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European Commission updates the E.U.’s official wine grape register

The revised List 8 determines which grape varieties member states authorize for wine production, labeling and presentation across the bloc.

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The European Commission on Wednesday updated the European Union's official wine lists to publish a new version of List 8, the register that identifies which wine grape varieties are authorized by member state for production and which varieties may be used for labeling and presentation in the wine sector.

The update was posted by the Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development on its EU wine lists page. Two documents dated July 15 were released: one listing authorized wine grape varieties by member state and another listing them by variety. The Commission said the lists apply under Article 81 and Article 120(2)(b) of EU Regulation 1308/2013, with publication linked to Article 50(1)(g) and Article 51(2) of EU Regulation 2018/273.

The change matters because List 8 is one of the core reference documents used across the bloc to determine which grape varieties are recognized for wine production and which names can appear in labeling and presentation. In practical terms, that can affect vineyard planning, compliance work by producers and authorities, and how wines are marketed within the European Union.

For growers and wineries, the list has direct regulatory value. A grape variety's presence or absence on the authorized lists can shape planting decisions, especially for producers considering new vineyards or changes in varietal mix. It can also influence whether a producer may identify a grape on a label, an issue that carries commercial weight in a market where varietal naming often guides consumer choice.

The Commission did not highlight specific additions or removals on the webpage announcing the update. Instead, it published the revised PDF files as part of its broader set of EU wine lists, which cover areas such as liaison bodies, national and regional authorities, responsible authorities, vine planting authorizations, vineyard registers, and third-country competent bodies.

Even without a policy announcement attached, updates to List 8 are closely watched in the wine trade because they sit at the intersection of agricultural regulation and market access. If a variety gains or loses authorized status for production or labeling in a member state, producers may need to review technical files, planting strategies, packaging, and export documentation to remain aligned with EU rules.

The publication may also have implications beyond vineyards. Importers, distributors, retailers, and beverage companies that sell EU wines often rely on varietal labeling as a basic commercial tool. Any revision to the official list can potentially affect portfolio planning and compliance checks, particularly for businesses operating across several member states where national authorizations differ.

The updated documents were published alongside other recent revisions to the EU wine lists maintained by the Commission. Earlier this year, the Commission updated List 1 on member state liaison bodies on March 3, List 2 on national or regional authorities on April 13, List 3 on responsible authorities on July 10, and List 6 on third-country competent bodies on June 25.

List 8 stands out because it touches both production rules and consumer-facing information. Under the EU framework cited by the Commission, authorized grape varieties are not only an agricultural matter but also part of how wines may be presented in the marketplace. That makes the list relevant for producers seeking legal certainty as well as for companies managing labels intended for sale across borders inside the bloc.

The Commission’s webpage describes List 8 as covering “wine grape varieties authorised for production and for labelling and presentation in the wine sector.” By issuing separate files organized by member state and by variety, it provides two ways for regulators and market participants to verify whether a given grape is authorized and where that authorization applies.

Because the European Union wine market is governed through a mix of bloc-wide rules and national implementation, these consolidated lists serve as an operational reference point. Producers and trade groups typically use them to confirm whether a variety can be planted for compliant wine production in a given country and whether that same variety may be named in labeling or presentation.

That could be especially important for wineries working with lesser-known grapes, cross-border groups with vineyards in more than one EU country, or brands that depend on clear varietal identity in export channels. In those cases, even technical updates can carry business consequences if they require changes to labels already in

circulation or adjustments to future releases.

The revised List 8 documents are available through the European Commission’s agriculture portal in English PDF format.