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Italy moves toward temporary halt on new vineyard plantings

A draft decree awaits State-Regions approval after industry groups cited weaker global consumption and rising domestic stock levels

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Italy is moving toward a temporary halt on authorizations for new vineyard plantings after the Agriculture Ministry sent a draft decree to industry groups on Tuesday, November 24, according to Unione Italiana Vini, the country's main wine trade association.

On Wednesday, November 25, the association said it welcomed the draft, which would suspend permits for new vine plantings on a temporary basis. The proposal has not taken effect and still requires approval from the State-Regions Conference, a key step in the Italian rulemaking process.

Unione Italiana Vini said it had been pressing for the measure for some time. The group linked the proposal to weaker global wine consumption and rising inventories in Italy, arguing that a pause on new authorizations could serve as one of the tools available to policymakers over the medium term.

Paolo Castelletti, the association’s secretary-general, said the draft reflects requests the organization has made in recent months and expressed hope that the State-Regions Conference will approve it.

The draft decree comes at a difficult moment for the wine market. According to the association, falling demand abroad and growing domestic stock levels have increased pressure on producers and raised concerns about adding more production capacity while existing supplies remain high. In that context, a temporary freeze on new vineyard permits would aim to slow further expansion of planted area rather than reduce current output.

For Italy’s beverage industry, the proposal could matter beyond the immediate regulatory change. If approved, the suspension could affect production planning, vineyard expansion and investment decisions across the wine business, particularly for companies that had been considering new plantings to increase future supply.

The ministry’s draft, as described by the association, focuses specifically on new vineyard authorizations. Unione Italiana Vini did not indicate on Wednesday, November 25, how long the temporary halt would last, and the ministry’s final text could still change before any formal adoption.

Because the measure remains at the draft stage, the next decision rests with the State-Regions Conference. Until that approval is granted, the proposed suspension remains a pending regulatory step in Italy’s response to a softer wine market and rising inventories.