

Terroir and vineyard management



About the School

As a public institution under the authority of the French Ministry of Agriculture, Bordeaux Sciences Agro collaborates with various institutions in France and abroad through a network of higher agronomic institutes and has developed close partnerships with the university and scientific campuses in Bordeaux (the University of Bordeaux, INRAe, CNRS, INSERM, etc.).

For 60 years, Bordeaux Sciences Agro has been able to forge privileged relationships with wine companies. These ties supplement the courses taught by the school by helping increase the professionalism of the curriculum and by fostering the future professional careers of the graduates by ensuring that the courses are suited to the real world.

The terroir in viticulture is not a mystic concept; it can be explained within the framework of agronomic interactions between the vine and its environment. This training course is designed for international professionals dealing with the concept of terroir and the way to manage the vineyard in order to optimize terroir expression.

Goals of the training

- Understand major factors driving terroir expression
- Assess the soil and climate effects on wine typicity through sensory analysis
- Learn how to measure major terroir factors and map them
- Learn how to manage vineyards in order to optimize terroir expression

Who is it for?

Technical director, crop manager, cellar master, organization representative, consultant

Speakers

- > Cornelis (Kees) van Leeuwen
Professor, Bordeaux Sciences Agro
- > Elisa Marguerit
Associate Professor, Bordeaux Sciences Agro
- > Jean-Philippe Roby
Consultant
- > Benjamin Bois
Associate Professor, Burgundy University
- > David Pernet
Consultant société SOVIVINS
- > Georgia Lytra
Associate Professor, Bordeaux Sciences Agro
- > Gregory Gambetta
Professor, Bordeaux Sciences Agro

Content of the training

• Day 1

- The concept of terroir in viticulture. Role of human factors
- The effects of climate in terroir expression. Agroclimatic indices. Temperature and phenology. Climatic variability in the Bordeaux area
- Tasting session : sensory attributes in relation to climate and vintage

• Day 2

- Water relations and terroir expression. Tools for vine water status assessment
- Optimization of terroir expression through the choice of plant material (variety and root-stock)
- Tasting session : sensory attributes in relation to soil type (example of Médoc)

• Day 3

- Optimizing terroir expression through vineyard management practices
- The role of nitrogen in terroir expression. Tools to assess vine nitrogen uptake
- Tasting session: sensory attributes in relation to soil type (example of Saint-Emilion)

• Day 4

- Major soil types in Bordeaux
- Field trip: study of soil pits, optimization of terroir expression through the implementation of appropriate management practices and the choice of plant material

• Day 5

- Grape ripening dynamics in relation with terroir expression
- New technologies in terroir studies
- Visit of a Grand Cru Classé
- Theme: optimization of terroir expression through enological practices. Marketing of the terroir concept.

Practical information

Duration

5 days (35 hours)

2-6 March 2026

Accommodation

Participants will have to book and pay for their own accommodation. We will provide a list of nearby hotels.

Training location

Bordeaux Sciences Agro
Rue de Compostelle in Pessac

Terms and conditions

- > The number of participants is limited; enrollments will be processed on a first-come/first-served basis.
- > Registration will be validated after confirmation of payment of a 30% deposit.
- > Information collected via this application form will be kept in a secure manner and used only in the framework of the current registration process.

Fees

2275 € TTC

Including 5 lunches, tasting sessions

Contact

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(Teaching manager)

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Registration Form

Department for Continuing Education

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