

Descriptors Sheet

Say what you smell. Use these words.

Three tiers: Primary from the grape,
Secondary from winemaking, Tertiary from
age.

PRIMARY • FRUIT, WHITES

Citrus	lemon, lime, grapefruit, orange, blood orange, tangerine, peel, pith
Orchard	green apple, yellow apple, red apple, baked apple, quince, pear, overripe pear, fig
Stone	peach, nectarine, apricot, yellow plum
Tropical	banana, passion fruit, mango, guava, lychee, pineapple, kiwi
Other	gooseberry, grape, melon, honeydew

PRIMARY • FRUIT, REDS AND ROSÉ

Red	strawberry, cherry, raspberry, cranberry, redcurrant, pomegranate, red plum, cola
Black	blackberry, blackcurrant, black cherry, black plum
Blue	blueberry, boysenberry
Dried	dates, figs, raisin, prune, fruitcake
Rosé	wild strawberry, watermelon, red plum, raspberry, pink grapefruit
Condition	tart, fresh, ripe, baked, stewed, jammy, dried, candied

PRIMARY • NON-FRUIT

Flower	apple blossom, orange blossom, acacia, lily, honeysuckle, jasmine, chamomile, rose, violet
Herb	rosemary, thyme, basil, lemongrass, eucalyptus, mint, lavender, dill, fennel, oregano
Vegetal	tomato leaf, asparagus, green pepper, celery, radish, olive, pea shoot, beetroot
Earth	compost, forest floor, dust, soil, truffle, blackcurrant leaf
Mineral	slate, chalk, limestone, river pebble, seashell, oyster shell, wet rock, flint
Spice from the grape	black pepper, white pepper, liquorice, juniper

SECONDARY • FROM WINEMAKING

Oak	vanilla, toast, smoke, caramel, chocolate, coffee, cedar, coconut, dill
Baking spice	allspice, cinnamon, aniseed, clove, ginger, nutmeg
Malolactic	butter, cream, custard, yogurt, brioche
Lees	bread dough, biscuit, yeast, stale beer, cheese rind
Whole-cluster	stems, forest floor, dried herbs, crunchy spice
Carbonic	banana, bubblegum, candy, strawberry
Botrytis	ginger, saffron, spice bread, beeswax, honey, marmalade

TERTIARY • FROM AGE

Whites	nutty, honey, chamomile, petrol, straw, hay, mushroom, truffle, olive oil, marmalade
Reds	damp earth, forest floor, truffle, leather, game, prune, dried fruit, beetroot, tobacco, sun-dried tomato, balsamic, black tea
Oxidative styles	almond, hazelnut, walnut, caramel, coffee, bruised apple

FAULTS • SAY IT BEFORE YOU SCORE

TCA: wet cardboard, musty cellar. **Brett:** barnyard, band-aid, horse. **VA:** nail polish, vinegar.

Oxidation: bruised apple, sherry, flat color. **Reduction:** struck match, rubber, egg. **Heat or light:** cooked fruit, stewed, wet wool.