

Wine words with T, U, V, W and Y

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WORD “T”

Tannic: rich in tannins, and harsh on the palate, as is often the case in young wines. Presupposes quality.

Tarry: said of a wine that gives sensations of tar and liquorice root on the palate, but also on the nose.

Tart/Sharp: rough and lacking balance, a trait which is immediately sensed on the nose and in the mouth.

Toasty: said of a wine when notes of toast, smokiness, and toasted almonds can be perceived on the nose.

True-to-type: when the aromas clearly reflect the characteristics of the variety or vineyard.



WORD “U”

Unbalanced: while taking into account the type of wine you are tasting – since not all wines are distinguished by balance –, a wine is unbalanced if it displays a clear predominance of “soft” components (alcohol, glycerine, sugars, proteins) over “hard” components (acids, salts, tannins) and vice versa.

Unctuous: synonym of oily

Unripe: refers to a wine that is acerbic and not yet ready for drinking.



WORD “V”

Vegetal: describes a wine whose aromas are reminiscent of grass, leaves, hay, humus, green olives, mushrooms etc.

Velvety: said of a wine that offers a pleasant mouthfeel, almost like a caress.

Vigorous: refers to a wine that shows energy, sinew and power (often in terms of alcoholic strength).

Vino da meditazione: a wine whose traits are such that it can also be enjoyed without food.

Vino novello: wine obtained using the technique of carbonic maceration.

Viscous/dense: refers to a wine that displays little suppleness when rotated in the glass. Viscosity depends on levels of extract (in particular glycerine) and alcoholic strength.



WORD “W”

Warm: refers to the impression of pseudo-heat perceived when tasting a wine caused by the presence of alcohol. Although noticeable, this sensation must not dominate.

Watery: refers to a wine that gives the impression of having been watered down. May also refer to a wine lacking structure.

Weak: describes a wine whose alcoholic strength is disproportionately low compared to its other components, or a wine lacking body and taste.

Well-balanced: said of a wine whose individual parts are well proportioned; in other words, its soft components (sugars, alcohol, glycerine) are not overwhelmed by its hard ones (acids, salts, tannins, bitter substances) and vice versa.

Well-rounded: used to describe a wine which is both full and soft.

Well-typed: refers to a wine that displays the sensory characteristics typical of the types of wines produced in a given area.



WORD “Y”

Youthful: describes a wine whose characteristics (appearance, aroma, taste) show evidence of relatively recent vinification.