

# AWO Abridged Class Descriptions

Updated 2024-11

**Note:** This is a brief summary only. Complete class descriptions are available on the AWO web site ([www.makewine.com](http://www.makewine.com)).

## APERITIF

- 11 Aperitif–Dry to Med Sherry Low to medium sweet, medium high alcohol, fortified to 15-20%. Usually palomino type grapes.  
12 Aperitif-Non Sherry Low sugar to residual sugar 13-15%. Herbed and fortified to 16-18% alcohol.

## WHITE WINE

- 20 Sauvignon Blanc Minimum of 85% Sauvignon Blanc.  
21 Chardonnay Minimum of 85% Chardonnay.  
22 Riesling Minimum of 85% Riesling. 0-3% residual sugar.  
23 White Non-Vinifera Minimum of 85% hybrid or hybrid blend. 0-3% residual sugar.  
24 Gewurztraminer Minimum of 85% Gewurztraminer. 0-3% residual sugar.  
25 Other White Minimum of 85% other white *vinifera* grapes (alone or in blend). Examples include: Pinot Gris/Grigio, Kerner, Auxerrois, Muscat (Moscato), Viognier, Grenache Blanc, Pinot Blanc, Trebbiano, Verdicchio etc.  
**Check ingredients carefully.**  
26 White Blend A blended white table wine using varietals from any of the above White Wine classes. **Note:** these wines must contain less than 85% of any single class in the blend. **Check ingredients and percentages carefully.** Example: 50% Vidal, 25% Gewurztraminer, 25% Kerner.

## 31 ROSE / BLUSH WINE

Dry (31A) or Off-Dry (31B). Light to medium body. Pale pink/orange to light red colour. Judged as a table wine.

## RED WINE

- 40 Bordeaux Single Varietals Minimum of 90% of **one** of the following Bordeaux varietals: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Carmenère or Malbec.  
41 Bordeaux Blends Minimum of 85% Bordeaux varietals (see class 40). Single varietal must not exceed 89%. Remaining 15% may be from any other red class.  
42 Pinot /Gamay Minimum of 85% Pinot Noir, Gamay or Pinot Meunier (alone or in blend).  
43 Red Non-Vinifera Minimum of 85% hybrid or hybrid blend.  
44 Red Rhone Style Minimum of 85% Syrah, Grenache, Mourvedre (aka Monastrell, Mataro), Carignan, Cinsault, Alicante Bouchet or other Rhone region grapes (alone or in blend).  
45 Other Red Minimum of 85% other red *vinifera* grapes (alone or in blend). Examples include: Sangiovese, Tempranillo, Barbera, Valpolicella, Petite Syrah, etc. **Check ingredients carefully.**  
46 Red Blend A blended red table wine using varietals from any of the above Red Wine classes. **Note:** these wines must contain less than 85% of any single class in the blend. **Check ingredients and percentages carefully.** Example: 50% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Syrah.  
47 Zinfandel Minimum of 85% of Zinfandel or Primitivo grapes.

## DESSERT, AFTER DINNER, SOCIAL WINES

- 51 Dessert Sweet. Not fortified. 10-15% alcohol. Freeze fractionated okay. Not oxidized.  
52 Ice Wine Style Frozen-in-the field or otherwise concentrated.  
53 After Dinner Rich, sweet and full bodied. 15-20% sugar, 15-20% alcohol. Fortified.  
61 Social Non-dinner wines not included in other categories with sweetness between Table and Dessert.  
62 Country Table Minimum 95% non-grape ingredients. Judged as table wines.  
63 Country Social Minimum 95% non-grape ingredients. Sweetness between Table and Dessert wines.

64 Sparkling Wine            Dry to sweet with alcohol at 8%-12%. Fruity or tertiary style should be indicated.  
No ingredient restrictions.

**CIDER/PERRY**

72 Traditional Ciders            Apple only. Still or sparkling.

73 Fruit Added Ciders            Apple must not be overpowered by additions of fruit.

74 Hopped/Spiced/Herbed Ciders            Apple must not be overpowered by additions of hops, spices or herbs.

75 Perry            Pear based Cider