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# Italy Opens Wine Sustainability Grants Worth Up to 80% of Investment Costs

The decree sets national rules for EU-backed aid to vineyards pursuing climate adaptation and lower environmental impact.

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Italy has set the national rules for a new round of European Union-backed aid to support more sustainable investment in wine production, opening the way for grants of up to 80% for eligible projects starting with the 2026/27 wine campaign.

The measure was set out by Italy's Agriculture Ministry, known as MASAF, in Decree No. 381401 dated Aug. 4, 2026. According to the text reported by Edotto, the measure implements part of the EU's 2023-2027 Common Agricultural Policy and is aimed at material and non-material investments that reduce environmental impact, improve the sustainability of production processes, and help wine growers and producers mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The support is available to individual farmers, associated agricultural entrepreneurs, agricultural cooperatives that manage their own vineyards, partnerships and corporations engaged in farming, and public wine-growing schools that also operate as grape growers. Applicants must be compliant with mandatory declarations and with EU, national, and regional rules governing vineyard potential. Companies considered to be in financial difficulty are excluded.

The decree covers investments tied directly to more sustainable wine production. Examples cited in the measure include sensors, drones, and sprayers, though the full and detailed list of eligible investments will be defined by Agea, the Italian agricultural payments agency, in agreement with the regions. The aid can cover up to 80% of eligible investment costs for projects linked to climate change mitigation and adaptation, improved sustainability of production systems, and lower environmental impact in the wine sector. Regional authorities will be allowed to set a lower contribution rate.

The funding framework is likely to matter beyond farms alone. If the measure is widely used, it could support new capital spending in vineyards on precision technology, equipment, and climate adaptation tools, with direct implications for wine producers and for suppliers serving the broader beverage industry.

Under the ordinary timetable, applications must be filed by March 30 each year. For the 2026/27 campaign, however, the deadline has been set at Nov. 30, 2026. Operating procedures will be defined by Agea in coordination with the regions. The computerized application system must be opened at least 60 days before the ordinary annual deadline, according to the rules cited by Edotto.

Applications will have to include basic identification details for the applicant, including the CUAA tax and business identifier, along with a description of the investment, its cost, and the timetable for completion. Applicants must also provide proof that costs do not exceed normal market prices, show that the business is not in financial difficulty, and submit a technical report describing the expected positive environmental effects of the project.

Regional governments will have some flexibility in how they award the aid. They may use priority criteria, a first-come, first-served method, or a pro-rata system. For the 2026/27 campaign, the ranking of financeable applications must be completed by Feb. 19, 2027.

The decree also outlines several factors that regions may use when setting priorities. These include applicants between ages 18 and 40, professional agricultural entrepreneurs, first-time beneficiaries, companies that belong to aggregated supply-chain structures, and businesses tied to organic, PDO, or PGI production. Priority may also be given to farms in disadvantaged areas or in zones affected by natural disasters.

At the same time, the rules draw clear lines around what cannot be financed. Ineligible spending includes used machinery and equipment, rentals, administrative and personnel expenses, interest and other financial charges, bank or insurance guarantees, and replacement investments that do not result in an actual improvement. Regions may choose to exclude additional categories of spending as well.

The decree also sets conditions for payment and for maintaining the supported assets. Aid will be paid only after checks confirm that the project has been carried out, and in any case within 12 months of the final payment request if that request is valid and complete. Investments financed under the measure must remain under the ownership and control of the beneficiary for at least five years from the final balance payment request. The same investment cannot receive double funding.

The measure comes as wine producers across Europe face growing pressure to adapt vineyards and production methods to more volatile weather, water stress, and tighter environmental standards. By tying support to sustainability goals and climate resilience, the Italian framework gives producers a financial incentive to move faster on

technology and production changes that might otherwise be delayed by cost. For wineries and growers, the size of the possible grant, up to 80%, could materially change investment decisions during the 2026/27 campaign, especially for projects involving monitoring systems, field equipment, and other tools designed to improve efficiency and reduce environmental impact.