

What's For English
Wine in Easy English
Gerald Wright

#1: Introduction to Wine in Easy English

In this podcast I introduce the purpose of Wine in Easy English.

Following are some words and expressions that will be used in the podcast. You should be able to figure out the meanings by listening carefully:

Sensual: The side of wine that excites your sense of smell, sight and touch is the **sensual** side of wine.

Rational: When we analyze wine and break it down into categories, we are adopting a rational approach to wine.

Emotional: Sharing wine with friends and letting wine draw out memories is the emotional side of wine.

Content: In this podcast, wine is the **content** and English is the language of the presentation.

Wine in Easy English

Hello and welcome to Wine in Easy English. My name's Gerald Wright.

Do you like to drink wine? I guess you do – or you wouldn't be here. I like to drink wine, too.

But I guess wine is more than just a drink for you. Me too. For me I love the way wine excites my senses: those colors of the wine in a glass, those many shades of purple, red, yellow, even green. The many smells you get when you take a sniff – do you smell berries, or apples, or mushrooms or dirt? And then there are those flavors of the wine as it rolls around the mouth and slides down the throat. That's the sensual side of wine. The side that excites your senses – your sense of sight, smell, and touch.

But the rational side of wine can also be exciting. The rational side of wine is the side where you analyze wine, break it down, put it into some category. Is this wine from the old world of France or Italy or the new world of California or Australia? Is it from a famous, special place – like the Medoc in Bordeaux or the Cote d'Hor in Burgundy; or is this wine from some place that is new to winemaking, Santa Barbara in California or the South Island in New Zealand? Did the wine come from one single vineyard or was it blended from grapes picked from across the region? Is the wine made from one grape, a Pinot Noir, or is it a blend of grapes, like a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc, the classic blend of Bordeaux?

There are so many ways to analyze, categorize, and think about the wine. And that's the rational side.

In fact, the rational side can get very scientific – how high is the alcohol; is the wine balanced in terms of acidity and sweetness? Did the wine age in new oak barrels or stainless steel? Are chemicals from the cork affecting the taste of the wine? I'll confess, the chemistry of wine is a bit too difficult for me!

Ok, so we've talked about the sensual and rational side of wine. Lets talk about wine and emotions. When I have a nice bottle of wine, I really like to share it with good friends. I mean, what a great way to spend an afternoon or an evening. Sometimes a wine might even trigger some memory in the mind; you know - like the time and place where you had the wine before and maybe the person - the special person - you shared it with. And talking even more about emotions: how about that feeling you get when you find a really rare wine in a shop – a wine you had read about but never tasted – and there they are selling it at a price you can afford. That is a great feeling.

Let's talk about wine and food. Isn't it great to have a nice wine with a good dinner? Cheese, fish, steak or chicken – Japanese food , French, Italian or Chinese – you can find some wine to match almost any meal.

Ok. Enough about wine – for now.

Let's talk about your English.

This podcast is called Wine in Easy English.

Maybe you and I share an interest in wine. But I'm also an English teacher. So I'd like to help you learn to understand and talk about wine - and the many many subjects about wine - in English. But I also believe that you'll get more fluent – OVERALL. Your overall fluency in English should get better by following your passion for wine in English.

How good is your English? Are you just a learner of English? Are you a low intermediate or an intermediate level speaker of English? Well on this podcast, it doesn't matter if you are a learner - an English learner - because here you can focus on your love for wine and improve your English listening and reading skills at the same time. But the most important thing here I believe, is the wine, not English. Wine is the content. English is just the language of the presentation. But if you come here and you love wine, and you want to learn more about how we talk about wine in English – then here on this podcast you will get the facts, the news, the terms and ideas about wine – and it doesn't matter that your English is not as good as you'd like it to be. Keep listening. Come back frequently and you will get much more familiar with the terms and expressions that people use when they write or talk about wine.

What do I know about wine? I live in Tokyo – not exactly a famous wine region, but I've followed a fairly serious interest in wine for over twenty years now. Here in Tokyo I've been able to find wonderful wines from all over the world. Now this is just my adult life that I'm talking about. Because when I was young, I grew up in the Napa Valley. Yes, the Napa Valley in California, famous wine region. My parents

worked in the wine industry. And had our own vineyard and we made at home. So I'll probably talk about that more in a future podcast.

Let me just say that – like you – I'm passionate about wine. I'm curious about wine. I love to taste wine and I love learning about wine. And I hope that I can help you learn more about wine and get better at English.

If you have anything to say to me, please leave a comment! See you next time.