

Commandaria Worksheet

Guidelines for educators

- **Context and the area of cultural heritage:** intangible heritage in Cyprus
- **Description and justification:** Commandaria is a delicious sweet dessert wine thought to date back to 800 BC. When he captured Cyprus, Richard the Lionheart declared it “the wine of the kings and the king of wines”. Commandaria was considered so good in ancient times that it even won the first wine tasting competition, ‘the Battle of the Wines’ in the 13th century, held by French king Philip Augustus. The wine is very similar to sherry and has been made in the same manner for centuries and in the same 14 wine-growing villages of the island. It is one of Cyprus’ most loved and oldest wines known that is still in production. No visit to Cyprus is complete without tasting Commandaria and learning about its history.
- **Duration:** 45 minutes
- **Language level:** B2
- **Prior knowledge:** more advanced vocabulary related to wine and cooking/growing food, ability to understand the main ideas of more complex texts on concrete and abstract topics, ability to interact with a degree of fluency, ability to produce clear and detailed texts to explain their viewpoints and give the advantages/disadvantages of various options.
- **Thematic area, grammatical and syntactical phenomena (learning objectives):**
In this worksheet students will learn:
 - Wine-related and wine-making vocabulary
 - Mixed verb tenses (past continuous, present perfect, present continuous, future continuous) in sentences

- Practice using the past simple tense in a historical text

- **Skills developed (or benefits for students):**

At the end of this worksheet, students will:

- Practice their oral skills by talking about a concrete topic with a degree of fluency
- Use and identify wine-related and wine-making vocabulary in complex sentences
- Using mixed verb tenses
- Create a checklist & timeline of a process, step-by-step using information from a large piece of text

- **Material needed:** pen/pencil, copies of exercises

- **References and resources:**

- Cyprus Wine Museum (2021) “Commandaria”, <https://www.cypruswinemuseum.com/commandaria/>
- Cyprus Wine Museum (2021) “Commandaria History and Names”, <https://www.cypruswinemuseum.com/commandaria-history-and-names/>
- Cyprus.com (2021) “Commandaria”, <https://cyprus.com/commandaria/>
- Karlsson, P.B. (2017) “A Legendary Wine: Commandaria from Cyprus”, *Forbes*, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/karlsson/2017/01/22/a-legendary-wine-commandaria-from-cyprus/?sh=60c9bc4162f2>
- McNicoll, A. (2013) “Commandaria: The oldest wine in the world?”, *CNN*, <https://edition.cnn.com/2013/12/13/business/commandaria-the-oldest-wine-world/index.html>
- Tsiapatsoulis, N. (2018) “Commandaria Wine Production Animation Movie”, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XS8BEVXYW38>
- Image Sources:
 - Picture 7 source: Taste Atlas (2021) “Commandaria”, <https://www.tasteatlas.com/commandaria>
 - Unsplash Photos, <https://unsplash.com/>
 - Pixabay Photos, <https://pixabay.com/>

Worksheet for the student

EXERCISE 1:

(Duration: 15 minutes)

Task 1: The History of Commandaria

Read the short story below. Using the word bank, complete the sentences with the appropriate word (4 minutes).

Word bank: honey, protected, elevate, taste, sweet, slopes, drinking, produced, villages, dessert, praised, named, rich, oldest

Commandaria is a Cypriot _____ wine. It has a very _____ history. Some people argue that it is the world's _____ wine. Commandaria was first _____ around 800-1000BC and it is recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest _____ wine in the world. The legend says that Commandaria has been _____ by many ancient Greek poets, like Homer. In ancient Greece, it was believed that _____ wine could _____ the level of consciousness of a person.

Today, this _____ wine is _____ by the law and it can be produced only in fourteen (14) _____ on the _____ of the Troodos Mountains in Cyprus. The _____ is a mixture of _____, herbs, vanilla, and spices.

Task 2: Where did Commandaria take its name from?

Read the short story below. Using the word bank, complete the sentences with the appropriate word (4 minutes).

Word bank: thrive, production, describe, conquered, offered, popular, pleasant, centuries, wedding, regions, declaring

According to local stories, Commandaria has been given its name by the crusading knights in the 13th century. Cyprus was _____ by the Knights during the Third Crusade. Urban legends say that King Richard the Lionheart of England liked Commandaria so much that he _____ it at his _____, _____ it as 'the wine of kings and the king of wines'. This phrase is used until today to _____ the extremely _____ taste of Commandaria. The Knights Templar chose to move their headquarters to Cyprus, in the _____ where Commandaria was produced to oversee its _____. Throughout the following _____, Commandaria became very _____ around Europe and its production continues to _____.

Task 3: Commandaria Timeline

Read the short text below. Use the timeline on the next page to note down the most important events. Your timeline should contain up to 4 significant points during the history of Commandaria's existence. Once you create your timeline, be prepared to discuss in pairs which event you think is the most important, and why. (8 minutes)

The process of ancient wine-making, and specifically that of Commandaria, dates back to 800 BC as it was described by the Greek poet Hesiod, and some argue even before that. This constitutes it the oldest named wine still in production. During the 12th century, Richard the Lionheart was said to have enjoyed it greatly at his wedding in Cyprus and even called it the "wine of kings and the king of wines". Near the end of that century, he sold Cyprus to the Knights Templar and kept a small estate called "La Grande Comanderie". Legend says that in 1224, Philip Augustus of France held a wine tasting competition (The Battle of Wines) which was won by Commandaria. Another legend says that the Ottoman invasion in Cyprus during 1570 happened just to acquire Commandaria. In 1863, Thomas George Saw wrote a book in which he referred to and praised this wine. Similarly, in 1879, Samuel Beker referred to the wine as Commandaria. Finally, Commandaria is widely enjoyed in Cyprus and abroad in the 21st century and great efforts are made to maintain its reputation amongst the wide variety of dessert wines.



EXERCISE 2:

(Duration: 15 minutes)

Task 1: The process of wine-making

Observe the images and text below. Underline the word that corresponds to the right tense (present continuous/simple or future continuous/simple tense)



1. Overripe: The grapes should [remain / remaining] on the grape vines longer than usual.



2. Harvesting: When the grapes are ready, the process of [collecting / collect] the grapes [is beginning / begins].



3. Density: The grapes are then dried in the sun for one or two weeks. During this stage, the sugar in the grapes [will be increasing / will increase] until it is ready to produce alcohol.



4. Crushing and pressing: During this process, the winemaker [will be crushing / will crush] the grapes, until all the juice is collected.



5. Fermentation: At this stage, the sugar [becomes / will become] alcohol.



6. Clarification: After fermentation, the wine [will be put / put] in barrels.



7. Ageing: The wine [will remain / is remaining] in the barrels until it is ready for consumption.

Task 2: A trip to a winery in a Cypriot village

Fill in the gaps below with the correct past tense of the verbs in the brackets. The text is a short story about a trip to a winery in a Cypriot village. (5 minutes)

Last summer, a group of friends _____ **(visit)** Cyprus and _____ **(decide)** to go to a winery that produces Commandaria. They _____ **(choose)** to visit Zoopigi, a small village in Troodos where Commandaria _____ **(produce)** for thousands of years. In 2010, the Commandaria Historical Museum _____ **(open)** in Zoopigi and it _____ **(devote)** to the Zoopigi Commandaria Winery which _____ **(discover)** in 1940 and is still active.

While visiting the museum, the group of friends _____ **(expose)** a whole new world. They learned how the process of making Commandaria _____ **(develop)** over the years. Today, Commandaria is produced with the use of modern machines but in the past people _____ **(use)** their feet to crush the grapes. At the end of their visit, they even _____ **(take)** part in a unique wine tasting experience.

Task 3: Commandaria fun facts

Identify the mistakes in the sentences below. Once you have identified each mistake, underline it and replace it with the correct tense. (5 minutes)

1. Commandaria will be considered one of the oldest wines in the world.
2. Today, winemakers produced Commandaria only in 14 Cypriot villages.
3. Many people like drank Commandaria after dinner.
4. In ancient Greece, many poets drink Commandaria all the time.
5. Commandaria has been tasting a bit like honey with vanilla aroma.
6. One of the many names of Commandaria has been including "The Apostle of wines".

7. Commandaria was using in today's Christian Orthodox churches as the Holy Communion.

EXERCISE 3:

(Duration: 15 minutes)

Task 1: Wine-drinking habits

Discuss wine-drinking habits in your country. As a culture, do you traditionally drink a type of wine with a specific type of food? Discuss this in groups of 2-3. Use this space for notes if you like (5 minutes).

Task 2: Informal Discussion

What did you learn about Cyprus from the texts that you have read so far? Did you know that Cyprus produced Commandaria? Have you ever tried Commandaria yourself? Discuss in pairs and use this space for notes if you like (5 minutes).

Task 3: The step-by-step process of Commandaria wine production

Match each picture with the right step of Commandaria-making using the numbers indicated on the steps. When you are done, try to place the steps in the correct order.

Be careful, the steps are not numbered correctly on the list below (5 minutes).















1 _____



Commandaria Wine

Production Steps:

1. Drying the grapes
2. The grape vines
3. Commandaria bottles
4. Fermentation of grape juice in jars
5. Serving Commandaria
6. Harvesting the grapes
7. Aging of juice in oak barrels
8. Crashing the grapes

¹ Picture 7 source: [TasteAtlas](#)

ANSWER KEY

Key point to note: Be careful so that your students do not confuse desert with dessert when referring to Commandaria as a dessert wine. Maybe you can use this as a point of discussion during the lesson.

Exercise 1 Task 1:

Commandaria is a Cypriot **sweet** wine. It has a very **rich** history. Some people argue that it is the world's **oldest** wine. Commandaria was first **produced** around 800-1000BC and it is recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest **named** wine in the world. The legend says that Commandaria has been **praised** by many ancient Greek poets, like Homer. In ancient Greece, it was believed that **drinking** wine could **elevate** the level of consciousness of a person.

Today, this **dessert** wine is **protected** by the law and it can be produced only in fourteen (14) **villages** on the **slopes** of the Troodos Mountains in Cyprus. The **taste** is mixture of **honey**, herbs, vanilla, and spices.

Exercise 1 Task 2:

According to local stories, Commandaria has been given its name by the crusading knights in the 13th century. Cyprus was **conquered** by the Knights during the Third Crusade. Urban legends say that King Richard the Lionheart of England liked Commandaria so much that he **offered** it at his **wedding, declaring** it as 'the wine of kings and the king of wines'. This phrase is used until today to **describe** the extremely **pleasant** taste of Commandaria. The Knights Templar chose to move their headquarters to Cyprus, in the **regions** where Commandaria was produced to oversee its **production**. Throughout the following **centuries**, Commandaria became very **popular** around Europe and its production continues to **thrive**.

Exercise 1 Task 3:

The timeline should include:

1. 800 BC - the first mention of Commandaria by Hesiod
2. 12th century – Richard the Lionheart calls it the "wine of kings and king of wines"
3. 1224 – Philip Augustus wine-tasting competition in which Commandaria won

4. 21st century – Commandaria is still widely enjoyed as one of the best dessert wines worldwide

**Encourage your students to create a visual timeline of events, something like the one below:



Exercise 2 Task 1:

1. remain
2. collecting, begins
3. will increase
4. will crush
5. will become
6. will be put
7. will remain

Exercise 2 Task 2:

Last summer, a group of friends **visited** Cyprus and **decided** to go to a winery that produces Commandaria. They **chose** to visit Zoopigi, a small village in Troodos where Commandaria **has been produced** for thousands of years. In 2010, the Commandaria Historical Museum **opened** in Zoopigi and it has been **devoted** to the Zoopigi Commandaria Winery which **was discovered** in 1940 and is still active.

While visiting the museum, the group of friends **were exposed to** a whole new world. They learned how the process of making Commandaria **has been developed** over the years. Today, Commandaria is produced with the use of modern machines but in the past people **were using** their feet to crush the grapes. At the end of their visit, they even **took** part in a unique wine tasting experience.

Exercise 2 Task 3:

1. Commandaria **is** one of the oldest wines in the world.
2. Today, winemakers **produce** Commandaria only in 14 Cypriot villages.
3. Many people like **to drink** Commandaria after dinner.
4. In ancient Greece, many poets **drank** Commandaria all the time.
5. Commandaria **tastes** a bit like honey with vanilla aroma.
6. One of the many names of Commandaria **includes** “The Apostle of wines”.
7. Commandaria **is used** in today’s Christian Orthodox churches as the Holy Communion.

Exercise 3 Task 1:

Students can discuss different types of wine-drinking habits – Holy Communion, drinking wine in social situations, pairing certain foods with certain types of wine. Your role will be to monitor conversations, make sure they are not going off topic and that students are using the language properly to answer the question.

Exercise 3 Task 2:

Here, the goal is to have a brief, casual conversation amongst students which will enable them to reflect on what they have read so far and also use B2 vocabulary related to wine-making/drinking to express their thoughts/opinions.

Exercise 3 Task 3:

Picture 1: Drying the grapes (1)

Picture 2: Harvesting the grapes (6)

Picture 3: The grape vines (2)

Picture 4: Aging of juice in oak barrels (7)

Picture 5: Crashing the grapes (8)

Picture 6: Fermentation of grape juice in jars (4)

Picture 7: Commandaria bottles (3)

Picture 8: Serving Commandaria (5)

The correct order of steps:

1. The grape vines
2. Harvesting the grapes
3. Drying the grapes
4. Crashing the grapes
5. Fermentation of grape juice in jars
6. Aging of juice in oak barrels
7. Commandaria bottles
8. Serving Commandaria

For a more advanced exercise, if your students finish early, you can have them construct sentences or a small story that contain these phrases.