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Italy Plans 0% Authorization Rate for New Vineyard Plantings in 2027

The draft decree seeks to curb wine supply after inventories swelled, consumption weakened and prices fell, subject to regional approval

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Italy’s agriculture ministry is preparing to halt authorizations for new vineyard plantings in 2027, a move aimed at containing wine supply as producers face high inventories, weaker consumption and falling prices.

A draft decree prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests, known as MASAF, would set the release rate for new planting authorizations at 0%, according to details reported on Wednesday by Beverfood. If adopted, the measure would mean no new vineyard area could be authorized in 2027, although growers would still be allowed to replant vineyards after uprooting existing vines.

The proposal is based on Article 63 of EU Regulation 1308/2013, which governs the system of vineyard planting authorizations in the European Union. Under that framework, national authorities can decide how much new vineyard area to authorize each year. For 2026, the ministry made available 1% of Italy’s national vineyard area for new plantings, or about 6,900 hectares. The new draft would reduce that figure to zero for 2027.

The measure is not yet final. The draft still must go before Italy’s State-Regions Conference, where the national government and regional authorities must reach an agreement before the decree can be signed. Without that approval, the measure cannot take effect.

Luca Rigotti, head of the wine sector at Confcooperative Agroalimentare e Pesca, welcomed the plan and said the broader wine supply chain had asked for such a step. He described the measure as important for managing supply at a difficult time for the industry.

According to Rigotti, Italian wineries are dealing with excessive stocks in cellars at the same time that wine consumption is declining and prices are under pressure. He said the industry also faces uncertainty tied to the geopolitical situation, which has contributed to weaker market conditions. In his view, allowing more production capacity under those conditions would risk further saturating the market and making the sector less competitive and less profitable.

The proposal points to a broader concern in Italy’s wine market: producers are trying to prevent output from expanding faster than demand. For the beverage sector, that could matter well beyond farm policy. If the freeze is approved, it would limit vineyard expansion in one of the world’s largest wine-producing countries at a time when companies are already coping with excess stock and softer sales. That may help slow

additional supply growth, even if it does not reduce existing inventories on its own.

Because the draft would still allow replanting after vineyards are removed, the measure would not shut down normal renewal of existing vineyard land. Instead, it would stop net expansion of planted area for one year. That distinction is important for growers who need to replace older vines or reorganize production, while still meeting the ministry’s apparent goal of preventing a further increase in national wine output potential.

Rigotti said he hopes regional officials will give the text final approval when it reaches the State-Regions Conference. Until then, the proposed 0% authorization rate remains a draft policy rather than a binding rule.