Wine played an important role in many ancient cultures. The complex processes of wine-making were known and practiced in several regions of the ancient Near East.

Often wine was considered as a prestigious luxury product, to be consumed by the royal family and the elites at court. The prestige of the beverage wine and the economic importance of viticulture transcended the spheres of production and consumption, entering the realm of religious and ideological concepts. Here, the grapevine and its main product, wine, acquired special significance as symbols of abundance, well-being, regeneration and immortality.

The aim of the conference 'Viticulture and Wine in Hittite Anatolia and Its Ancient Near Eastern Context' is to bring together scholars from diverse disciplines (archaeologists, historians, linguists, palaeobotanists and philologists) to assess the progress achieved in the Hittites and other ancient Near Eastern cultures.

Participants

**Gojko Barjamovic**  
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

**Grégory Chambon**  
École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris

**Carlo Corti**  
Julius-Maximilians-Universität, Würzburg

**Nicola Laneri**  
Università degli Studi di Catania

**Stefano de Martino**  
Università degli Studi di Torino

**Valérie Matoïan**  
UMR 5133 Archéorient, Lyon

**Lucio Milano**  
Università Ca' Foscarì, Venezia

**Naomi F. Miller**  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

**Andreas Schachner**  
Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Istanbul

**Juan-Pablo Vita**  
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid

**Mark Weeden**  
School of Oriental and African Studies, London

**Chantel White**  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Location

The conference will be held in the rooms of the Ancient Near Eastern Studies section of the Department of Ancient Cultures of Würzburg University located in the Würzburg Residenz.

Registration

There is no participation fee. However, as the talks will take place in a mid-size classroom in the library, informal prior registration is required.  
(email Ms Ursula Kraft: l-altorientalistik@uni-wuerzburg.de)

Sponsor

The conference is funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and by the Lehrstuhl für Altorientalistik, Universität Würzburg.
Thursday, 16 February

from 12:00 Refreshments

Session 1: Ancient Near East  
(Chair: Daniel Schwemer)
14:30–15:00 Welcome and general remarks  
Daniel Schwemer (Würzburg)
15:00–15:30 Introduction to the workshop  
Carlo Corti (Würzburg)
15:30–16:30 Near Eastern viticulture in a historical perspective  
Lucio Milano (Venice)
16:30–17:00 Coffee break
17:00–18:00 Archaeobotany of the grape I: Lines of evidence and the origins of winemaking  
Naomi F. Miller (Philadelphia)/Chantel White (Philadelphia)
18:00–19:00 The impact of wine production in the social transformation of northern Mesopotamian societies during the mid-to-late third millennium BCE  
Nicola Laneri (Catania)
19:00 Reception  
(Martin von Wagner-Museum)

Friday, 17 February

Session 2: Ancient Near East: Case study  
(Chair: Lucio Milano)
09:30–10:30 Archaeology of the oenology: drinking wine at the royal table in Mari  
Grégory Chambon (Paris)
10:30–11:00 Coffee break
11:00–12:00 First press. Early textual evidence for Anatolian wine  
Gojko Barjamovic (Cambridge MA)
12:00–12:30 Archaeobotany of the grape II: Data from Anatolian and Near Eastern archaeological sites  
Naomi F. Miller (Philadelphia)/Chantel White (Philadelphia)
12:30–14:30 Lunch

Session 3: Hittite Anatolia and satellite kingdoms  
(Chair: Stefano de Martino)
14:30–15:30 Contribution to the knowledge of viticulture and viniculture in Hittite Anatolia  
Carlo Corti (Würzburg)
15:30–16:30 The agricultural potential of central Anatolia and what the Hittites made out of it  
Andreas Schachner (Istanbul)
16:30–17:00 Coffee break
17:00–18:00 The administration of vine in Ugarit  
Valérie Matoïan (Lyon)/Juan-Pablo Vita (Madrid)
18:30 Wine-tasting  
(Bürgerspital Weinstuben)
20:30 Dinner  
(Bürgerspital Weinstuben)

Saturday, 18 February

Session 4: Hittite Anatolia: Case study  
(Chair: Andreas Schachner)
09:30–10:30 “Guess who’s coming to dinner”. Hittite banquets  
Stefano de Martino (Turin)
10:30–11:30 The good god, the wine god and the storm god of the vineyard  
Mark Weeden (London)
11:30–12:00 Coffee break

Session 5: Conclusions  
12:00–13:00 Roundtable and concluding remarks