

# Wine Tasting Checklist

By Kimberly French

- Before Wine Tasting
  - Eat a meal before wine tasting.
  - Dress comfortably.
  - Do not wear your favorite white shirt.
  - Bring valid ID for age verification.
  - Take water bottle.
  - Bring money in case you would like to buy glasses, souvenirs or wine.
  - Bring your camera.
- Wine Tasting
  - Once the wine is opened, take the cork in your hand and make sure it's moist and not brittle.
  - If the cork is very dry, it's quite likely the wine was improperly stored.
  - Once the wine is poured, lift your glass and look at the wine.
  - Check the wine against the backdrop of the white linen of the tablecloth or napkin.
  - Look for touches of brown in the wine.
  - Check the color of the wine.
  - Check whether the wine is cloudy or not.
  - Check the back label of a wine bottle, to see if a wine is filtered or not.
  - Swirl the wine in your glass.
  - Check for any signs of mustiness, like the smell of wet cardboard.
  - Get a sense of the wine's character through its aromas.
  - Take a sip, and if you can bring a little air in with the wine, do so.
  - You may slurp to enhance the tasting experience.
  - Let the wine swirl about your mouth so that all your taste receptors have an opportunity to touch the wine.
  - Sense the weight of the wine.
  - Try to get a sense of how long the taste of the wine stays with you.
  - Write notes about the different wines you taste.
  - Keep a log for future reference.

- Keep a record of the wines you liked and the ones that you probably won't taste again.