



FINE VINTAGE LTD  
BY JAMES CLUER MW

# WSET Level 4 Diploma in Wines

## Vancouver Program

August 2023 – January 2025

The Level 4 Diploma in Wines is the highest level WSET course and is a respected qualification around the world. After completion of the Diploma the next logical step is to register for the Master of Wine, a rare credential held by just over 420 people. Therefore, the Level 4 Diploma is the top credential an employer could reasonably expect you to have.

### VANCOUVER - 2023-2025 WSET Level 4 Diploma Course

#### Why take your Level 4 Diploma with Fine Vintage Ltd?



**WSET**  
APPROVED  
PROGRAMME PROVIDER

**Experience:** In addition to being awarded WSET Educator of the Year in 2011 and to have been shortlisted for Educator of the Year three times, Fine Vintage has been running the prestigious WSET courses since 2005 with schools in 22 cities. We therefore have experience running these courses.

**Instructors:** We have carefully designed our Diploma program so that you will receive the best possible instruction. We have assembled a fantastic team of instructors, all of whom are either a Master of Wine or a current or former MW candidate. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of being taught by knowledgeable experts who have experience in the industry and significant credentials.

Your instructors include 2 Masters of Wine and 2 highly experienced instructors who have been involved in the MW program. The course is created and overseen by James Cluer. Your team includes:

- **James Cluer MW** - on Wine Production, Wine Business, and Wines of the World
- **Geoff Moss MW** – on Wine Production and Wines of the World
- **Lynn Coulthard** - on Wines of the World
- **David Munro** - Sparkling and Fortified wines, Wines of the World

**Format:** The classes primarily take place over 28 days in a block format of 2 – 4 days, mostly at weekends. The schedule is carefully spaced out with in-person classroom sessions for guided, focused study and exam practice. There is ample time for self-study leading up to the exams. We have designed our format to appeal to those who live outside of Vancouver as well.

**Study Materials:** All the WSET study materials are offered in an online format in English only. We provide you with documents that give you a weekly study road map, make recommendations of all supplementary study materials, and give you lists of mock tasting flights.





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**Length:** Our Diploma course starts in August 2023 and ends in January 2025, enabling you to spend 18 months of focused study. This allows you to complete the Diploma in a relatively short time frame with more than 150 hours of classroom interaction with leading wine educators. A further 400 hours of self-study is required to pass the Level 4 Diploma in Wines.

**Field Trip:** Our course design includes a field trip to the Okanagan to visit vineyards and wineries. We consider it essential that our students have first-hand knowledge of viticulture and winemaking, and this is surely best taught with visits to vineyards and wineries. Transportation within the Okanagan, winery visits, and a welcome dinner is included in the course price.

**WSET Exam Feedback Tests:** Included in our pricing is automatic enrollment in the WSET's Diploma Feedback Tests. These Feedback Tests are a series of mock papers that are graded by WSET assessors. This valuable feedback will enable you to better prepare for the exams. Most schools do not include these Feedback Tests in their price.

**Wine Tastings:** Fine Vintage has a policy of showing classic benchmark examples to students. As such, we spend a considerable amount on wine. Therefore, you will be able to taste an extensive range of classic examples. We give you a set of 6 ISO tasting glasses included in the course fee.

**Pricing:** The total cost of the course is \$12,495 Canadian dollars. Our course is designed to be akin to the Harvard of Diploma programs with expert instructors, a large number of classic wines for tasting, the inclusion of the Feedback Tests, and the organization of and transport expense during the field trip. We aim to offer the best education possible.

**Payment Terms & Conditions:** There is a \$500 deposit at the time of registration. The subsequent payments are \$5,997.50 CAD 120 days before the course starts, and \$5,997.50 CAD 14 days before the course starts. The deposit dates are therefore:

- Registration deposit: \$500
- 1<sup>st</sup> payment: \$5,997.50 CAD on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- 2<sup>nd</sup> payment: \$5,997.50 CAD on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Location:** The course takes place at the **JW Parq Marriott**, located at 39 Smithe Street in Vancouver. An exception to this is the first block in Kelowna, which takes place at the **Delta Grand Okanagan Resort** (1310 Water Street, Kelowna).

**Pre-requisites:** To enroll in the program you **must already have passed the WSET Level 3 certification**. You also need to have a high school diploma or ESL equivalent as a high degree of proficiency in written English is required to pass this course. The Diploma is a demanding program, and we discourage students from enrolling if they are not comfortable writing essays, have very little industry experience, and are not serious about dedicating a substantial amount of time to self-study. We want to give all our students the best possible chance of success. Diploma graduates are typically leaders in the wine industry.

**Certification:** Students are required to obtain a mark of 55% or higher on each of 7 sets of exams as follows:

- **Unit D1:** Wine Production (3 – 5 short answer paragraph format)
- **Unit D2:** Wine Business (3 – 5 short answer paragraph format)
- **Unit D3:** Light Wines of the World – Theory (5 x essay style format)
- **Unit D3:** Light Wines of the World – Tasting (Blind tasting of 12 wines)
- **Unit D4:** Sparkling Wines (3 – 5 short answer paragraph & blind tasting of 3 wines)
- **Unit D5:** Fortified Wines (3 – 5 short answer paragraph & blind tasting of 3 wines)
- **Unit D6:** Research Assignment (3,000-word essay on pre-determined subject)



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Upon successful completion of the above exams, the student will receive the WSET Level 4 Diploma in Wines certification.

**Course Schedule:** The course days run from 9.30 am until 5.30 pm with 1 hour for lunch (unless otherwise specified)

### **Zoom Session: Introduction to the Diploma in Wines Programme**

**Date:** Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Time:** 1:00pm – 2:30pm PST

**Instructor:** James Cluer MW

#### **About the session:**

- This pre-course Zoom Session will serve as an introduction to the Diploma programme by covering key dates, exam format, and study tips. A Zoom access code will be sent to you one week before the session.

### **Block 1: Unit D1 - Wine Production in the Okanagan**

**Dates:** Friday - Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> 2023

**Instructors:** James Cluer MW & Geoff Moss MW

- The course will be led by James Cluer MW who has experience working in wineries and starting new wineries from the ground-up. Geoff Moss MW, who achieved a top award in his MW studies on Viticulture, will also lecture on Wine Production.

#### **About the course:**

- The focus of this block will be on the Unit D1 curriculum on Wine Production. It will take place in **Kelowna** and prepares you for the exam in September. Each day features a 3- to 4-hour in-class session in the morning followed by an afternoon visit to local wineries. You will gain first-hand experience by visiting wineries and hearing from the owners and winemakers as they guide you. Students will be responsible for their own transport to and from the Okanagan, accommodation, and most meals. Transportation to the wineries, tastings, and some meals are included.
  - **Day 1 – Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am to 9:00pm:** This block begins with an introduction to Viticulture with a focus on the Grape Growing Environment. In the afternoon, we will visit two wineries in West Kelowna followed by a welcome dinner that is included in the tuition.
  - **Day 2 - Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am to 6:00pm:** The morning will focus on Grape Growing Options followed by an afternoon visit to a winery in Kelowna.
  - **Day 3 – Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> - 9:30am to 7:30pm:** The morning will be dedicated to General Winemaking Decisions followed by an afternoon visit to two wineries in the South Okanagan.
  - **Day 4 – Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am to 6:00pm:** The morning will be dedicated to Winemaking Options followed by an afternoon visit to a winery in Lake Country. The bus will drop students off at Kelowna airport at around 6pm.
  - A detailed itinerary of the winery visits will be released in June 2023.



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### **Zoom Session: Unit D1 Review**

**Date: Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

**Time: 1:00pm – 2:30pm PST**

**Instructor: Geoff Moss MW**

#### **About this course:**

- This Zoom session will provide a review of the D1 material as you lead into your exam on September 9<sup>th</sup>. This session will also serve as an opportunity to ask any final questions leading up to your first exam. A Zoom code will be sent to you a week before this session.

### **Block 2: Unit D1 (Wine Production) Exam and Unit D2 (Wine Business)**

**Dates: Saturday/Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Instructor: James Cluer MW**

#### **About the course:**

- This block will include your Unit D1 exam and the course material on Unit D2 (Wine Business).
  - **Day 1 – Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am to 5:30pm:** The morning session will be dedicated to the D1 exam; a 90-minute multi-part, open answer format exam. After lunch, James will begin covering your Unit D2 with a focus on the Factors that Affect the Cost of Wine.
  - **Day 2 – Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am to 5:30pm:** the morning will focus on the Types of Businesses involved in Wine Production followed by an afternoon on Wine Marketing. A tasting of key brands will help underscore the lesson, and you will be provided with your set of ISO tasting glasses during this session.

### **Block 3: Unit D2 (Wine Business) Exam, Introduction to Units D4 (Sparkling Wines) & D5 (Fortified Wines)**

**Dates: Tuesday/Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Instructor: David Munro**

#### **About the Instructor:**

- David Munro lives in Vancouver and runs courses in Vancouver, Edmonton, Kelowna, and Calgary. He has traveled to many of the world's classic wine regions and has over 10 years' experience teaching WSET. He will guide you through your D4 & D5 courses and later on Wines of the World. He will also be your main point of contact for questions you may have about your Diploma programme.

#### **About the course:**

- This block will cover your 60-minute multi-part, open-response Unit D2 exam followed by an introduction to your next Units: Unit D4 (Sparkling Wine) and Unit D5 (Fortified Wine).
  - **Day 1 – Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> - 11:00am to 5:30pm:** The morning session will be dedicated to the Unit D2 exam. That afternoon, David will introduce you to the Diploma Systematic Approach to Tasting as well as basic production methods for Sparkling and Fortified Wines.
  - **Day 2 – Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> - 9:30am to 5:30pm:** The morning session will present on Champagne and other sparkling wines of France. In the afternoon, Sherry will be covered.



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### **Block 4: Unit D4 (Sparkling Wines) & Unit D5 (Fortified Wines)**

**Dates: Saturday/Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**Instructor: David Munro**

#### **About the course:**

- This session will be dedicated to in-depth instruction on Sparkling and Fortified wines complimented by tastings of classic examples each day. The sessions are designed to prepare you for the Units D4 & D5 exams in January.
  - **Day 1 – Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am to 5:30pm:** Sparkling Wines of the World
  - **Day 2 – Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am to 5:30pm:** Port, Madeira, VDNs and Rutherglen Muscat.

### **Block 5: Unit D4 (Sparkling Wines) & Unit D5 (Fortified Wines) - Review & Exam**

**Dates: Tuesday/Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Instructor: David Munro**

#### **About this course:**

- This session will be dedicated to a review of Sparkling and Fortified wines prior to the exam. The exam format for both Units involves 90 minutes to answer multi-part, open-response theory questions and a blind tasting of 3 wines.
  - **Day 1 – Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> – 9:30am to 5:30pm:** Review sessions
  - **Day 2 – Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> – 1:00pm to 5:30pm:** Exam on Sparkling Wines followed by the Fortified Wines exam with a 45-minute to 1-hour break in between.

### **Block 6: Unit D3 – Wines of the World – The Americas**

**Dates: Saturday/Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Instructor: David Munro**

#### **About the course:**

- This session will be the first of 7 lecture blocks on the Wines of the World (Unit D3), beginning with the wines of the Americas.
  - **Day 1 – Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am to 5:30pm:** Introduction to Unit D3 followed by the wines of California.
  - **Day 2 – Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am to 5:30pm:** Washington, Oregon, New York, and Canada will be covered in the morning session with Chile and Argentina in the afternoon.

### **Block 7: Unit D6 - Wines of the World – Other New World**

**Dates: Saturday/Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Instructor: Geoff Moss MW**

#### **About this course:**

- This session will be dedicated to other Wines of the New World: New Zealand, South Africa, Australia, and China.
  - **Day 1 – Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am to 5:30pm:** New Zealand in the morning session followed by South Africa in the afternoon.
  - **Day 2 – Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am to 5:30pm:** Australia will cover most of the day along with an overview of the wines of China.



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**Block 8: Unit D3 - Wines of the World – Wines of Southern Europe**

**Dates: Saturday/Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Instructor: Geoff Moss MW**

**About this course:**

- This course will cover the wines of Spain, Portugal, and Greece.
  - **Day 1 – Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am to 5:30pm:** The full day will be dedicated to Spain.
  - **Day 2 – Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am to 5:30pm:** Portugal will be covered in the morning with Greece in the afternoon.

**Block 9: Unit D3 - Wines of the World – Italy & Introduction to France**

**Dates: Saturday/Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Instructor: Lynn Coulthard**

**About the Instructor:**

- Lynn lives in Vancouver where she is our Lead Instructor. Lynn has more than 20 years' experience in the Vancouver wine industry as a Buyer, Sommelier, and retailer, and has also pursued the MW qualification.

**About this course:**

- This session will be mostly dedicated to Italy. An introduction to France will also be covered.
  - **Day 1 – Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am to 5:30pm:** The wines of Northern & Southern Italy.
  - **Day 2 – Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am to 5:30pm:** Central Italy followed by an introduction to the wines of France.

**Block 10: Unit D3 - Wines of the World – France & Central Europe**

**Dates: Saturday/Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Instructor: Lynn Coulthard**

**About this course:**

- This second session on France will cover the remaining regions of Burgundy, Beaujolais, and Alsace. Central Europe will be covered on the second day.
  - **Day 1 – Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup> - 9:30am to 5:30pm:** Germany will be covered in the morning followed by Austria and Tokaj in the afternoon.
  - **Day 2 – Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am to 5:30pm:** The morning will be dedicated to Alsace followed by Burgundy and Beaujolais in the afternoon.

**Block 11: Unit D3 - Wines of the World – France**

**Dates: Saturday/Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Instructor: James Cluer MW**

**About this course:**

- This will be the first of two blocks dedicated to France. This block will be a regional focus on the wines of the Loire Valley, Bordeaux, the Rhone Valley, the Jura, Southern and Southwest France.
  - **Day 1 – Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>– 9:30am to 5:30pm:** The wines of the Loire Valley in the morning followed by Bordeaux, & Southwest France in the afternoon.
  - **Day 2 – Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am to 5:30pm:** The wines of the Rhone Valley in the morning followed by Southern France and the Jura in the afternoon.



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**Block 12: Unit D3 - Wines of the World – Review Session**

**Dates: Saturday/Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Instructor:** David Munro

**About this course:**

- This session will be dedicated to a review of the Wines of the World and to a discussion on exam strategy. Tasting and Theory Mock Exams will give you an idea of what to expect on the exam days in October.
  - **Day 1 – Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am to 5:30pm:** Theory exam practice & review
  - **Day 2 – Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am to 5:30pm:** Tasting exam practice & review

**Block 13: Unit D3 – Wines of the World - Exam**

**Dates: Wednesday/Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

*\*tentative dates pending WSET schedule to be released in May 2023.*

**Instructor:** David Munro

**About this course:**

- These two days are dedicated entirely to the Unit D3 exam.
  - **Day 1 – Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 10:30am to 4:00pm:** 2-hour theory exam in the morning and an 80-minute theory exam in the afternoon with a 1-hour lunch break in between.
  - **Day 2 – Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> – 10:00am to 4:00pm:** Two 90-minute Tasting exams of 6 wines (one in the morning, one in the afternoon) with a 1-hour lunch break in between.

**Zoom Session: Unit D6 Overview**

**Date: Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**

**Time: 1:00pm – 2:30pm PST**

**Instructor:** David Munro

**About this course:**

- This Zoom session will provide an overview of what is expected to research, write, and submit your Unit D6 Research Assignment. The topic for this Research Assignment will be released in August of 2024 so there will be ample time to prepare your paper for the January 31<sup>st</sup> submission deadline. A Zoom code will be sent to you a week before this session.

**Date: Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 – Unit D6 – Research Assignment - Submission Deadline**

- Students must submit a take-home essay of 3,000 words by this date. Other than the above Zoom session, there is no in-class session for this research assignment. Students must conduct their research on their own time but can draw on information discussed in all previous Blocks. The Assignments must be received at the Fine Vintage office in Vancouver by 5:00pm on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

End of course.

The Diploma is a challenging program that requires dedication from the student and a commitment to a significant amount of self-study.

Our goal is to offer an outstanding quality Diploma course. We provide students with more classroom instruction time than is typical, use the very best instructors, have extensive tastings of classic wines, include a field trip to a wine region, and include the Diploma Feedback Tests to help with exam preparation.