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Italy Moves to Cancel Bianco Capena Wine Status After Seven Years Without Sales

The Lazio appellation north of Rome could lose its E.U. protection unless objections are filed within 60 days.

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Italy has moved to cancel the protected designation of origin for Bianco Capena, a white wine appellation from Lazio, after authorities found that no wine using the name has been marketed for the past seven consecutive years.

The proposal was issued by Italy’s Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests under national and European Union rules governing geographical indications for wine. The ministry said the request followed a formal application from the Lazio regional government, which submitted the case on Feb. 12, 2025, after checks carried out with the competent control bodies for regional appellations.

At the center of the decision is a basic requirement for maintaining a protected designation: producers must continue to make and market wine that complies with the production rules tied to the name. In the case of Bianco Capena, the ministry said that condition is no longer met because products bearing the protected name have not reached the market in seven straight years.

Bianco Capena has a long legal history in Italy’s wine system. The denomination was first recognized in 1975, when a presidential decree granted controlled designation of origin status and approved its production rules. Its technical file and consolidated production specifications were later updated in 2011 as part of Italy’s alignment with European wine law, and the disciplinary rules were last amended in 2014.

The current cancellation process reflects a broader legal framework that has been updated at both the Italian and European levels. The ministry cited its Dec. 6, 2021 decree on procedures for applications involving protected designations of origin, protected geographical indications and traditional terms for wine products. It also referred to newer E.U. legislation, including Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 and related delegated and implementing acts adopted in late 2024 and applied in 2025, which set out rules for registration, protection, amendment and cancellation of geographical indications across wine, spirits and agricultural products.

According to the ministry, the Lazio regional administration gave a favorable opinion on the cancellation request. The National Committee for DOP and IGP Wines also backed the move during its meeting on Dec. 10 and 11, 2025, with a representative of the Lazio region present.

On that basis, Italy is now proposing, under Article 25(1) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143 and Article 17(1) of the Italian ministerial decree of Dec. 6, 2021, that protection for Bianco Capena be removed from the European Union register of geographical

indications.

The proposal does not mean immediate deletion. Interested parties still have a chance to object. The ministry said any opposition must be filed within 60 days from the date the proposal is published in Italy’s Official Gazette. Objections must be sent to the ministry’s PQA I office through certified email and must comply with Italian stamp duty rules.

For Italy’s wine sector, the case shows how appellations can disappear when they are no longer active in commercial use. The country has one of Europe’s largest systems of protected wine names, many tied to small territories and long local traditions. But legal protection alone is not enough to preserve an appellation if growers stop producing or bottling wine under its rules.

Capena is located north of Rome in Lazio, an area with deep agricultural roots but less international visibility than some of Italy’s better-known wine regions. The possible loss of Bianco Capena from the E.U. register would mark the end of a denomination that has existed in formal legal terms for more than 50 years, unless producers or other interested parties come forward during the opposition period with grounds to challenge the cancellation.