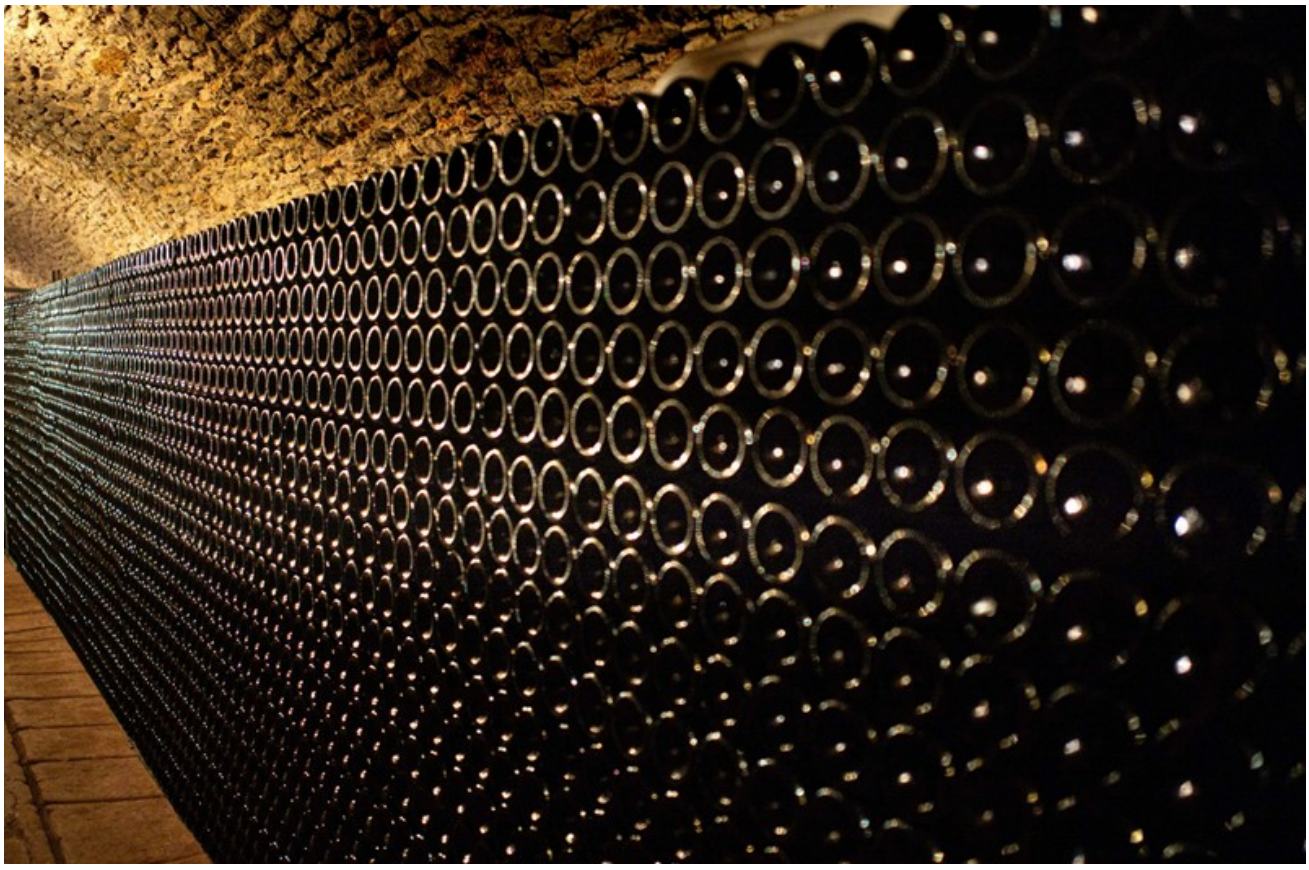
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Italy’s League proposed a 12-month loan moratorium for wine producers burdened by unsold inventories

The budget amendment would let distressed cooperatives postpone payments for a year pending parliamentary approval

Tuesday, November 24, 2026



Italy’s League party has proposed a 12-month suspension of loan payments for financially strained wine cooperatives and wine producers, an idea that could give parts of the country’s wine industry temporary breathing room as companies struggle with unsold inventories and tight cash flow.

The measure was presented on November 20 as an amendment to Italy’s 2027 budget package by Riccardo Molinari, the party’s leader in the lower house, according to I Grandi Vini, which cited ANSA. The proposal is aimed at cooperative wineries and other wine businesses facing distressed credit positions and large stocks of wine that have not been sold.

The plan is intended to ease immediate financial pressure on companies by allowing them to postpone loan payments for a year and redirect cash to operating needs. For cooperative wineries, the extra liquidity could also help support payments to member growers who deliver grapes to the co-op, an issue that is especially sensitive when wine remains in storage and cannot yet be turned into sales revenue.

The proposal comes at a difficult point for Italy’s wine sector. Producers are trying to balance supply, demand and the financial burden of holding large inventories. Wine kept in storage remains an asset on company books, but it also ties up money that businesses may need for wages, suppliers, bank obligations and other day-to-day costs. In that sense, a temporary pause in debt payments could help some wineries manage liquidity and reduce the risk that pressure on cellars spreads back through the supply chain to grape growers and other beverage-sector businesses.

Even so, the amendment remains only a proposal. It is not yet in force and must still be reviewed during the parliamentary process for the 2027 budget law. The final scope of the measure, its eligibility rules and the application process have not been disclosed.

Several practical points are still unresolved. It is not yet clear which companies would qualify beyond the broad reference to cooperatives and wine businesses in difficulty, nor has it been specified whether the suspension would cover only the principal part of each payment or both principal and interest. That uncertainty means companies cannot yet know how much relief they might receive or whether they would meet the final requirements.

The proposal is narrowly focused on businesses seen as most exposed to the market slowdown. According to the description reported by I Grandi Vini, the measure would target wineries burdened by unsold stocks and financial stress rather than offer broad relief across the entire agricultural sector.

Alongside the loan moratorium, the League also announced a separate amendment that would add 40 million euros over two years for Agriculture 4.0, a program aimed at supporting investment in farm technology and innovation. Molinari said the goal was to prevent companies that had planned or started investments based on expected incentives from having to absorb higher costs because public funding fell short.

The two proposals address different parts of the financing problem facing agricultural businesses. The loan moratorium would seek to delay debt payments and preserve cash in the short term, while the Agriculture 4.0 funding would support longer-term investment plans. For wine producers, the first measure could offer immediate help with liquidity, but it would not in itself solve the commercial challenge of moving large volumes of wine already sitting in storage.

For now, the proposal’s impact will depend on whether Parliament approves it and on the conditions lawmakers eventually attach to it. Until then, Italian wineries and cooperatives that may benefit from the plan are left waiting for details on who qualifies, what costs would actually be suspended and when any relief could begin.