



FINE VINTAGE

WSET Level 4 Diploma in Wines

Unit D1

Niagara Bootcamp

June 3rd – 8th 2025

This unique Bootcamp format allows students from across North America and the world to complete their Unit D1 (Wine Production) in a condensed format. This Unit is the foundation for all other Diploma Units and must be taken before studying for other Units. Unit D1 delves into the intriguing factors involved in wine production including the viticultural and winemaking decisions that impact a wine's style, quality, and price. Led by Master of Wine, Geoff Moss, this is the only Diploma program in North America taught by a Master of Wine in an efficient, intensive format that includes visits to leading wineries in the Niagara region.



WSET
APPROVED
PROGRAMME PROVIDER

Why take your Level 4 Diploma with Fine Vintage Ltd?

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, including the Diploma program since 2014. We therefore have experience running these courses.



Instructor: Geoff Moss MW is your lead instructor for this Bootcamp. Geoff became a Master of Wine in 2020 and obtained the top award for his studies on Viticulture. His impressive resume also includes graduating from the Winemaking & Viticulture program at Niagara College, and years of work at leading wineries in both Niagara and the Okanagan Valley. Geoff currently lives in the Okanagan Valley where he is the Principal of Lithica Wine Marketing, a boutique agency to help wineries develop business and marketing strategies. He also runs Søren Wine, a boutique negociant wine label, and contributes to many wine publications. You are in expert hands with Geoff.

Format: The bootcamp takes place over 6 days as follows:

- The mornings of each of the first 4 days are spent in the classroom covering the theory topics related to Unit D1 curriculum such as the Grape Growing Environment, Vineyard Management, General Approaches to Winemaking, and Maturation, Finishing, and Bottling.
- The afternoons of each of the first 4 days are spent visiting Niagara wineries. Here, you will meet with grape growers, winemakers, and business managers; an invaluable opportunity to experience hands-on the theory applied in real world situations.
- The fifth day is a day off to review material and to prepare for the Unit D1 exam.
- The sixth and final day is for the Unit D1 exam, which ends by 12pm.

Study Materials: All the WSET study materials are offered in an online format in English only. Furthermore, Fine Vintage provides you with documents that give you a weekly study road map and make recommendations of all supplementary study materials.



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Pricing: The total cost of the course is \$3,495 Canadian dollars. This price includes:

- 3-year registration with the WSET with full access to all Diploma study material
- 4 mornings of in-person classroom instruction by Master of Wine, Geoff Moss
- 4 afternoons of visits to Niagara wineries, including all winery visits, tastings, bus transportation to the wineries, and a welcome dinner on the first night.
- Unit D1 exam

Please note that students are responsible for arranging their own flights, accommodations, travel insurance, and meals outside of the bootcamp itinerary.

Payment Terms & Conditions: Full payment is required at registration and is non-refundable.

Pre-requisites: To enroll in the program you **must have already passed both the tasting and theory exams of the WSET Level 3 in Wines 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. **It is critical** that you come to this intensive Bootcamp well-prepared having spent **at least 100 hours of self-study prior to the in-person sessions**, including reading the study material **at least 3 times**, taking notes on your reading, and reviewing your notes. We want to give all our students the best possible chance of success. Diploma graduates are typically leaders in the wine industry.

Exam: Students are required to obtain a mark of 55% on the exam below:

- **Unit D1:** 90-minute theory exam on Unit D1 Wine Production (3 – 5 multi-part, open-response theory questions). There is no tasting component in this exam.

Course Schedule

There is one pre-course Zoom session held two months before the course. Five in-person course days take place at **Niagara College**, located at 135 Taylor Rd in **Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON**.

Pre-Course Zoom Session

Date: Saturday, April 12th

Time: 12:00pm – 1:30pm Eastern Time

- This session will serve as an introduction to the general WSET Diploma programme followed by a focus on the Unit D1 curriculum and exam expectations. A link will be sent out a week before the Zoom session, and the session will also be recorded and shared with students for future reference.
- Following the Zoom session, students will also be issued a mock theory exam assignment. These mock exams are an invaluable tool to gauge your study progress as well as provide helpful advice on exam answering technique. Students will have until Sunday, May 11th to submit their assignments for review and grading.



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Day 1: Unit D: (Wine Production) – Introduction & The Growing Environment

Date: Tuesday, June 3rd 2025

Time: 9:30am – 9:00pm

About the session:

- This block begins with an introduction to the Growing Environment, focusing on such topics as the anatomy of the vine, the growth cycle of the vine, and the environmental factors that influence a vine's growth. In the afternoon, we will visit wineries in the Niagara region, including a welcome dinner at a benchmark winery.

Day 2: Unit D1 (Wine Production) – Grape Growing Options & General Approaches to Winemaking

Date: Wednesday, June 4th 2025

Time: 9:30am – 6:00pm

About the course:

- This session builds on the natural factors that influence how grapes grow by exploring the many techniques grape growers employ to achieve desired ripeness levels. Such factors include soil management, planting density, vine training & trellising, pest & disease control, and harvest options. In the afternoon, we will return to the Niagara region for two more visits that will shed light on the morning's lecture.

Day 3: Unit D1 (Wine Production) – General Winemaking Options

Date: Thursday, June 5th 2025

Time: 9:30am – 6:00pm

About the course:

- Today we move from the vineyard to the winery with a morning focused on the general decisions a winemaker can implement to create a desired wine style, quality, and price. In the afternoon, we will return to 2 more Niagara wineries to meet with winemakers who will share their experiences, providing you with a deeper understanding of the Unit D1 material.

Day 4: Unit D1 (Wine Production) – Specific Winemaking Options

Date: Friday, June 6th 2025

Time: 9:30am – 6:00pm

About this course:

- The in-person session culminates with a deeper exploration into the winemaking decisions relating to red, rosé, white, and sweet winemaking. In the afternoon we will return to 2 more Niagara wineries to meet with winemakers who are experts in their field.

Day 5: Free Day

Date: Saturday, June 7th 2025

- Today is a free day to review your notes and to study for the Unit D1 exam the next day.



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Day 6: Unit D1 (Wine Production)

Date: Sunday, June 8th 2025

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

About the course:

- This day will begin at 10:00am with the 90-minute Unit D1 exam. After the exam, the course ends.

The Diploma is a challenging program that requires significant dedication from the student. It is essential that you come to this Bootcamp fully prepared having dedicated at least 100 hours of self-study. You will need to have read the study material at least 3 times, take detailed notes on your reading, and review your notes before the first day of the course.

Our goal is to provide students with expert instruction by a Master of Wine and visits to Niagara wineries to meet with professionals in the industry. Our WSET Diploma course is unparalleled by any other school in North America and is the best way to launch your next step in wine education. Spaces are limited.