

MY VOYAGE TO THE WORLD OF WINES & SPIRITS THROUGH WSET- RAJESH SWARNAKAR DIPWSET.



My earliest experience with wine took place at a function on board a cruise ship that I worked for during late nineties in United Kingdom. It was a Spanish red most probably a Rioja that prompted me to look at wines more seriously. A few years later that is in the year 2002 I decided that I Should pursue a more serious and thorough study in wines and spirits. By then I had heard about WSET's reputation as a world class education provider in wines and spirits. I looked no further and without any delay decided to sit for WSET level 2 classes which was being run on board by the F&B management of the ship. I didn't grow up in a dry household per se, and certainly did not possessed any taste for good wines,

it was mostly dark spirits that was our daily dose. So, Level 2 was done and dusted and I passed my first WSET certification programme.

The desire to know more about the wines put me on a journey through the major wine regions of France, Italy, Australia, Greece, Portugal, Spain, New Zealand, Madeira and the like—so straightforward, in fact, that it encouraged me to enrol in level three, the "advanced" certification in wines and spirits, a few months later in Southampton UK. I was born in a place where peaches, pears plums and strawberries were grown abundantly and I grew up eating them. These experiences in true sense helped me understand the nuances of tasting wines and spirits. So finally the WSET Level 3 happened on a cold and snowy wintery morning in Southampton and the year was 2003. The result for WSET level 3 was declared a month later and I passed with a distinction. After this there was no looking back. There was a gap of 5 years before I decided to go for their flagship qualification WSET level 4 or Diploma, the enrolment for which took place in WSET London Institute. By this time, I had travelled well enough to understand the intricacies of wine and spirits world. Besides I was fortunate enough to work with some of the best Sommeliers from Europe and Americas on board Cunard Ships in UK which helped me a lot in my pursuit to complete the diploma. So, finally after a struggle of nearly two years I was able to pass WSET level 4 and complete a long cherished dream of owning such professional degree.

So for those who don't know, WSET stands for the Wine and Spirits Education Trust.

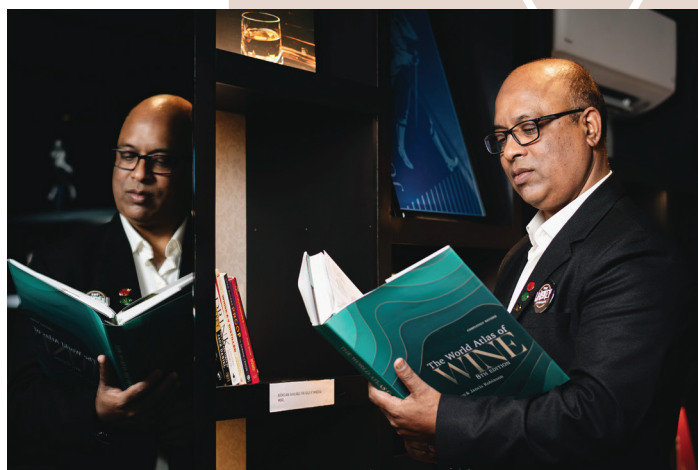
It was founded in 1969 to serve the growing educational needs of the UK wine and spirits industry as recognition grew for WSET qualifications it was realised there was a demand beyond the UK for quality education in wines and spirits. By the end of the 1990's WSET qualifications were available in the UK, Europe, the USA, the Middle East and Asia. In 2007 international students taking WSET exams outnumbered UK students for the first time.

The WSET qualifications are for People who are deeply passionate about wine and spirits and who want to have a deep knowledge and understanding of wine and spirits world. A wine & spirits qualification is one the best tool one can have if a career in the

industry is on the horizon.

No matter where you are in the world, if you're seeking an opportunity in the Wine & spirits Industry, you're guaranteed to be in with a better chance if you have a recognised wine industry qualification or course under your belt. Although there is an abundance of courses available, here are what I believe it to be one of the best in the world; Wine and Spirits education trust London.

WSET offers courses for everyone from complete wine novices up to serious enthusiasts offering various courses aimed at developing the crème de la crème of the industry professionals. They offer both online options as well as classroom courses, and I can guarantee that there's no getting away from the fact that if you're either looking to develop within or transfer to the wine & Spirits industry, a WSET qualification or course is a great way to start. Today, they offer courses in a range of languages. Courses are available in more than 15 languages and in over 70 countries and are open to all interested enthusiasts as well professionals.



The WSET provides globally recognized education and certification in wines, spirits & sake, in many countries. They are headquartered in London but there are numerous of APPs (approved program provider) all over the world. WSET's education is delivered via accredited classroom and online providers around the world.

One can start by looking at any organisation that offers Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET) courses, which is a good starting point. WSET is the largest global provider of wine and spirits qualifications. They offer a range of qualifications – from one-day beginner courses to an expert-level diploma. All WSET qualifications have a strong reputation worldwide as the industry standard for wine & spirits knowledge. In 2017 their annual candidate number exceeded 85,000 for the first time.

They are determined to maintain their reputation being in touch with the latest developments and trends.

Final exams for Level 3 and Level 4 certification require tasting evaluations, which is duly supported by widely recognized WSET Systemic Approach to Tasting (SAT). This gets more in-depth as students advance in level. This is beneficial for students who want to hone their palate and tasting skills using various sensory acts involved in tasting wine.

The Level 4 Diploma is an expert-level qualification that covers all aspects of wine and spirits. To be able to register for Diploma one need to pass level 1,2 and 3. The diploma is required to be finished within three years from registration. The WSET Level 4 diploma is the stepping stone for the Master of Wine qualification, and all of its examinations are conducted in person.

