

IN VINO COCTO VERITAS?

Viktor Soma Poór^a, Mátyás Mayer^b

*^{a-b}University of Pécs, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Forensic
Medicine
Pécs, Szigeti u. 12, Hungary*

Mulled wine is the favourite hot alcoholic drink of the winter season. By definition mulled wine is a hot, wine based drink with added water, sugar and spices.

Several factors can affect the alcohol content of these drinks (e.g. the amount of added water). In our study, we wanted to compare the alcohol content of mulled wines from various sources.

Ethyl-alcohol concentrations were determined by gas chromatography. The average alcohol concentration (V/V%) was 6.56% (median: 7.75%), but the alcohol content of the samples varied wildly (minimum: 0.31%, maximum: 9.75%, standard deviation: 3.06%).

In further experiments we have shown that contrary to the popular belief, alcohol content of mulled wines do not change significantly during preparation.

Keywords: ethyl alcohol, gas chromatography