



ORGANIC WINE: OVERSIGHT, LABELING + TRADE

Organic products have strict production and labeling requirements. For example, organic products must be:

- Produced without excluded methods (e.g., genetic engineering), ionizing radiation, or sewage sludge.
- Produced per the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List).
- Overseen by an organic certifying agent.

OVERSIGHT + APPROVAL

The USDA National Organic Program (NOP) accredits third-party certifying agents to assess organic farms' and business' compliance with the USDA organic regulations. Additional certifying agents are authorized by trade partnerships (see other side).

Organic alcoholic beverages must also meet the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) regulations, including specific sulfite labeling requirements (see labeling categories below). To ensure compliance, a certified operation's alcohol labels must be approved through the following steps prior to sale of the organic alcohol product:

1. Certifying agent reviews the alcohol label(s) to assess compliance with USDA organic regulations.
2. Certifying agent stamps/signs label(s), verifying compliance with USDA organic regulations.
3. TTB permittee (organic operation) completes the Certificate of Label Approval (COLA) application.
4. TTB permittee submits COLA application and label(s) approved by the certifying agent to TTB. *No longer requires a copy of the organic certificate.*
<http://bit.ly/ttb-documentation>

Can I use the word "organic" on a wine label without being certified organic?

If you make wine and want to claim that it or its grapes are organic, it must be overseen by a certifying agent*.

If you are not certified, you must not make any organic claim on the principal display panel or use the USDA organic seal anywhere on the label*. You may only, on the information panel, identify the certified organic ingredients as organic and state the percentage of certified organic ingredients.

*Some operations are exempt from certification. See <http://1.usa.gov/organic-certification>.

If you are uncertified, you may include an ingredient statement identifying certified organic ingredients (e.g., organic yeast) on the label. You don't have to work directly with a certifying agent, but you must obtain a copy of that ingredient's organic certificate and submit it to TTB along with your COLA application.

"ORGANIC" WINE

Wine sold, labeled, or represented as "organic" must meet these criteria:

- All grapes and other agricultural ingredients (including yeast, if commercially available) must be certified organic, except those on the National List.
- Non-agricultural ingredients must be specifically allowed on the National List and may not exceed a combined 5 percent of the total product (excluding salt and water).
- Sulfur dioxide (sulfites) may not be added.
- Labels must state the name of the certifying agent (*certified organic by *** or similar*).



Wine labels may include the USDA organic seal and be sold, labeled, or represented as organic.



ORGANIC WINE: OVERSIGHT, LABELING + TRADE (continued)

WINE MADE WITH ORGANIC GRAPES

Wine sold, labeled, or represented as being “made with organic grapes” must meet these criteria:

- 100 percent of all grapes (of all varieties) must be certified organic.
- Any remaining agricultural ingredients (e.g., yeast) are not required to be organic, but must be produced without excluded methods (see other side).
- Any non-agricultural ingredients must be specifically allowed on the National List.
- Sulfur dioxide (sulfités) may be added to yield less than 100 parts per million in finished grape wine, but may not be added to wine “made with” other organic fruit (e.g., apples).
- Labels must state the name of the certifying agent (*certified organic by *** or similar*).



Labels may not include the USDA organic seal.

Label may state, “made with organic grapes.”

TRADE CONSIDERATIONS

USDA has trade partnerships with multiple countries. These partnerships allow organic products certified in one country to be sold as organic in the other.

All traded products must meet the labeling requirements in the destination country and any other terms of the arrangement. To learn more about specific trade partnerships and their requirements, visit www.ams.usda.gov/NOPIInternationalAgreements.

EXPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES (U.S.)

In general, organic products meeting the terms of the trade arrangement may be exported to the following markets:

- Canada
- European Union (EU)
- Japan
- Taiwan

Exporting USDA Organic Wine to the EU*

Organic wine and wine “made with” organic grapes may be sold to the EU if:

- The wine contains 100 percent organic grapes, other organic ingredients, and non-organic substances specifically allowed per the National List.
- The wine was produced only using the winemaking practices and substances detailed in the EU organic regulations: <http://bit.ly/eu-organicwine>.

IMPORTS INTO THE U.S.

In general, organic products certified in these markets may be exported to the United States:

- Canada
- EU*

Many USDA-authorized certifying agents operate in foreign countries. This allows USDA organic products from over 100 countries to be imported to the U.S.

Importing Organic Wine from the EU*

EU organic wine may be imported to the U.S. if the wine meets the desired labeling category’s requirements:

- **Organic wine.** Wine must meet the requirements highlighted in the “organic wine” section (other side). Examples of prohibited substances include sulfur dioxide (sulfités) and potassium metabisulfite.
- **Wine “made with” organic grapes.** Wine must meet the requirements highlighted in the “made with organic grapes” section above. Substances not specifically allowed (e.g., potassium metabisulfite) may not be used.

*Products traded under the U.S./EU trade partnership must be accompanied by an import certificate signed by an authorized certifying agent.