

What Else are you Drinking when you Drink Whiskey or Wine?

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A review will be given about X-ray spectrometric techniques applied to the analysis of alcoholic drinks, e.g. the analysis of wine stemming from different regions, vintages and grape brands will be presented. Correlations between anthropogenic influence and rural based origin of trace elements found during the XRF analysis will be given. Results from several research teams worldwide will be discussed including analytical results from Austrian wines investigated by TXRF in our laboratories. Another aspect is the forensic approach analyzing high prized "old labelled" Cognac or Whiskey. Surprising analytical results from fake and original products will be shown. A further interesting topic is the transfer from trace elements by leaching effects from the walls of the storage vessels studied on samples of Madeira wines. Finally, a comparison of sensitivities and detection limits of x-ray analytical methods with other spectrometric techniques will be presented.