

TASTING AND REVIEW FAQ

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BEFORE YOU SUBMIT

WHAT PRODUCTS CAN I SUBMIT FOR REVIEW?

Wine Enthusiast will review:

Wines (100% grape-based only), including no- and low-alcohol wines.

Spirits

Ready-to-Drink (RTD) products that are spirit-based.

As of July 2025, all products meeting the above criteria are welcome to be reviewed and rated, including products not yet imported to the U.S.

Samples submitted must be finished and properly labeled. Tank, barrel or unlabeled samples are not accepted.

All product samples must be entered into the Wine Enthusiast Ratings Platform at [ratingsplatform.wineenthusiast.com/login](https://wineenthusiast.com/ratingsplatform) to receive a review. Additional submission guidelines can be found on wineenthusiast.com/submit-for-rating.

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY REVIEW?

While we guarantee your sample will be reviewed, we cannot guarantee that reviews will be completed within a specific timeframe. Once they're checked in, wines are rested in our cellar to protect against bottle shock. To ensure balanced tasting flights, it may be necessary to wait until we receive similar vintages, regions, varietals etc to the product you have submitted. So while this means the timeline from submission to published review can vary, we adhere to these protocols to ensure your product receives a fair review.

WHERE WILL MY WINE/SPIRIT REVIEW APPEAR?

All qualifying wine and spirit reviews are published online at wineenthusiast.com/ratings. Select reviews will appear in the print magazine. **All wine reviews posted to the Wine Enthusiast website are considered final.** Once a review is posted, it cannot be edited or deleted. By submitting your product for review, you grant Wine Enthusiast the right to publish it, in whole or in part, on our website and to any of our editorial needs and discretion. Reviews are separate from editorial coverage.

ARE THERE DEADLINES TO SUBMIT PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW?

Currently, Wine Enthusiast accepts wines and RTDs on a rolling basis; you can submit your sample as soon as your wine or RTD is packaged and labeled for sale. Unfinished and tank samples are not accepted.

Spirit producers can refer to the 2026 Spirits Review Calendar on wineenthusiast.com/submit-for-rating to determine when to submit.

PROCESSING FEE

WHAT DOES THE PROCESSING FEE COVER?

There is a processing fee of \$95 per SKU. This processing fee supports the Wine Enthusiast Ratings Platform operations; the administrative, staffing, and logistical needs to maintain the ethical blind-tasting standard; and the production of the buying guides.

The processing fee **does not** speed up the publication of your review and has **no bearing** on your final score. Reviewers will continue to taste without knowledge of whose product is in front of them.

What the \$95 Fee Covers:

- **Guaranteed Review:** Your wine/spirit submission is guaranteed to be reviewed.
- **Receiving and Storage:** We will take the samples in, organize, and cellar them in our top-of-the-line storage facilities.
- **Blind-Tasting Protocols:** Our trained tasting staff will set up balanced flights to meet blind-tasting standards, including proper glassware, temperature, presentation, and scoring calibration.
- **Real-Time Updates:** The Ratings Platform eliminates manual PDFs and provides visibility into the status of your submissions digitally. You may track the progress of your wine/spirit samples directly on the on the platform.
- **Print/Online Preview:** The Ratings Platform provides a preview of how a wine/spirit will appear on Wine Enthusiast's website and in the print magazine.

What the \$95 Fee Does Not Cover:

- **Shipping or Customs Costs:** The fee does not include any costs related to shipping or customs. Any billing or legal issues with U.S. Customs, delivery services, or freight vendors must be resolved by the submitter. Wine Enthusiast cannot clear deliveries held by these agencies.
- **Expedited Review Time:** Your wine/spirit/RTD is guaranteed to be reviewed. The processing fee does not expedite the review to be complete within a specific time frame.
- **Rejected Submissions:** If your submission is rejected, there is no refund on the processing fee. Reasons for rejection may include: the label is illegible, handwritten, manipulated, or not TTB approved; it is an unfinished or tank sample; there is a duplicate submission.
- **Corked or Off Samples:** If your submission is corked or off, the tasting panel will not move forward with the review. A second sample will be requested from the submitter. There is no refund on the processing fee.

SHIPPING & CUSTOMS

WHERE DO I SHIP MY SAMPLES?

Shipping locations vary according to the country and region of origin of the product you have submitted. Please refer to page 6 for a list of reviewers and the regions they cover. For reviewer shipping addresses, refer to pages 7-12. Wine producers in Spain and California can also refer to more details on regional coverage available on wineenthusiast.com/submit-for-rating.

WHAT SAMPLES DO I NEED TO SEND?

For wines, please include two bottles for each submission. For RTDs, please include two bottles/cans/boxes for each submission. For spirits, please send one bottle per submission. These must be finished products ready for sale; tank or barrel samples are not accepted.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO INCLUDE WITH MY SHIPMENT?

Once you have completed your Ratings Platform submission, print out the **Shipment Barcode (QR code)** sheet. Include this sheet inside each box with your samples. Please pack your products in recyclable materials. Submissions sent in packages made from Styrofoam delay our processing time.

HOW ARE SHIPPING FEES AND CUSTOMS FEES HANDLED?

Shipping fees, custom fees, and duty fees are the full responsibility of the submitter. The submitter is responsible for coordinating logistics and covering all costs related to the delivery of wine/spirit sample submissions to the correct review location.

CAN YOU ASSIST WITH CUSTOMS AND IMPORT DOCUMENTATION?

The submitter is responsible for managing customs documentation and meeting U.S. legal requirements, including but not limited to:

- COLA (Certificate of Label Approval) Waiver(s)
- FDA Prior Notice filing
- Importer Permits and tax identification
- Customs Taxes, Duties, and Registration
- Power of Attorney
- Certificate of Age and Origin Requirements

If your product is imported, Wine Enthusiast recommends samples be shipped by the brand's U.S. importer.

Our import clearing partner can provide customs and logistics assistance to brands not yet imported to the U.S. Please contact submissionssupport@wineenthusiast.com for more information on this service **prior to making your submission.**

STATUS UPDATES & REVIEW TIMING

HAVE YOU RECEIVED MY SAMPLES?

Wine Enthusiast blind tastes and rates approximately 25,000 wines and spirits every year. Please retain your tracking information and check with your carrier on the status of your shipment's delivery. Please be aware that within the Wine Enthusiast Ratings Platform, the date your sample(s) changes status to "Checked In" is not always the same as the date of delivery.

HOW DO I FIND OUT WHEN MY WINE/SPIRIT HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND SCORED?

You may log in to the Ratings Platform at any time to check for status updates of your wine/spirit submission.

WHAT EACH RATINGS PLATFORM STATUS MEANS:

Submitted: You have successfully entered your product on the Wine Enthusiast Ratings Platform. You are ready to ship your samples along with the Shipment Barcodes (QR Code) sheet to the reviewer for your product or region. If you need to change any of the details submitted, you may also request an edit.

Pending Check In: If you have requested an edit to your submission information, this status will display until the sample(s) are received and the edit can be verified by a member of our Tasting Department.

Pending Edit: When you see this status, Wine Enthusiast staff are requesting you to verify a change we believe is necessary to your submitted information. We may also email you directly if we need to confirm a difference between the sample we receive and the submitted information.

Checked In: This status indicates that a member of the Wine Enthusiast Tasting Department has unpacked your submission and confirmed the samples received match the submitted information. This also confirms your sample meets all eligibility requirements.

please note: the Check In date is not always the same as the date of delivery. To check if your shipment has arrived at its review location, please contact your carrier for proof of delivery.

Ready for Purchase: When you see this status, your wine has been rated and assigned to a magazine issue. The review is not yet public. A member of the Wine Enthusiast Sales team will contact you with options for purchasing a label package within the Buying Guide. This includes the option to purchase an express review, allowing you to promote your score earlier.

Published: The score and review of your product is posted on wineenthusiast.com/ratings. You can now share your score and use your review in marketing materials.

REVIEWERS & REGIONS

Anna-Christina Cabrales

Tasting Director

France (Burgundy, Champagne, Rhône Valley)

Danielle Callegari

Writer-at-Large

Tuscany (Bolgheri, Chianti Classico, Brunello/Rosso di Montalcino, the Valdarno), Abruzzo & Sicily

Michael Laudenslager

Writer-at-Large

Tuscany (all regions excluding those listed above), Southern Italy & Sardinia

Jeff Porter

Writer-at-Large

Northern Italy, Central Italy (Emilia-Romagna, Marche, Umbria) Slovenia, Switzerland

John Sumners

Writer-at-Large

Portugal & Northeast Spain (Aragon, Ribera del Duero, Toro, Catalunya, La Rioja, Navarra, País Vasco, all Cava zones)

Reggie Solomon

Writer-at-Large

France (Beaujolais, Loire Valley), Spain (Andalucía, Castilla-La Mancha, Castilla y León (except Toro and Ribera del Duero), Extremadura, Galicia, Madrid, Murcia, Valencia, Spanish Islands), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Israel, Macedonia, Montenegro & Asia

Tonya Pitts

Writer-at-Large

California (Northern California & California AVA), Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, Oklahoma, Utah

Matt Kettmann

Writer-at-Large

California (Central Coast & Southern California), France (Languedoc-Roussillon, Pays d'Oc)

Tom Capo

Writer-at-Large

California (Napa & Sonoma County), Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas

Michael Alberty

Writer-at-Large

Oregon, Washington, Alaska, North & South Dakota, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Wisconsin, Wyoming & Canada

Cheron Cowan

Writer-at-Large

US States from Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi to the East Coast (excluding New York)

Jesica Vargas

Writer-at-Large

Latin America & Africa

Aleks Zecevic

Writer-at-Large

Austria, Germany, France (Alsace, Jura/Savoie, Vin de France), Armenia, Czech Republic, Moldova, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey

Emily Saladino

Writer-at-Large

Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Lebanon

Christina Pickard

Writer-at-Large

Australia, New Zealand, England, New York

Kara Newman

Writer-at-Large

Spirits & Ready-to-Drink (spirit-based)

Roger Voss

Writer-at-Large

France (Bordeaux, Corsica Southwest France), No & Low-Alc Cognac and Armagnac

Cody Wexler

Tasting Manager

France (Provence, Bandol, Méditerranée, Other France)

SHIPPING ADDRESSES

Shipping locations vary according to the region of production and/or the style of the wine, spirit or RTD you are submitting. Please review this section carefully.

COUNTRIES & REGIONS TASTED IN OUR NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS

FRANCE: Alsace, Beaujolais, Bandol, Burgundy, Champagne, Jura/Savoie, Loire Valley, Méditerranée, Provence, Rhône Valley & Vin de France
(see page 10 for other French regions)

ITALY

ALL OTHER EUROPE (except Portugal and Northeast Spain, for these see page 11)

USA: Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and all states east of this line

MEXICO, CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA

ASIA

AFRICA

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

UNITED KINGDOM

NON-ALCOHOLIC WINES

Wine Enthusiast
c/o Tasting Department
200 Summit Lake Drive
4th Floor
Valhalla, NY 10595

(914) 345-9463

SHIPPING: USA

PLEASE NOTE WHEN SHIPPING TO CALIFORNIA ADDRESSES:

All wine samples must be shipped through a carrier for tracking purposes. Samples dropped off to a facility without a carrier will not be accepted. Clearly indicate the name of the reviewer on the box. Not sure who to send to? A complete guide to California AVAs and their respective reviewers can be found at wineenthusiast.co/submit-for-rating

CALIFORNIA (CENTRAL COAST & SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA)

Matt Kettmann
318 Loreto Place
Santa Barbara, CA 93111

1-805-284-2097

mkettmann@wineenthusiast.com

CALIFORNIA (NORTHERN CA & CALIFORNIA AVA), ARKANSAS, COLORADO, ILLINOIS, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA, NEVADA, OKLAHOMA, UTAH

Tonya Pitts
SF Wine Center
175 Green Street
San Francisco, CA 94111

1-415-272-4046

tpitts@wineenthusiast.com

SHIPPING: USA & CANADA

USA: CALIFORNIA (NAPA COUNTY & SONOMA COUNTY) ARIZONA, LOUISIANA, NEW MEXICO, & TEXAS

All wine samples must be shipped through a carrier for tracking purposes. Samples dropped off without a carrier will not be accepted.

Tom Capo
Crown Wine Shipping
101 Grant Ave, Unit D
Healdsburg, CA 95448

1-707-473-0644

tcapo@wineenthusiast.com

USA: OREGON, WASHINGTON, ALASKA, HAWAI'I, IDAHO, IOWA, MINNESOTA, MONTANA, NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA, WISCONSIN & WYOMING

CANADA

Michael Alberty
Portland Wine Storage
306 SE Ash St.
Portland, OR 97214

1-503-231-1121

malberty@wineenthusiast.com

SHIPPING: FRANCE

BORDEAUX, SOUTH-WEST FRANCE AND CORSICA

All shipments must be sent from within the EU (non-EU originating shipments cannot be accommodated).

Roger Voss
4 Route de Mondebat à Laclaverie
32160 Beaumarchés FR

+33 (0)782 620 579

rvoss@wineenthusiast.com

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON & PAYS D'OC

Matt Kettmann
318 Loreto Place
Santa Barbara, CA 93111

1-805-284-2097

mkettmann@wineenthusiast.com

ALSACE, BEAUJOLAIS, BANDOL, BURGUNDY, CHAMPAGNE, JURA/SAVOIE, LOIRE VALLEY, PROVENCE, MÉDITERRANÉE, RHÔNE VALLEY & VIN DE FRANCE

Wine Enthusiast
c/o Tasting Department
200 Summit Lake Drive
4th Floor
Valhalla, NY 10595

(914) 345-9463

SHIPPING: SPAIN & PORTUGAL

SPAIN:

**ARAGON, CATALUNYA, LA RIOJA, NAVARRA, PAÍS VASCO,
Toro, Ribera Del Duero & all Cava zones**

PORTUGAL

John Sumners
Control Space Storage Alfragide
Casal de Alfragide 1
John Sumners - Unidade B203
2720-413 Amadora, Portugal

jsumners@wineenthusiast.com

+351 800 210 566

SPAIN:

**ANDALUCÍA, CASTILLA Y LEÓN (except Toro and Ribera Del Duero - see above),
CASTILLA-LA MANCHA, EXTREMADURA, GALICIA,
MADRID, MURCIA, SPANISH ISLANDS & VALENCIA**

Wine Enthusiast
c/o Tasting Department
200 Summit Lake Drive
4th Floor
Valhalla, NY 10595

1-914-345-9463

SHIPPING: SPIRITS & RTDs

SPIRITS: Alcoholic and No- & Low-Alcohol types, excluding No- & Low-Alcohol Cognac and Armagnac

SPIRIT-BASED READY-TO-DRINK: Alcoholic and No- & Low-Alcohol Types

Only one sample bottle is required for each spirits submission.

Kara Newman
136 Madison Ave., 6th Floor
New York, NY 10016

For deliveries only:
646-722-3300

knewman@wineenthusiast.com

NO- & LOW-ALCOHOL COGNAC & ARMAGNAC

All shipments must be sent from within the EU (non-EU originating shipments cannot be accommodated).

Roger Voss
4 Route de Mondebat à Laclaverie
32160 Beaumarchés FR

+33 (0)782 620 579

rvoss@wineenthusiast.com