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U.S. wine output fell 5% in 2026 after another poor California growing season

The OIV estimated production at 19.0 million hectoliters, leaving the United States fourth globally for a third straight weak year

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The United States is expected to remain the world’s fourth-largest wine producer in 2026, but output fell again after another difficult growing season in California, according to first estimates released by the International Organisation of Vine and Wine on Wednesday, November 18, in Dijon, France.

The OIV said global wine production in 2026 stayed at a level similar to 2025, but remained below the five-year average because of climate impacts and market conditions. Its first estimates pointed to another year in which major producing countries had to manage weather disruptions, uneven ripening and shifts in harvest decisions.

For the United States, the organization estimated wine production at 19.0 million hectoliters, down 5% from 2025 and 18% below the five-year average. If confirmed, that would mark a third straight year of low production for the country.

The OIV said the smaller U.S. crop was driven largely by conditions in California, the country’s main wine-producing state. Warm weather in early spring pushed vine growth ahead of normal timing, but later rain and strong winds disrupted flowering and fruit set. The group said those seasonal pressures, along with adjustments in grape purchasing and harvesting, reduced the final volume.

The figures suggest that the U.S. wine sector continues to face a mix of climate and commercial pressures even as the country keeps a leading place in global production. The OIV did not provide a broader U.S. regional breakdown in the estimate released in Dijon, but California’s role means conditions there heavily influence the national result.

Outside the United States, the OIV reported mixed outcomes across other Northern Hemisphere producers outside the European Union. Russia’s wine production was estimated at 5.4 million hectoliters, down 6% from 2025 but still 10% above the five-year average. The organization said growing conditions varied across Russian wine regions, while the national grape harvest was expected to remain broadly in line with the previous year.

Georgia’s production was estimated at 2.5 million hectoliters, close to the high level recorded in 2025 and 17% above the five-year average. The OIV said output remained strong by recent standards, although weather conditions delayed ripening in some important producing areas.

Moldova was one of the stronger performers in the group. Its wine production was estimated at 1.9 million hectoliters, up 9% from 2025 and 29% above the five-year average. The OIV said that, if confirmed, the result would be Moldova’s second-highest output in 20 years, behind only the 2.6 million hectoliters recorded in 2013.

Switzerland’s production was estimated at 0.8 million hectoliters, broadly in line with both 2025 and the five-year average. The OIV said summer heat and water shortages accelerated ripening and led to early harvesting in several major producing areas.

The organization said data for China’s 2026 wine-grape harvest were not yet available. Updated figures are expected in the first half of 2027.