

Viticulture & Wine: Historical Insights

Viticulture & Wine · Answer Key · 19 Questions

1. What ancient civilization is credited with some of the earliest evidence of winemaking, dating back to approximately 6000 BCE?

- A) Ancient Rome
- B) Ancient Greece
- C) The Persian Empire (modern-day Iran)**
- D) Ancient Egypt

2. Which archaeological site in Georgia yielded pottery fragments containing chemical traces of wine dating back to around 8000 years ago, considered among the oldest definitive evidence of wine production?

- A) Tell Brak
- B) Hacilar
- C) Shulaveri Gora**
- D) Çatalhöyük

3. During the Roman Empire, what was the primary method for transporting wine over long distances?

- A) Wooden barrels
- B) Glass bottles
- C) Clay amphorae sealed with pitch**
- D) Leather skins

4. Which monastic order in Burgundy, France, played a significant role in developing winemaking techniques and identifying specific vineyard plots (crus) during the Middle Ages?

- A) The Benedictines
- B) The Knights Templar
- C) The Cistercians**
- D) The Franciscans

5. The phylloxera epidemic in the late 19th century devastated European vineyards. What was the primary cause of this epidemic?

- A) A fungal disease
- B) An insect pest native to North America**
- C) A bacterial infection
- D) Extreme weather conditions

6. What significant innovation, attributed to Johann Georg Faust in the late 18th century, revolutionized the storage and aging of wine, allowing for longer maturation and improved quality?

- A) The invention of the cork stopper
- B) The development of the glass wine bottle**
- C) The widespread adoption of stainless steel fermentation tanks
- D) The creation of the screw cap

7. Which historical document, dating from the 17th century, is often cited as one of the earliest English publications to extensively detail the cultivation of vines and the making of wine?

- A) The Complete Angler
- B) Sylva, or a Discourse of Forest-Trees
- C) The Compleat Husbandman**
- D) The Compleat Gardener

8. The 'Grand Crus' system in Bordeaux, France, was officially codified in which historical classification year?

- A) 1787
- B) 1855**
- C) 1924
- D) 1955

9. Which Roman emperor is known for his detailed treatise 'De Agri Cultura', which included advice on viticulture and winemaking practices?

- A) Augustus
- B) Nero
- C) Cato the Elder**
- D) Trajan

10. The introduction of viticulture to the Americas is largely credited to which European colonizing power, particularly in regions like Mexico and later California?

- A) The British
- B) The French
- C) The Spanish**
- D) The Dutch

11. What crucial technique, developed in the 19th century to combat phylloxera, involves grafting European grapevines onto the rootstock of resilient American grape varieties?

- A) Cane pruning
- B) Chaptalization
- C) Grafting**
- D) Malolactic fermentation

12. The first recorded vineyard planting in what is now the United States, specifically in Florida, was established by which European group in the 16th century?

- A) French Huguenots
- B) Spanish colonists**
- C) English settlers
- D) Portuguese explorers

13. What historical event in the 1970s significantly raised the international profile of California wines, demonstrating their quality against established European wines?

- A) The Phylloxera Crisis
- B) The Judgment of Paris**
- C) The Repeal of Prohibition
- D) The establishment of the Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée (AOC) system

14. Which ancient culture developed sophisticated irrigation techniques for viticulture, evidenced by archaeological finds in regions like Mesopotamia?

- A) Ancient Greeks
- B) Ancient Egyptians
- C) Sumerians**
- D) Phoenicians

15. During the Byzantine Empire, what was the primary center for wine production and trade in the Eastern Mediterranean?

- A) Alexandria
- B) Antioch
- C) Constantinople**
- D) Athens

16. The development of fortified wines like Port and Sherry is historically linked to the need for wine to withstand long sea voyages. Which country is primarily associated with the origin of these wines?

- A) France
- B) Italy
- C) Spain and Portugal**
- D) Germany

17. Which influential figure in viticulture and oenology, active in the mid-19th century, conducted extensive research that debunked spontaneous fermentation and identified the role of yeasts in winemaking?

- A) Louis Pasteur**
- B) Robert Mondavi
- C) Émile Peynaud
- D) Jules Chauvet

18. The establishment of the 'Barolo and Barbaresco' appellations in Italy, signifying protected origin, took place in which historical period?

- A) Renaissance
- B) 18th Century
- C) Early 20th Century**
- D) Late 20th Century

19. Which ancient civilization believed that the god Dionysus (or Bacchus in Roman mythology) was the divine patron of viticulture and wine?

- A) Ancient Egyptians
- B) Mesopotamians
- C) Greeks and Romans**
- D) Celts