

Acid Trials

This is a good way to measure the effect of added tartaric acid on the pH and flavor of the wine.

1. To make a stock solution of 50% Tartaric Acid:
 - a. Measure 50 g of Tartaric acid. Add Tartaric acid to a small beaker
 - b. Add distilled water up to 80mL
 - c. Stir until the acid is dissolved
 - d. Pour the contents of the beaker into a 100mL volumetric flask
 - e. Bring the volume up to 100mL with distilled water
 - f. Transfer to a labeled plastic bottle with a cap
 - g. Store in the refrigerator.
2. To do the acid trial:
 - a. Measure 50 mL of wine with a graduated cylinder and pour it into a beaker.
 - b. Add a stir bar and put it on the stir plate with gentle stirring.
 - c. Measure and record the pH.
 - d. Add 25uL of 50% the stock Tartaric Acid and record the pH. (This is the equivalent of adding 0.25g/L tartaric to the wine.)
 - e. Continue adding 50% Tartaric Acid stock solution and recording the resulting pH until you reach the target pH. (ex: 3.25 for white wine, 3.50 for red)
3. To set up a taste trial:
 - a. Measure 50 mL of wine into each glass.
 - b. Add the 50% Tartaric acid stock solution at the concentrations around your target pH
 - i. remember that 25 uL = 0.25 g/L so to taste the effect of adding 1.25 g/L you would add 125 uL of tartaric acid stock solution.
 - ii. Ex: For a taste trial for a white wine you may want to taste three wines, with target pH of 3.30, 3.25, and 3.20.
 - c. Mix, then taste.