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Ask Barry Waite...

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Ask Barry Waite is a feature for answering some of the New York Wine Analytical Lab's most frequently asked questions.

Dear Barry Waite:

I have a wine sample that I would like to submit to the New York State Wine Analytical Laboratory for copper analysis. How much is the analysis and how do I go about this? Also, what is the best way to send a sample?

-Wondering in Watertown

Dear Wondering:

Thank you for your question. Since you are a New York State winery, your price would be \$25 per sample for copper analysis. Producers from outside of New York are still welcome to send samples, but they are not able to take advantage of the subsidy provided by the New York Wine & Grape Foundation. You can find the price list, the address and also the list of analyses available on this website

<http://grapesandwine.cals.cornell.edu/cals/grapesandwine/outreach/upload/NYSWAL-7-10.pdf>.

A 750 ml bottle is enough to do most any analysis. If you would like to send a smaller sample please call and inquire about sample size (315-787-2263). I would recommend that you use UPS as they deliver the samples in the morning and are usually much more amenable to alcohol. Please label the package "lab sample."

Please be kind to the laboratory personnel- if you are sending a juice sample (as opposed to fermented wine), freeze it, pack with cold packs and send next day air. There are a couple of reasons to do this: first of all, your sample will be representative of the sample you actually sent when it gets here (not having fermented on the way) and secondly, it will be safe. Frozen juice samples are re-heated in the lab to bring any acids that have precipitated back in to solution, so the acid numbers will be representative of your sample in the winery. The lab once received a juice sample sealed and taped in a plastic soda bottle. By the time it was out of the box after shipping, it was the size of a football. It exploded in the laboratory and broke several glass items and also made a large mess. Many of the personnel in the department came running, even from different floors. Imagine the trouble this would have caused if it exploded in the UPS truck!

If you any questions that you would like to ask Barry Waite please forward care of bkg1@cornell.edu

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