Aging Like Fine Wine: The Evolution of Digital Marketing communication through Archetypal Wine Brand Storytelling (AWBS)

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Abstract

In the digital era, storytelling has become an increasingly important marketing tool, particularly in the wine industry. While archetypal analysis has been utilized in general marketing contexts, its application to wine storytelling in digital spaces remains unexplored. Our research fills this gap by examining how leading wineries leverage universal archetypal narratives to identify distinctive elements that characterize a brand's communication strategy and style. The research design combines quantitative frequency analysis with qualitative content analysis. We analyzed the online presence of 24 globally recognized wineries, focusing on their utilization of Jungian archetypes in brand narratives. Our findings reveal a predominance of the Creator archetype, followed by the Sovereign, Hero, and Magician, offering novel insights into how the wine industry adapts these universal symbols to its specific context. This study's originality lies in its development of the Archetypal Wine Brand Storytelling (AWBS) model, a new framework for understanding and implementing archetypal narratives in digital wine marketing. This study will provide both theoretical insights and practical guidelines for wine companies looking to enhance their brand value through distinctive digital storytelling techniques. Our findings will contribute to the understanding of how archetypal theory can be applied to wine-specific branding strategies in the digital context, offering advancements in theory and practical implications for the competitive wine market.

Keywords: Wine Storytelling, Archetypal Narratives, Digital Brand Communication, Consumer Perception, Wine Marketing

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Introduction

Wine is an ancient beverage celebrated for its diverse flavors and cultural significance, and it has long been intertwined with human storytelling (Santos et al., 2022). The act of sharing narratives about wine, encompassing its origins, characteristics, and sensory experiences, has been a rich part of our cultural heritage (Bonarou et al., 2019). In recent years, the landscape of wine storytelling has undergone a profound transformation, driven by the advance of the digital age. This has opened new avenues for the dissemination of wine narratives, reshaping how brands communicate with consumers and influencing perceived brand value. While previous research has examined online wine discourse (Bastian, 2013) and archetypal analysis in various narrative contexts (Woodside et al., 2008; Herskovitz & Crystal, 2010), academic research into the interaction between wine-related narratives and archetypal patterns in online spaces remains limited. This gap is particularly significant, given the potential of archetypal narratives to resonate deeply with consumers and potentially influencing their brand value perceptions, engagement, and willingness to pay (Siraj & Kumari, 2011). In this context, it becomes crucial for wine companies to establish a clear distinctiveness in their communication and storytelling approaches. By crafting unique narratives that leverage archetypal patterns and industry-specific elements, wine brands can more effectively influence the aforementioned factors. Archetypes represent universal, mythic characters residing in the collective unconscious of people worldwide (Jung, 1959). In brand storytelling, these archetypal figures can serve as powerful tools for creating compelling narratives that resonate with consumers on a subconscious level (Mark & Pearson, 2001). However, the specific application of archetypal storytelling in the context of wine marketing, particularly in digital environments, remains under-explored.

While existing literature has explored various aspects of wine marketing and brand storytelling, there remains a significant gap in our understanding of how archetypal narratives are specifically employed in digital wine marketing. This research study aims to bridge this gap by investigating how wine narratives on digital platforms incorporate archetypal themes and symbols. Specifically, we examine the adoption of Jungian Archetypes in the narratives of high-end wineries to understand their role in wine communication and identify the characteristic elements of storytelling in this industry.

Theoretical background

Storytelling has long been recognized as a powerful tool for communicating the essence of food and beverage products, particularly those with rich cultural and sensory associations (Esau & Senese, 2022). In the context of wine marketing, storytelling plays a crucial role in creating narratives that resonate with consumers' experiences and emotions (Lundqvist et al., 2012). These narratives often emphasize elements such as terroir, heritage, winemaking processes, and craftsmanship, fostering a deeper connection between consumers and wine brands (Woldarsky, 2019).

The advent of digital platforms has significantly transformed the landscape of wine storytelling, providing unprecedented opportunities for wineries to engage with a global audience (Mora & Livat, 2013). Digital storytelling in the wine industry goes beyond mere product description, encompassing elements of history, terroir, and craftsmanship. Pulizzi (2012) argues that content marketing, particularly storytelling, is crucial for building lasting relationships with consumers in the digital age. In the context of wine, these stories often intertwine with the

psychology of wine consumption. Bruwer et al. (2011) demonstrate how wine involvement and consumption behavior are deeply influenced by personal and cultural factors, suggesting that archetypal narratives could play a significant role in shaping consumer brand perceptions. Digital platforms' interactive and multimedia nature transforms how archetypal narratives are constructed and consumed (Viloria-Núñez et al., 2023). Unlike traditional media, digital channels enable real-time engagement with archetypal stories, allowing brands to develop more dynamic and responsive narrative strategies (Merlo et al., 2023). Moreover, the multimodal nature of digital communication—combining text, visuals, and interactive elements—requires a reconceptualization of how archetypal elements are expressed and perceived in online spaces.

Central to effective brand storytelling in the digital wine marketing sphere is the concept of archetypes, which draws from Jungian psychology and has been widely applied in marketing and branding (Mark & Pearson, 2001). In the context of brand storytelling, archetypes serve as powerful narrative frameworks that can evoke deep emotional responses and create meaningful connections with consumers (Herskovitz & Crystal, 2010).

Archetypal theory, as applied to marketing, provides a framework for creating resonant brand stories. Mark and Pearson (2001) posit that brands aligned with specific archetypes can create deeper emotional connections with consumers. The application of archetypal theory to wine brand storytelling offers a unique lens through which to understand and construct compelling narratives. These archetypal narratives can help wineries differentiate themselves in a crowded market, improve brand reputation, and promote positive associations with their products (Lundqvist et al., 2012).

Effective brand stories in digital wine marketing go beyond merely listing product features; they weave these features into compelling narratives that resonate with the brand's archetypal identity (Delgado-Ballester & Fernández-Sabiote, 2016). These stories often incorporate elements such as authenticity, conciseness, and sensory descriptions to reinforce the perceived value of wines (Mora & Livat, 2013). Digital platforms allow consumers to become conarrators of the wine brand story, sharing their own experiences and interpretations, which further reinforces the archetypal narrative (Veszelszki, 2019).

Visual elements play a crucial role in digital wine storytelling, enhancing emotional engagement and transcending language barriers to appeal to a global audience (Santos et al., 2019). These visual narratives can be particularly effective in reinforcing the brand's archetypal identity, whether through imagery that evokes the rugged individualism of the Hero archetype or the refined elegance of the Ruler archetype.

Methodology

This study employs a mixed-methods approach to investigate the adoption of Jungian Archetypes in the storytelling narratives of top wine cellars. The research design combines quantitative frequency analysis with qualitative content analysis to provide an understanding of archetypal storytelling in the wine industry. To ensure a representative sample, we utilized six authoritative rankings from the year 2023 for winery selection. These rankings included Wine Spectator's Top 100 Wineries, Wine Enthusiast's Top 100 Cellar Selections, Decanter World Wine Awards, International Wine Challenge, Gambero Rosso's Tre Bicchieri, and Robert Parker's Wine Advocate Top 100 Wines. The evaluation criteria used by these rankings included product quality, expert evaluations, effectiveness of brand communication and storytelling efforts, and global market presence and recognition. This multi-source approach mitigates potential biases associated with single-ranking systems and provides a comprehensive view of industry excellence. From an initial pool of 296 wineries appearing

across these rankings, we identified 24 that were consistently recognized in the top positions in at least four of the six rankings. This number allowed for comprehensive examination while ensuring representation across different wine regions and market segments (Daher, 2023).

The analysis focused on understanding whether the narratives of these selected wineries could be attributed to the 12 primary archetypes identified by Mark and Pearson (2001). Specifically, the objective was to analyze the digital communication of brands on proprietary institutional channels such as their websites. We focused particularly on the "About Us," "History," and "Values" sections of their websites, as these typically contain the core narrative elements of a brand's story. All these texts were manually collected and entered a database that was then subjected to content analysis.

Our coding process evolved through three interconnected phases that built upon each other to ensure comprehensive analysis. We began with initial coding, where we identified preliminary patterns and themes in the data (Holton, 2007). This foundation then informed our focused coding phase, during which we refined and consolidated these initial patterns into more conceptual categories. Finally, through theoretical coding, we integrated these categories into broader analytical frameworks that helped us understand the relationships between different archetypal elements in wine brand narratives.

We developed a tailored analytical framework and archetype-specific dictionaries. The framework consisted of elements for each archetype including core identity, key attributes, narrative themes, visual cues, and language patterns. These elements allowed for a comprehensive assessment of how each archetype manifests in wine brand storytelling. The archetype-specific dictionaries were created through an iterative process. Initially, we compiled lists of words and phrases typically associated with each archetype based on existing literature (e.g., Holt, 2004; Woodside, 2010). These lists were then refined through pilot coding of a subset of our sample, adding wine-specific terms and removing irrelevant ones.

Two coders independently analyzed the winery narratives using this framework and the archetype dictionaries. They coded for the presence and prominence of archetypal elements, assigning a primary archetype to each winery based on the most dominant narrative patterns. The coding process involved a thorough examination of the textual content, identifying key words, phrases, and themes that aligned with specific archetypes as defined in our framework. Our initial coding approach was designed ex ante to frame the analysis within the context of the traditional 4Ps of marketing (Product, Price, Place, Promotion). As the coding process progressed, two additional themes of interest emerged from the data: (i) People, in the context of wine marketing, encompass a broad spectrum of individuals who significantly influence the product's perception and value. This includes winemakers, sommeliers, critics, and even the consumers themselves. The human element is particularly important in the wine industry due to the product's artisanal nature and the importance of expertise in its production (Parr et al., 2011). (ii) Process, on the other hand, refers to the methods of production, distribution, and service that are integral to the wine industry. The winemaking process, including factors such as terroir, harvesting techniques, and aging methods, often forms a central part of a wine's story and perceived brand value (Beverland, 2006).

To ensure the final reliability of our coding process, both coders independently analyzed a subset of 20% of the sample to establish baseline agreement. Any remaining discrepancies were resolved through discussion to reach consensus, a process known as negotiated agreement (Campbell et al., 2013).

Results and discussion

Quantitative Analysis

Once the iterative process of dictionary control and development was concluded, the entire sample was re-subjected to verification to determine which archetype could be associated with the type of narrative and text collected. The frequency distribution of archetypes across the sample was as follows: Creator (50%), Sovereign (25%), Hero (12.5%), Magician (12.5%), and Explorer (4.2%). Notably, the Sage, Lover, and Everyman archetypes were absent from our sample, suggesting a potential gap in narrative strategies within the high-end wine industry. Lexical frequency analysis of the prominent archetypes yielded insightful patterns. For the Creator archetype, the most frequently occurring terms were "unique" (79.2%), "passion" (75%), and "development" (70.8%). The Sovereign archetype was predominantly associated with "quality" (83.3%), "historical" (79.2%), and "respect" (75%). The Hero archetype was characterized by "work" (66.7%) and "growth" (62.5%), while the Magician archetype was linked to "possibilities" (58.3%) and "dreams" (54.2%).

Qualitative Analysis

From the most common words assigned to each archetype, we then identified the most prevalent common elements to construct a model that could represent the most relevant elements of wine narrative in terms of digital marketing. This allowed us to define a conceptual model that was then used to analyze the texts extracted online during the collection phase. To synthesize our findings and their implications, we propose a conceptual model (fig.1) of Archetypal Wine Brand Storytelling (AWBS). This model primarily takes into consideration the elements for each marketing dimension. Then, based on the qualitative analysis of the content associated with each archetype for the analyzed wineries, the characteristic elements were identified.

*** Insert Figure 1 ***

Based on this framework, we conducted a qualitative analysis of the content associated with each prominent archetype (Creator, Sovereign, Hero, Magician, and Explorer) identified in our sample of wineries. This analysis involved an examination of the narrative themes, language patterns, and elements mentioned in the storytelling. This process allowed us to construct a framework that maps out the characteristic elements of each archetype across all relevant marketing dimensions. To illustrate how wineries implement different archetypes, consider the following examples from our sample. Winery A, embodying the Creator archetype, emphasizes innovation through statements such as 'crafting unprecedented wines that challenge traditional boundaries.' Their digital narrative consistently features terms like 'artistic expression' and 'pioneering spirit.' In contrast, Winery B, representing the Sovereign archetype, employs language emphasizing heritage and authority: "centuries-old winemaking tradition". These distinct narrative approaches manifest across their entire digital presence, from website copy to social media content.

The resulting application of AWBS model (tab. 1) provides a nuanced understanding of how archetypal narratives are employed in high-end wine marketing, offering insights into the distinctive storytelling strategies associated with each archetype.

Conclusion

Our findings contribute to the evolving discourse on wine marketing strategies in the digital age, offering novel insights into the intersection of archetypal theory and wine brand storytelling.

The proposed AWBS framework, encompassing the original 4Ps as well as people and process, provides a robust foundation for analyzing the multifaceted nature of wine brand communication and marketing strategies.

This study demonstrates the strategic application of archetypal narratives in digital wine marketing, revealing the Creator, Ruler, Hero, and Magician as the predominant archetypes utilized by top-tier wineries to differentiate their brands and engage consumers in the digital sphere.

The dominance of the Creator archetype suggests that top wineries are leveraging narratives of innovation and artistic expression to differentiate themselves in an increasingly saturated market. This strategy aligns with Spear and Roper's (2013) findings on enhancing corporate brand reputation in various industries, but this study uniquely applies these concepts to the wine sector, demonstrating how creativity-focused narratives can be particularly effective in an industry traditionally associated with tradition and heritage.

The prominence of the Ruler archetype, focused on quality, history, and respect, corroborates and extends Charters et al.'s (2016) emphasis on authentic narratives in creating memorable wine experiences. Our findings suggest that wineries are not merely relying on authenticity but are specifically employing narratives of authority and prestige to establish their brand position. This strategy resonates with Lockshin et al.'s (2019) identification of prestige as a significant factor in shaping consumer perceptions of wine quality and brand value.

The less frequent but notable use of Hero and Magician archetypes offers a novel perspective on Delgado-Ballester and Fernández-Sabiote's (2016) concept of "quest" plots in brand narratives. While their work focused on general brand storytelling, this study demonstrates how these narrative structures manifest specifically in wine marketing through archetypal representations. The emphasis on transformation and overcoming challenges in these archetypes aligns with Giorgi's (2017) positive association of emotional resonance with improved consumer brand perception and willingness to pay.

The absence of the Sage, Lover, and Everyman archetypes in our sample warrants critical examination. This gap may reflect the luxury positioning of high-end wineries, which potentially view these archetypes as inconsistent with premium brand messaging. However, this absence represents a potential missed opportunity to connect with different consumer segments, particularly given the growing democratization of wine consumption.

While our study provides valuable insights, it is limited by its focus on high-end wineries and online content. Future research could expand this analysis to a broader range of wineries, including smaller producers and broaden the analysis to include content on physical channels. Additionally, investigating the direct impact of these archetypal narratives on consumer behavior and purchasing decisions would provide valuable practical insights for the industry.

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Appendix

Figure 1. Archetypal Wine Brand Storytelling (AWBS)

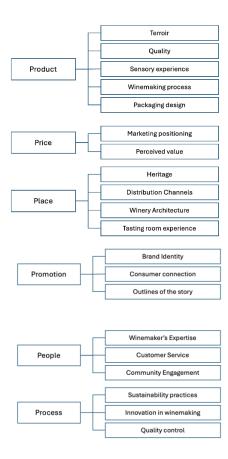


Table 1. Analysis of Archetypal Storytelling

Dimensi Element Creator	Sovereign Hero	Magician	Explorer
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on	S					
	Terroir	Emphasis on unique microclimat es and soil compositio ns	Emphasis on prestigious , well- establishe d appellatio ns	Focus on challenging environments overcome through determination	Emphasis on mystical properties of the land	Focus on undiscovered or unusual wine regions
	Quality	Focus on innovative, high-quality wines that push boundaries	Uncompro mising standards, often with a long history of excellence	Emphasis on award-winning results achieved through hard work	Focus on creating transcendent, transformative experiences	Emphasis on unique, adventurous wines that broaden horizons
Product	Sensory Experien ce	Novel, unexpected flavor profiles and aromas	Classic, refined, and complex flavor profiles	Bold, memorable flavors that make a statement		Exotic, unexpected flavors that evoke a sense of discovery
	Winema king Process	Experiment al methods, often blending tradition with cutting-edge techniques	Time- honored techniques perfected over generation s	Portrayed as a labor of love, overcoming obstacles	Portrayed as an alchemical transformation	Unconventional approaches that challenge norms
	Packagin g Design	Modern, artistic, often unconventi onal designs	Elegant, traditional designs that convey luxury and heritage	Strong, confident designs that convey achievement	Mysterious, captivating designs that evoke wonder	Travel- inspired, rugged designs that evoke adventure
Price	Market Positioni ng	Premium, avant-garde positioning	Luxury, high-end positionin g	Premium positioning based on accomplishment	Unique, transformative experience- based positioning	Niche, discovery- based positioning
	Perceive d Value	High value associated with creativity	High value associated with prestige	High value associated with triumph over adversity	High value associated with the wine's	Value associated with uniqueness

		and uniqueness	and heritage		magical qualities	and the thrill of discovery
Place	Heritage	Reimaginin g traditions, creating new legacies	Strong emphasis on centuries of winemaki ng legacy	Narratives of overcoming challenges to establish the winery	Connection to ancient wisdom or legendary winemaking secrets	Emphasis on pioneering spirit and exploration
	Distributi on Channels	Selective distribution, often through high-end or specialized retailers	Exclusive distribution through high-end retailers and fine dining establishm ents	Wide distribution, making the wine accessible to admirers	Selective, creating an air of exclusivity and mystique	Specialized retailers or direct-to-consumer, encouraging discovery
	Winery Architect ure	Modern, artistic designs that reflect creative spirit	Classic, imposing structures that reflect history and tradition	Impressive structures that showcase the brand's success	Designs that evoke a sense of wonder or otherworldline ss	Designs that reflect the spirit of adventure or local cultures
	Tasting Room Experien ce	Interactive, educational experiences showcasing innovation	Formal, educationa l experience s emphasizi ng the brand's legacy	Immersive experiences that tell the brand's story of triumph	Immersive, multisensory experiences that feel magical	Interactive experiences that take visitors on a "journey"
Promoti on	Brand Identity	Pioneering, artistic, innovative	Regal, authoritati ve, prestigious	Inspirational, courageous, triumphant	Mysterious, captivating, transformative	Adventurous , curious, pioneering
	r	Engagemen t through co-creation and participatio n in the creative process	Cultivatin g aspirationa l loyalty and exclusivity	Building admiration and shared values with consumers	Cultivating a sense of wonder and fascination	Appealing to consumers' desire for new experiences
	Outlines	Narratives	Narratives	Narratives of	Narratives that	Narratives of

	of the story	focused on the creative process, inspiration, and innovation	centered on history of the wineries, legacy, and quality	perseverance, challenge, and ultimate success	blur the line between artisanal expertise and alchemical approach in wine production	discovery, adventure, and expanding horizons
	Winema ker's Expertise	Highlighted as visionary artists or innovators	craft with deep	Portrayed as dedicated craftsmen who have mastered their art through persistence	Portrayed as alchemists or keepers of secret knowledge	Portrayed as adventurers or pioneers in viticulture
People	Custome r Service	Knowledge able staff able to explain unique processes and flavors	Highly trained staff offering impeccabl e, formal service	Enthusiastic staff who embody the brand's values of hard work and excellence	Staff trained to enhance the mystical experience	Staff encouraged to share their own wine "discoveries" with customers
	Commun ity Engagem ent	Collaborati ve projects with artists, designers, or other creative industries	Sponsorsh ip of prestigious events, cultural preservati on efforts	Programs that support local communities or overcome regional challenges	Mysterious events or exclusive tastings that create buzz	Partnerships with travel or adventure- related organization s
	Sustaina bility Practices	Cutting- edge eco- friendly innovations	Focus on long-term stewardshi p of the land	Emphasis on transforming landscapes and overcoming environmental challenges	Harmonizing with nature in seemingly miraculous ways	Discovering and implementin g eco-innovations from around the world
Process	Innovatio n in Winema king	Constant experiment ation with new techniques or grape varieties	Subtle refinement s to traditional methods	Driven by the need to adapt and overcome obstacles	Secret or patented processes that appear magical	Constant exploration of new techniques or grape varieties
	Quality Control	Rigorous testing of new methods to	Stringent processes to maintain	Rigorous standards that reflect the commitment to	Ensuring consistency in creating "magical"	Ensuring consistency while embracing

	ensure consistency	· ·	excellence	1	the variability of
	in	quality			exploration
	innovation				1