



SAWIS

S A WYNBEDRYF-INLIGTING & -STELSELS
S A WINE INDUSTRY INFORMATION & SYSTEMS

LABELLING REQUIREMENTS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN WINE

*Please note that all labels for certified wine must be submitted to the
Label Committee prior to printing*

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LABELLING REQUIREMENTS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN WINE *

See para-graph	Item	On certified wine
MANDATORY ITEMS - See para 1		
1, 2	The CLASS DESIGNATIONS “sparkling wine”, “perlé wine” and “sweet natural wine” if applicable	
1, 3	The CLASS DESIGNATIONS “special late harvest wine”, “noble late harvest wine”, "blanc de noir-wine" and “wine from naturally dried grapes” if applicable	x
1, 4	ALCOHOL CONTENT	
1, 5, 9	NAME AND FULL BUSINESS ADDRESS <u>OR</u> CODE NUMBER OF RESPONSIBLE SELLER	
6	VOLUME DECLARATION, eg "750 ml"	
7	THE EXPRESSION "contains sulfites/sulphites"	
1, 8	EXPRESSION "Wine of Origin" or "W.O." <u>AND</u> NAME OF ORIGIN AREA (eg "Wine of Origin Paarl") if applicable	x
1, 9	ESTATE NAME <u>AND</u> EXPRESSION "Estate Wine" (eg "Kanonkop Estate wine") and EXPRESSION "single vineyard wine" if applicable	x
CONDITIONAL ITEMS - See para 10		
11	The name of a co-operative	
12	Cultivar/variety	x
13	Vintage year	x
14	Sweet/dry - descriptions	
15	Indications of origin	x
PROHIBITED ITEMS - See para 16		
	The word “superior” or a translation thereof	
17	The name of a generally known viticultural area	
18	Items that qualify certification	
	Items that are derogatory, inaccurate, untrue or vague	
	Items which could create a misleading impression	

* These requirements apply to SA wine sold locally. Labels of wines that are exported, must also comply with the requirements of the country to which it is exported.

** “Certified wine” means wine produced in terms of the provisions of the Wine of Origin Scheme.

1

Except for the volume declaration and the expression "contains sulphites" (see paragraph 6 and 7 respectfully), all mandatory items must be within the same field of vision on one or more labels of a container. Mandatory items must be clearly distinguishable from each other and from any other particulars on a label. Each separate mandatory item must be in characters of the same colour, type and size. All characters must be clearly legible, indelible and must be printed on a uniform and clearly contrasting background. Minimum character heights for all the mandatory items except the volume declaration are as follows - 1 mm on containers smaller than 250 ml, 1,5 mm on containers from 250 ml to 375 ml and 2 mm on containers larger than 375 ml. Character height for the volume declaration - see paragraph 6.

2

The class designation "perlé wine" may be substituted by the designation "petillant" and "sweet natural wine" may be substituted by "natural sweet wine" or "natural sweet" or a similar expression. A natural wine with a residual sugar content of more than 30 g/l and not indicated as a late harvest, special late harvest wine, noble late harvest wine or wine from naturally dried grapes, must be identified as a sweet natural wine.

3

The "wine" in "special late harvest wine", "noble late harvest wine" and "blanc de noir wine" may be omitted. "Vin gris" may be used in the place of "blanc de noir wine". If the residual sugar content of a special late harvest wine is less than 20 grams per litre it must also be indicated whether that wine is "extra dry", "dry" "semi-dry" or "semi-sweet" (see paragraph 14).

4

Alcohol content is defined as "a percentage ethyl alcohol per volume of the product" and must consist of a figure together with a percentage symbol and the expression "alcohol" or "volume" or abbreviations thereof. For example: "15 % Alc" or "12,5 % vol" or "Alc 12,2 %" or "10,9 % Alc per vol" etc.

A tolerance of 1 is permitted between the strength labelled and the alcohol strength determined upon analysis of the wine. A wine of 11,5 % vol may thus be indicated as 10,5 % vol up to 12,5 % vol.

5

A responsible seller is defined as someone by or for whom wine is bottled with a view to the sale thereof. The name of a judicial person must be indicated in full (XYZ Pty. Ltd.) - however, see paragraph 11 hereunder for the names of co-operatives. Where the address includes the name of an area of origin or generally known viticultural area that name may not be accentuated or leave any doubt as to the origin of the wine concerned.

A code number may be used in place of above-mentioned name and address. Code numbers are issued by the administering officer, Department of Agriculture, Directorate Plant Health and Quality, Private Bag X5015, Stellenbosch, 7599, (Marian Honing 021- 8091687).

6

The legislation on this aspect is applied by the SABS. Because this legislation will apparently be overhauled within the next year or three it appears as if it is not strictly regulated, if at all. A spokesperson of the SABS (021-689 5511) says that the general rule is that if a vertical line is drawn through the middle of the trade name on a label, the volume declaration must appear somewhere on that vertical line. If the volume declaration appears on another place on the label it must be outlined - appear in a block. This rule apparently does not apply to a volume declaration embossed on a container.

The character height of the volume declaration must be at least 25 % of the average height of the trade name, but may not be less than 1,5 mm high and does not have to be higher than 15 mm. The "ml" must be indicated in lower case characters.

7

The expression "contains sulfites" must be indicated in respect of all wine filled/ bottled or sold by the responsible filler/bottler after 30 November 2005 should the sulphur dioxide in that wine occur in a concentration of more than 10 milligrams per liter, measured as total sulphur dioxide.

8

Only the names of officially-demarcated origin areas may be used. The expression "Wine of Origin" or "W.O." must appear immediately above or below or next to the name of the origin area. The name of an origin area other than the applicable origin area may also be indicated, but only on a back label and in such a way that there can be no doubt that the name of the other origin area has no connection with the origin of the wine concerned, eg to indicate the location of the applicable origin area. A wine of origin of a particular area of origin (eg geographical unit such as "Western Cape", region such as "Coastal Region", district such as "Paarl" or ward such as "Durbanville") must be produced solely from grapes harvested in the area of origin concerned.

Production areas may be indicated as blends provided that each production area in the blend is produced on a separate production sheet (W. O. Scheme) and an official blend was made. Where each production area consists of 30 % or more of the blend, percentages need not be indicated, but the production areas must appear in descending order. If any one production area consists of less than 30 % of the blend, the percentage of each production area must also be indicated.

9

Only officially-registered names of units for the production of estate wine (estate names) may be used. Where another trade name is used together with such an estate name it must be ensured that there can be no doubt as to which name applies to the expression "Estate Wine". The name of an applicable origin area must also be used on an estate wine. An estate wine of a particular estate must be produced solely from grapes harvested on the estate concerned. Bar a few exceptions of historical origin, the wine must also be produced, matured and bottled on such estate.

The name of an officially registered unit for the production of estate wine (estate name) may also be used on certified wine other than estate wine as well as non-certified wine. The expressions "estate wine" and "estate" may not be used on such a wine or the impression created that the wine was made from grapes harvested on the estate. The estate name must thus figure solely as a trade name or be indicated in the name and

address of the responsible seller.

The term "single vineyard wine" may only be used in respect of wine produced from grapes derived from a production unit which is registered with the production of single vineyard wine in mind. Such a production unit must consist of a single variety and the area may not exceed 6 hectares.

Reference may be made on a label to the fact that a wine is produced from grapes derived from individual blocks, provided that each block referred to is registered as a production unit for single vineyard wine and verified as such by the Board. However, no reference may be made to "vineyard wine".

The word "vineyard" may also be used in general descriptive terms, but may not create the impression that the wine concerned comes from a specific vineyard or vineyards. Where the word "vineyard" forms part of a trade name or the name of an organisation such name may be used as long as it does not create a misleading impression.

10

With "conditional items" is meant that certain conditions must be complied with before these items may be used. These conditions are set out hereunder. The items marked with a "x" in the third column is also subject to the condition that it may only be used on certified wine - this wine must be produced in terms of the provisions of the Wine of Origin Scheme.

11

The name of a co-operative must always be indicated in characters of the same colour, type and size and must be indicated in full except that words such as "co-operative", "company", "wine farmers", "limited", etc may be substituted by "co-op" "wine cellar" or "cellar".

12

Where a wine is certified as originating from one cultivar (that means that at least 85 % of that wine was made from that cultivar), the other cultivars, if any, in that wine may not be indicated. If a wine was produced solely from one cultivar this fact may be indicated, but only on a back label.

Where the cultivars in a blended wine is indicated each cultivar in the blend must have been made on a separate production sheet (W.O.-scheme) and an official blending must have taken place. Percentages need not be indicated, but the cultivars must appear in descending order according to volume. All cultivars must be indicated except where two or more cultivars constitute 80 % or more of the blend and each of those two or more cultivars consists of 20 % or more of the blend - then only those two or more cultivars may be indicated in descending order.

13

The vintage year (eg "1994") must be so indicated that it is clear that it relates to the vintage year of the wine. If not (eg if other dates also appear on the label), the word "vintage" must be indicated together with the vintage year. Vintage year can be indicated if at least 85 % of the wine consist of wine produced from grapes harvested during the year indicated.

14

If the under-mentioned or similar expressions is used on wine (excluding fortified wine and sparkling wine), the following requirements apply:

- "extra dry"	:	a maximum residual sugar content of 2,5 g/l
- "dry"	:	a maximum residual sugar content of 5 g/l
- "semi-dry"	:	a residual sugar content between 5 and 12 g/l
- "semi-sweet"	:	a residual sugar content between 5 and 30 g/l
- "sweet"	:	a residual sugar content of more than 20 g/l

For sparkling wine the following requirements apply:

- "extra dry" (or "extra brut", "extra herb", "brut", "herb" or "extra trocken") : a maximum residual sugar content of 15 g/l
- "dry" (or "sec", "trocken", "secco", "ascuitto" or "enpoc") : a residual sugar content between 15 and 35 g/l
- "semi-sweet" (or "demi sec", halbtrocken", "off dry", "abbocato" or "halvtor") : a residual sugar content between 35 and 50 g/l
- "sweet" (or "doux", "mild", "dulce" or "sod") : a residual sugar content of more than 50 g/l

15

An indication of origin comprises any indication which, directly or indirectly, says that the wine concerned was made from grapes originating from an identifiable piece of ground or area within South Africa. Only wine produced in terms of the Wine of Origin Scheme (certified wine), may contain indications of origin - and then only authorized indications of origin.

16

The items in the third column marked with a "x" are prohibited on wine not certified by the Wine and Spirit Board. The items mentioned under this subheading ("PROHIBITED ITEMS") are prohibited on all wine.

17

These are names of areas not officially demarcated as origin areas or geographical units, for example "Boland", "Klawer", "Koelenhof", "Firgrove", etc.

18

Particulars that are certified by the Wine and Spirit Board are origin, cultivar and vintage year. This prohibition thus only applies to certified wine since the particulars concerned may in any case not be used on uncertified wine.

With "qualify" is meant "further defined", in other words the origin for which a wine is certified may not be drawn smaller. If, for example, a wine is certified as originating from the origin area Paarl and the label indicates that the wine was made from grapes originating from vineyards in the vicinity of the Berg River or that it comes from a specific farm or piece of ground, such indications qualify the origin certification. The same applies if it is stated that a wine was made from a specified clone of a cultivar.

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