Labelling of low-alcohol wines

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Regulation (EU) 2026/471 as regards certain market rules and sectoral support measures in the wine sector and for aromatised wine products and as regards certain labelling rules for spirit drinks

What is changing and why?

The European Union (EU) has updated its rules on the labelling of low-alcohol wines, and on the production of low-alcohol aromatised (flavoured) wines, to help the sector respond to consumer demand.

Reduced-alcohol (including aromatised) wines must be labelled as follows:

- “alcohol-free” if the actual alcoholic strength of the product does not exceed 0.5% by volume
- “0.0%” if the actual alcoholic strength of the product does not exceed 0.05% by volume
- “reduced alcohol” if the actual alcoholic strength of the product is above 0.5% by volume and is at least 30% below the minimum actual alcoholic strength of the category before de-alcoholisation.

Sparkling wines can now be produced from still wine by second fermentation, or by the addition of carbon dioxide to de-alcoholised or partially de-alcoholised still wine.

Timeline

The new labelling requirements for reduced-alcohol (aromatised) wines apply from **19 September 2027**.

Wines (including aromatised and sparkling wines) that have undergone a de-alcoholisation treatment and have been labelled in accordance to previous rules before 19 September 2027 can still be placed on the EU market after that date until stocks are exhausted.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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