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Italy Approves Amendment to Montepulciano d’Abruzzo DOC Rules

The decree gives legal force to revised production standards for one of Abruzzo’s most important wine categories.

Thursday, September 24, 2026



Italy’s official gazette has published a decree approving an ordinary amendment to the production specification for Montepulciano d’Abruzzo DOC, one of the country’s established wine denominations. The measure was issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests on Sept. 15 and published on Sept. 23 in the Gazzetta Ufficiale, General Series No. 221, under code 26A04940.

The decree concerns the “disciplinare di produzione,” the rulebook that defines how a wine can be produced and marketed under a protected name. In the Italian system, that specification sets the legal conditions tied to the denomination, including the standards that producers must follow if they want to sell wine as Montepulciano d’Abruzzo DOC.

The gazette notice confirms that the amendment is classified as an ordinary modification, which means the denomination remains in place while part of its regulatory framework is updated. The source material available from the official publication excerpt does not set out the detailed content of the changes, but the approval itself gives the amendment formal legal status within Italy’s regulatory system for wine.

That matters because Montepulciano d’Abruzzo is a major commercial wine name for the Abruzzo region and a relevant category for grape growers, wineries, bottlers, distributors, and certification bodies. Any change to the specification can alter the conditions under which producers operate, even when the revision is procedural or technical. Depending on the content of the updated rules, producers may need to review winemaking practices, documentation, controls, labeling, or product release procedures.

For the beverage industry, that can have direct business implications. Changes to a denomination’s rulebook can affect which practices are permitted, how compliance is checked, and what steps are required before a wine can be sold under the DOC name. That can, in turn, influence operating costs, timing, and market access for companies that depend on the denomination, although the extent of any impact will depend on the specific text of the approved amendment.

The decree is part of Italy’s formal administrative process for protected wine names. Publication in the Gazzetta Ufficiale is the step that gives public notice of the ministry’s decision and allows producers and trade operators to align their procedures with the revised standard. In practice, wineries using the Montepulciano d’Abruzzo DOC designation will now need to refer to the updated specification when planning production and certification.

The action also fits into a broader pattern of regulatory maintenance for Italian appellations. The same edition of the official gazette carried another ministry decree approving an ordinary amendment to the production specification for the Costa d’Amalfi wine designation. Taken together, the notices show the ministry continuing to revise and update the technical rules that govern protected wines across different regions.

Montepulciano d’Abruzzo holds a prominent place in Italian wine production, and regulatory changes to its specification are closely watched because they can affect a large supply chain, from vineyards to export channels. Even when a decree does not immediately signal a major commercial shift, companies often examine these revisions closely to determine whether they need to make operational or compliance adjustments before future bottlings are certified and sold.

The ministry decree was signed a little more than a week before publication, on Sept. 15, and appeared in the official gazette on Sept. 23. With that publication, the amendment entered the public legal record, and industry participants now have the formal reference needed to review the updated Montepulciano d’Abruzzo DOC production rules.