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Moldova’s Parliament approves a wine law that aligns the industry with E.U. standards

The measure tightens traceability, labeling and registry rules as wineries prepare for a transition period through Dec. 31, 2025.

Wednesday, July 1, 2026



Moldova’s Parliament has approved a bill that brings the country’s vine and wine rules closer to European Union standards, a step that could reshape how wine is produced, registered and sold in one of Eastern Europe’s important wine-growing nations.

According to Moldpres, lawmakers adopted the measure in a second reading on April 10. The legislation is meant to align Moldova’s national framework for vineyards and winemaking with E.U. requirements, while tightening oversight of the sector through new rules on traceability, record-keeping, labeling and product definitions.

The changes are aimed at improving transparency across the wine supply chain and making it easier to track how vine and wine products are produced and marketed. Moldpres reported that the law is also intended to protect product quality and authenticity and to support freer market competition.

Among the main provisions are clearer regulation of terms used in viticulture and winemaking, a requirement for producers to maintain registry records, and an obligation to submit annual vine and wine declarations. The bill also adds rules covering traditional mentions for vine and wine products, including legal definitions for “protected geographical indication” and “protected designation of origin,” two categories that are central to E.U. wine law.

The legislation further sets conditions for producing wines under those protected categories and requires economic operators to be registered in the Vine and Wine Registry. It also addresses labeling and packaging, an area with direct commercial consequences for wineries, importers and distributors.

Moldpres said labels and packaging already in stock before the law takes effect may continue to be used through Dec. 31, 2025, giving producers a transition period to adjust inventories and comply with the new standards.

For Moldova’s beverage industry, the move could matter well beyond domestic regulation. A framework that strengthens traceability and authenticity may help Moldovan wineries present their products more clearly in export markets, while broader recognition of geographical indications could improve how certain wines are identified and protected in trade. That may be especially relevant for producers seeking stronger positioning in the E.U. and other markets where origin claims carry commercial weight.

Moldova has long treated wine as a strategic agricultural product and an export sector tied closely to rural employment and national identity. Bringing its legal framework closer to European practice signals another step in its wider economic integration with the bloc, while giving producers a more formal structure for compliance, classification and market access.

The bill’s approval in Parliament does not by itself settle how quickly producers will adapt or what compliance costs they may face. But the measure sets out a clearer legal basis for vineyard registration, annual reporting, protected origin terminology and packaging standards, all of which are likely to affect how Moldovan wine reaches shelves at home and abroad.