

101 Questions to ask Pooch

(And you probably have more . . .)

AGING AND STORING WINES

Do wines really age?
Do wines really breathe? Through the cork?
Do screw caps also breathe?
What does breathing have to do with wine?
Is it true that the older the wine the better it taste?
Is it true that only red wines benefit from aging?
Do wines really get better with age?
How long will a wine age?
How long can I keep a bottle of wine?
How long can I keep a wine after I open it?
How long can I keep a bottle of wine in the refrigerator after opening it?
What is oxidation and is it good for wine?
Is it true that wine will turn to vinegar after 24 hours of being open?
What are the two things decanting does for a bottle of wine?
Does decanting a wine improve its drinkability?
Does shaking a bottle of wine help or hurt it?
Where is the best place to store my wines if I don't have a cellar?
What is the best temperature to store my wines?
Does light, heat or vibrations hurt wine?
Does using a microwave hurt the aging of wine?
Are screw caps or natural corks better for storing wines?
What is ullage?

ODDS AND ENDS

How can I save a bottle of wine after I open it and don't finish it?
What is the right way to use ice cubes in wine?
What is the best temperature to drink my wine?
What is room temperature? Or cellar temperature?
How many bottles are there in a magnum or double magnum?
What causes "tear drops" or "legs" to form on the inside of my wine glass?
Is it all right to get my wine really cold before I drink it?
Is it true, the colder a wine gets the better it tastes?
Does the shape of the bottle have anything to do with the taste of the wine?
How many states have wineries?
How many wineries are there in California?
How many wineries are there in United State?

In Las Vegas, I heard about Wine Angels. What are they?
What is the angel's share?
I've heard that every year is a vintage year. What does that mean?
Why do some people get headaches from red wine?
Do sulfites in wine cause headaches?
What does cause headaches in wine?
What is the best way to drink wine and not get a headache?
Does tasting wines and spitting it out help you to taste the wine better?
Don't you have to swallow wine to really taste it?
Is it true? Wineries that use stainless steel tanks are not as good as wineries that use wood barrels.
Is there money to be made in buying wines to age then resale?
Is there money to be made in growing grapes if you have idle property?
Is there money to be made in owning a winery?
Aren't winery owners all rich?
Is it true that the fancier the wine glass (cut crystal) the better the wine tastes?
Is it true that certain wines should only be served in certain glasses?
When wine tasting, should I always rinse my glass with water between wines?
Do the letters "nv" on wine lists mean "not vinegar?"
What is a punt?

FOOD AND WINE

How do foods and wines "marry?"
I like red wine, can I eat fish with it?
I like white wine, can I eat meat with it?
Is it all right to serve Chardonnay with my hamburger?
Can I serve a sweet wine with dinner?
What is it about chocolate and wine that works so well?
What exactly do we "taste" when tasting wine?
What is all this hype about "marriages" of food and wine?
What in the world is "umami?"
Why don't wine competitions serve cheese to their judges? Don't they go together?

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TASTING WINES

Where the heck do the smells of cherry, chocolate and wet dog in wine come from?

Is cat pee a good smell for a wine?

What causes the citrus or lemony taste in wine?

Why do people talk “dry” and drink “sweet?”

Where does the sweetness in wine come from?

Is a dry wine better than a sweet wine?

How does sugar get into wine?

How sweet is sweet in wine? And is it bad?

When do we begin to taste sweetness in wine?

What is tannin? (or, have you ever bitten a tree?)

Some wines really taste sour, what is that about?

What does the word “corked” mean?

How do you know if a wine is good or not?

How do judges “judge” wines?

Should we pay attention to the results of wine competitions?

What is the difference between a Gold or Silver medal?

Is a score of 92 (on a 100 point scale) twice as good as a wine that gets 82?

What do these scores really mean?

Can you tell anything about the age of wine by looking at the color?

What does sensory fatigue have to do with tasting wine?

How can I become a better wine taster?

Is a \$30 bottle of wine 3 times better than a \$10 bottle of wine?

What wine should I drink if I’m a beer lover?

SPARKLING WINES & CHAMPAGNE

Where do the bubbles come from in Champagne?

What do the words Brut, Extra Dry and Sec mean?

Is Brut the sweetest or driest sparkling wine?

Why do some people get headaches from sparkling wine?

Is it true that the bigger the bubbles the bigger the headache?

What is the difference between sparkling wine and champagne?

Are all sparkling wines called Champagne?

Why does Extra Dry sparkling wine taste sweet?

What is a secondary fermentation?

Why is the percentage of alcohol in port so high?

WINEMAKING

Why are oak barrels used in winemaking?

Are there other types of wood that can be used?

What’s the difference between an oak barrel and a French barrel?

Does adding oak make a wine better or just more expensive or both?

Why does wine have alcohol in it?

What does fortified mean?

What’s the difference between a French oak and American oak barrel?

How many bottles of wine in a barrel of wine?

How many bottles of wine in an acre of grapes?

How many pounds of grapes in a bottle of wine?³

Where does the color in red wines come from?

Is fermentation important to winemaking?

Do winemakers add flavors of vanilla, strawberry, apple, etc. to make their wines taste better?

GRAPE GROWING

Are some grapes sweeter than others?

How many times can you pick grapes in a year?

Does snow or floods hurt grapevines?

Where does Viognier come from?

What is the difference between Syrah, Shiraz and Petite Sirah?

What is the difference between Sauvignon Blanc and Fume Blanc?

What is the difference between Pinot Gris and Pinot Grigio?

What is the largest planted white grape variety?

What is the largest planted red grape variety?

I heard that rain is good during harvest because it helps wash the grapes?

WINE LABELS

What does Old Vine mean on a wine label?

What does reserve, library selection, or winemaker’s favorite mean?

Does grown, produced and bottled mean anything?

“Cellared or Vinted by” means what?

What exactly is a varietal wine?

What exactly is a generic wine?

Why are some wines called Dry Rose?

Is mold on the top of a bottle of wine is a sign of a bad wine?