomplicated
Undeveloped
Unmarried
Staggered
Simultaneous
Successive
Fragmented

SUBJECTIVE DESCRIPTORS

POSITIVE

Agreeable
Aromatic
Bold
Characteristic
Complex
Concentrated
Delicate
Distinguished
Elegant
Faultless
Fine
Finesse
Good
Great
Intense
Muscular
Noble
Opulent
Rich
Sensuous
Sound
Varietal

NEGATIVE

Bad
Bland
Clumsy
Common
Disagreeable
Dull
Dumb
Faulty
Flabby
Inspid
Modest
Neutral
Ordinary
Poor
Rough
Simple
Subtle
Unassuming
Uncharacteristic
Unsound
Unvarietal
Vinous

COMMON WINE FAULTS

FAULT

Cork taint Dull, mouldy or cardboard aroma
Oxidation Old apple, or sherry aroma
Volatile Acidity Vinegar or nail polish aroma
Hydrogen Sulfide Rotten egg aroma
Mercaptans Garlic, onion or rubber aroma
Disulfides Burnt rubber, or skunky aroma
Brettanomyces Mousy or meaty aromas
ML and Sorbate Geranium aromas
Mycoderma Oxidation aromas, white film on wine
Excess SO₂ Sulphur aromas, soapy mouth feel
Lack of acid Flat tasting wine

SYMPTOMS

TEMPERATURE SERVING GUIDE

TEMP	WINE
19	Armagnac/Brandy/Cognac
18	Full body reds, Vintage Port
17	Tawny Port, Oloroso sherry
16	Dessert wines
15	Medium body reds
14	Amontillado sherry
13	Light body reds
12	Full body whites
11	Medium body whites
10	Light body whites and Rose
9	Vintage Sparkling

CHARDONNAY

Apple
Apricot
Banana
Cucumber
Fruit salad
Gooseberry
Grapefruit
Lemon
Lime
Mandarin
Mango
Melon
Nectarine
Peach
Pineapple
Spice
Straw
Tropical fruit

Almond
Baked bread
Butter
Butterscotch
Caramel
Cashew
Cedar
Cheesy
Coconut
Creamy
Fig
Honey
Lanolin
Leesy
Nutty
Oak
Pencil Shavings
Prune
Sawdust
Smoky
Toast
Tobacco
Vanilla
Vegetate
Yeast
Yoghurt

CHENIN BLANC

Apple
Floral
Grassy
Herbaceous
Herbal
Tropical Fruit

Almond
Honey
Lanolin
Oak
Smoky
Toast

GEWURZ-TRAMINER

Aromatic
Cinnamon
Clove
Floral
Honey
Lavender
Lime
Lychee nut
Passion fruit
Perfume
Potpourri
Roses
Spice

MULLER THURGAU

Apple
Apricot
Black Current
Citrus
Floral
Honey
Lemon
Minerals
Mint
Nutmeg
Peach
Pears
White Peach

MUSCAT

Apricot
Caramel
Earth
Floral
Herbs
Honeysuckle
Meyer lemon
Minerals
Musk
Nectarine
Orange
Orange blossom
Peach
Perfume
Rose
Spice
Vanilla

PINOT GRIS

Apple
Citrus
Clove
Forest floor
Ginger
Green Apple
Hay
Honey
Honeysuckle
Lemon
Lime
Minerals
Nectarine
Pear
Perfume
Pineapple
Roses
Violets

Almond
Earth
Nutty
Savoury

VOIGNIER

Anise
Apricot
Citrus
Floral
Fresh grass
Ginger
Grapefruit
Honeysuckle
Lemon zest
Minerality
Musk
Peach
Rose petals
Sausage
Spice
Violet
White peach

RIESLING

Apricot
Blossoms
Citrus
Tea
Floral
Fragrant
Fruity
Grapefruit
Green Apple
Lavender
Lemon
Minerality
Musk
Orange peel
Passion fruit
Peach
Perfume
Pineapple
Rose petal
Steely
Tropical fruit

Clove
Confectionary
Diesel
Honey
Kerosene
Toast

SAUVIGNON BLANC

Banana
Black current
Fresh grass
Fresh peas
Gooseberry
Grapefruit
Grassy
Green apple
Green Bean
Gun flint
Herbaceous
Lemon
Lime
Melon
Peach
Passion fruit
Tomato bush
Tropical fruit

Asparagus
Butterscotch
Canned peas
Coconut
Honey
Sawdust
Smoky
Steely
Toast
Vanilla

SIEGERREBE

Apricot
Candy corn
Citrus
Floral
Fresh grass
Ginger
Grapefruit
Honeysuckle
Lemon zest
Minerality
Musk
Peach
Rose petals
Sausage
Spice
Tangerine

SEMILLON

Apple
Apricot
Sweetcorn
Citrus
Gun Flint
Gooseberry
Grassy
Fruity
Green beans
Herbaceous
Lemon
Lime
Olives
Passion fruit
Peach
Peas
Pear
Pineapple
Quince
Raisin
Saffron
Spice
Tropical fruit

Asparagus
Bacon
Butter
Butterscotch
Caramel
Cedar
Cheese
Coconut
Creamy
Fig
Honey
Lanolin
Leesy
Pencil shavings
Sawdust
Smoky
Straw
Toast
Vanilla
Yeast
Yoghurt

ORTEGA

Apricot
Cream
Dried apricot
Fig
Floral
Grapefruit
Grassy
Honey
Lemon
Lime
Minerality
Peach
Pear
Rose petal
Smoky
Spice

EHRENFELSER

Apricot
Citrus
Green apple
Fruit salad
Honey
Mango
Nectarines
Passion fruit
Peach
Pineapple
Sweet grapefruit
Tropical

BARBARA

Berries
Black cherry
Blackberry
Blackcurrant
Dried leaves
Lavender
Licorice
Nutmeg
Plum
Raspberry
Red Fruit
Strawberry
Vanilla
Violet

CABERNET FRANC

Black Current
Cassis
Dusty
Gooseberry
Leafy
Licorice
Plum
Pepper
Plum
Raspberry
Spicy
Tomato leaf
Violets

Burnt

Earthy
Musk
Nutty
Nutmeg
Pencil shavings
Sandlewood
Savoury
Smoky
Toast
Tobacco leaf
Vanilla

CARMENERE

Blackberry
Cassis
Cherry
Chocolate
Coffee
Dark Fruit
Earthy
Green pepper
Pepper
Plum

Coconut

Leather
Spice
Tar
Tobacco
Vanilla

CHANCELLOR

Blackberry
Blueberry
Cherry
Dried fruit
Fig
Jam
Prune
Raisins

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Berries
Blackberry
Blackcurrant
Black olive
Cassis
Cherry
Cinnamon
Clove
Cooked beets
Eucalyptus
Green pepper
Herbaceous
Leafy
Licorice
Menthol
Mint
Nutmeg
Peppermint
Perfume
Plum
Rhubarb
Tomato leaf
Vegetative
Violets
Wild berries

Almond
Bacon
Cashew
Cedar
Chocolate
Cigar box
Coconut
Coffee
Dusty
Earthy
Leather
Nutty
Pencil shavings
Sawdust
Smoky
Soy
Spicy
Toast
Tobacco leaf
Vanilla

GRENACHE

Blackberry
Blackcurrant
Black pepper
Cherry
Cinnamon
Cotton Candy
Floral
Licorice
Meaty
Orange blossom
Perfume
Plum
Raspberry
Rose petals
Strawberry
Spicy
Violets

Barnyard
Earthy
Gamey
Oak
Prune
Savoury
Smoky
Toast
Vanilla

DORNFELDER

Blackberry
Dark cherry
Elderberry
Citrus
Plum
Raspberry

LEON MILLOT

Black cherry
Blueberry
Chocolate
Earthy
Foxy
Herbaceous
Plum
Raspberry

Barnyard
Coffee
Oak
Smoky
Soy sauce
Tobacco leaves
Vanilla

LEMBERGER

Beetroot
Black pepper
Blackberry
Cherry
Chocolate
Cranberry
Earthy
Raspberry
Rhubarb
Spicy

Barnyard
Cigar box
Clove
Forest floor
Gamey
Hay
Leather
Nutty
Tobacco leaf
Truffle
Vanilla

MALBEC

Black Cherry
Black pepper
Blackberry
Chocolate
Cocoa
Coffee
Gravel
Green Stem
Jammy
Leather
Molasses
Plum
Raspberry
Savoury
Spicy
Violet
White Pepper

Coconut
Dill
Earthy
Oak
Smoky
Tobacco leaf
Vanilla

GAMAY

Banana
Cherry
Coconut
Cotton Candy
Raspberry
Rose petals
Strawberry
Vanilla
Violet

MARECHAL FOCH

Beetroot
Black Cherry
Blackberry
Buckwheat
Earthy
Foxy
Gamey
Meaty
Mineral
Mulberry
Plum
Raspberry
Rustic grass
Spicy
Strawberry

Cedar
Coffee
Oak
Smoky
Tar
Vanilla

MERLOT

Beetroot
Blackberry
Black current
Black olive
Cherries
Cinnamon
Earthy
Floral
Fruitcake
Herbaceous
Leafy
Mulberry
Musk
Perfume
Plum
Raspberry
Red current
Rhubarb
Roses
Spicy
Plums
Violets

Bacon

Caramel
Cashew
Cedar
Chocolate
Coconut
Coffee
Leather
Meaty
Nutty
Pencil shavings
Sawdust
Smoky
Toast
Tobacco leaf
Toffee
Truffle
Under brush
Vanilla

PETITE VERDOT

Black fruit
Blackberry
Molasses
Nettles
Rustic
Spicy
Tar

Cedar
Cigar box
Coconut
Leather
Pencil shaving
Smoky
Toast
Vanilla

PETITE SYRAH (DURIF)

Black currant
Bramble berry
Briar
Cassis
Chocolate
Dark cherry
Earthy
Fruity
Licorice
Mulberry
Plum
Raspberry

Cedar
Chocolate
Dusty
Earthy
Leather
Mushroom
Oak
Plum
Spicy
Tobacco leaf
Vanilla

PINOT NOIR

Beetroot
Blackberry
Blackcurrant
Black pepper
Black tea
Cinnamon
Cranberry
Dried flowers
Lavender
Licorice
Mint
Musk
Perfume
Plum
Raspberry
Red Cherry
Rhubarb
Spicy
Strawberry
Violet

Barnyard
Chocolate
Cigar box
Earthy
Forest floor
Gamey
Leather
Mushroom
Tobacco leaf
Vanilla

SANGIOVESE

Blackberry
Capers
Cherry
Herbal
Leather
Licorice
Pepper
Plum
Raspberry
Sour cherry
Strawberry
Spicy

Almond
Cedar
Chocolate
Dusty
Earthy
Meaty
Nutty
Prune
Savoury
Tar
Tobacco leaf

SHIRAZ/SYRAH

Aniseed
Blackberry
Black cherry
Black currant
Black olive
Black pepper
Blueberry
Cassis
Clove
Eucalyptus
Menthol
Mint
Mulberry
Nutmeg
Plum
Raisin
Raspberry
Red currant
Spicy
Stewed plums

Barnyard

Cedar
Chocolate
Cigar box
Coconut
Coffee
Earthy
Gamey
Leather
Meaty
Mushrooms
Nutty
Pencil Shavings
Prune
Salami
Soy sauce
Toast
Vanilla

TEMPRANILLO

Clove
Dark Cherry
Herbal
Plum
Savoury
Spicy
Strawberry
Tobacco leaf
Tomato
Vegetal

ZINFANDEL

Black pepper
Bramble berry
Cherry
Cinnamon
Fruitcake
Herbal
Plum pudding
Raspberry
Red pepper
Rhubarb
Spicy
Blackberry
Blueberry
Black currant
Plum
Raisin
Fig
Apricot
Cranberry
Jammy
Licorice

Cashew
Cedar
Clove
Coconut
Coffee
Earthy
Gamey
Nutmeg
Nutty
Pencil shavings
Savoury
Smoky
Soy sauce
Tar
Truffle
Vanilla

RED PORT

Black currant
Black pepper
Blackberry
Blueberry
Cassis
Cherry
Chocolate
Cinnamon
Coconut
Earthy
Fig
Fruitcake
Licorice
Marzipan
Nutmeg
Plum
Raspberry
Spicy
Strawberry
Violets
Walnuts

TAWNY PORT


Caramel
Coffee
Hazelnut
Marmalade
Nuts
Orange
Raisins
Stewed plums
Toast
Toffee
Vanilla
Walnuts

SHERRY

Aldehyde
Almond
Bitter almond
Butter
Caramel
Dates
Fig
Flor yeast
Marmalade
Marzipan
Molasses
Nutty
Old apple
Orange peel
Oxidized
Toffee
Walnuts

LEGEND

 Fruit based

 Combination of Barrel aging, winemaker influence and maturation process.