

WEST OF ENGLAND WINE AND SPIRIT ASSOCIATION

5 Chapel Close
Chew Stoke
BS40 8XX
11th January 2021

Education Annual Report Levels 1 - 3 AGM 1st February 2021

We ran four courses in 2020 before Covid 19 restrictions shut everything down.
One Level 1 Wine course, one student who passed well
One Level 1 Spirits course, both students passed well.

Unfortunately all courses for the rest of the year were either interrupted or cancelled by Covid 19 restrictions.

Level 2 Wines: 5 students who were unable to take the last day of the course and the exam. So far, 2 of the original group, plus one new student all from the same company, paid towards taking the whole course again and were able to sit the exam in December, during a pause in lockdown and the tier system: 2 Passes and 1 Merit, plus 1 re-sit from 2019 course who failed.

Level 3 Wines: 7 students completed the full course, but then had to wait until the autumn before they could take their exams, and this again was complicated by the different lockdown regimes, making it impossible for some students to attend either of the dates offered. The results for those who have taken their exams so far are: 3 Merits (all with distinction on the theory paper) and one fail. The final group were to sit the exam on 20th January 2021, which again has had to be postponed.

Another date for both Level 2 and Level 3 will be offered as soon as the current lockdown allows.

We have been offering the WSET on-line courses for Levels 1 and 2 during the late autumn and one student so far has passed the Level 1 Spirit Course. She is going to join us again for the On-line Level 1 Wine course in February. We are continuing to offer a regular series of Level 1 and 2 on-line courses through the first half of 2021.

During the autumn break in lockdown and tiers, we offered a Zoom Level 3 Wine course involving our excellent lecture team, which received quite a lot of interest but in the end too few students to run. However the initial response was encouraging and we are offering it again through March.

Last year I commented that for some students additional revision before taking the exam was of great benefit. This has been born out by the high quality of the 2020 Level 3 theory passes. We always provide weekly revision throughout the course, plus a revision day, but from the beginning of lockdown in March through to the end of July, I created short written note questions in the style of the WSET which the students received each week. The 'model answers' to compare with their own answers went out with the new set of questions a week later. It was also a way of keeping in touch as and when the students needed. Having the regular practice (and extra time to complete it each week) produced excellent dividends – 75% distinction on theory as opposed to 17% in 2019.

From February to July 2021 we offering 8 on-line WSET courses:

Three Level 1 Award in Spirits, Four Level 1 Award in Wines, One Level 1 Award in Sake.
Three Level 2 Award in Spirits, Five Level 2 Award in Wines

Zoom Meetings

Level 2 Award in Wines for a hotel group – 8th, 15th and 22nd February
Level 3 Award in Wines: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th March and 12th April.

As always, we welcome all enquiries from companies looking for in house training.