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Southern Hemisphere wine output falls 3% to 47 million hectoliters in 2026

The OIV said climate stress kept regional production 7% below average, despite South Africa’s strongest vintage in a decade

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Global wine production in 2026 is expected to stay close to the 2025 level but remain below the five-year average, as climate pressures and market conditions continue to shape output, the International Organization of Vine and Wine, or OIV, said in

preliminary estimates released on Wednesday, November 18, in Dijon, France.

The OIV said Southern Hemisphere production, where the harvest ends in the first half of the year, is likely to total about 47 million hectoliters in 2026. That would represent about 21% of world wine output, down 3% from 2025 and 7% below the five-year average. The group said weak results in several large producers, including Australia, Argentina and Chile, kept the regional total below average even as some other countries posted gains.

The OIV said weather conditions differed sharply across producing countries. In some places, frost, hail, heat and water shortages reduced grape volumes. In others, better rainfall patterns and lower disease pressure helped vineyards recover. The organization also said that production and harvesting decisions tied to market conditions affected results in several countries.

South Africa was the largest wine producer in the Southern Hemisphere in 2026, with estimated output of 11.3 million hectoliters. That was up 10% from 2025 and 14% above the five-year average. The OIV said the increase was supported by favorable early-season conditions and February rainfall that reduced water stress in several regions. It described the result as South Africa’s highest production in a decade.

Argentina remained the largest producer in South America, but its output fell. The OIV estimated Argentine wine production at 9.7 million hectoliters, down 10% from 2025 and 11% below the five-year average. The group said frost and hail in Mendoza, the country’s main wine region, hurt the grape harvest and pushed wine production lower.

Chile’s production was estimated at 9.5 million hectoliters. That was 13% higher than the weak 2025 level, but still 13% below the five-year average. The OIV said heat and continuing water shortages again limited yields in 2026, leaving Chile with a third straight year of relatively low production despite the modest rebound from 2025.

Australia recorded one of the sharpest declines among major Southern Hemisphere producers. The OIV put Australian wine production at 9.1 million hectoliters, down 19% from 2025 and 23% below the five-year average. It said rainfall deficits, late-spring frost, heatwaves and localized flooding disrupted growing conditions. The OIV also said

market conditions appeared to influence harvesting decisions. Grape crush volumes fell across the main producing states, with steeper percentage declines in Victoria and New South Wales than in South Australia.

New Zealand’s production was estimated at 3.2 million hectoliters, down 15% from the large 2025 vintage and 5% below the five-year average. The OIV said the smaller harvest also reflected deliberate production adjustments after recent large vintages and helped bring supply closer to market demand.

Brazil was one of the stronger performers in the region. Its wine production was estimated at 3.1 million hectoliters, up 10% from 2025 and 22% above the five-year average. The OIV said the recovery in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil’s main wine-producing state, continued in 2026. It pointed to adequate winter chilling, generally favorable spring conditions and low disease pressure as the main reasons for the increase.

Uruguay’s production was estimated at 0.7 million hectoliters, up 13% from 2025 and 7% above the five-year average. The OIV said the crop benefited from good spring growth, dry weather during flowering and timely rainfall in January that eased water stress and supported berry development. Low disease pressure also helped preserve the harvest through the end of the season.

The OIV’s estimates showed a Southern Hemisphere wine sector still dealing with uneven weather and cautious production decisions, with South Africa standing out for its strong rebound while Australia, Argentina and Chile remained under pressure from climate-related setbacks and, in some markets, weaker commercial conditions.