
5 The Austrian Wine Law

5.1 The Wine Law of 1999

The Wine Law of 1999 brought in new regulations for the wine-growing areas and wine-growing regions, in that the larger wine-growing areas of Niederösterreich (Lower Austria) and Burgenland were added and the wine-growing regions Weinland and Bergland were created. Adaptations were made to the regulations on fruit wine, in order to reflect modern technologies while, at the same time, providing protection for grape must produced in the traditional manner. Moreover, a large number of simplifications, clarifications and adaptations to EU Community Law were provided for.

Since it was passed in 1985, the Wine Law has been amended several times. The deletion of old and the addition of new Articles and sections had made the external form of the Law imprecise and it had become difficult to interpret. The present amendment is the result of an official petition to rephrase the Wine Law. The text of this rewording is in accordance with the petition; however, passages were renumbered and a clear distinction was made between the regulations on wine made from grapes and that made from fruit. The new Wine Law of 1999 is a response to the long-standing desire to create a lucid Wine Law as an integrated whole. In addition, the new Wine Law represents an adaptation to EU Community Law in both a substantive and a terminological respect.

Simultaneous with this amendment, the Agrarian Market Austria (AMA) Law was also altered to permit the levy of marketing fees for wine shipped to destinations outside Austria in containers larger than 50 litres. Thus, an independent motion in accordance with Article 27 of the Rules of Procedure was also proposed.

Two committee rulings were made. The first confirmed the customary definition of a *G'spritzter* as a drink containing at least 50% wine, no more than 50% soda water or mineral water, and at least 4.5% alcohol. The second ruling established that the use of the name "*Obstmost traditionell bäuerlicher Produktion*" (traditional farm-made grape must) will be restricted to farms.

The most important points at a glance:

- Creation of larger wine-growing areas (the wine-growing areas of Niederösterreich and Burgenland) while retaining the smaller ones. Creation of the wine-growing regions Weinland and Bergland.
- Revision of the section concerned with fruit wine.
- In particular, authorisation of the use of "modern concentration technology" and the creation of an "*Obstmost traditionell bäuerlicher Produktion*" (traditional farm-made fruit wine). In addition, the outdated sections dealing with the Law on fruit wine were adapted to the new requirements.
- Adaptation of the regulations on wine monitoring to the requirements of the actual practice (especially the possibility of warnings issued by federal winery inspectors).

- Terminological corrections:
Regularising of the wine terminology in each individual passage of the text; deletion of all references to “versetzt” (fortified) and “nicht versetzt” (non-fortified) wine. Definition of regulated terms to supplement those already regulated under EU Law; in addition, a comprehensive terminological adaptation to EU Law.
- Adaptations to achieve conformity with the regulations of EU Law in all areas (e.g. fortification, sweetening and designation) which in fact had already been enacted.
- Adaptation of the definition of marketing to the requirements of practice.
- Clarification of certain types of wine and the related terminology, e.g., in the case of Perlwein (lightly sparkling wine) alcohol-free or low-alcohol wine.
- Removal of blended wine drinks (i.e. wine content under 50%) from the scope of the Wine Law.
- Empowerment for the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management to issue regulations for the implementation of regulations of the European Community that are not directly applicable, concerning the marketing of products covered by the Wine Law (e.g. Community guidelines on food labelling and additives).
- Deletion of the requirement for harvest and stock declaration on April 30th. Levying of a marketing fee to include wine that is shipped to other countries in containers larger than 50 litres, as this wine is only bottled abroad and then sold on by retailers as Austrian wine.

5.2 The 2000 Amendment to the Wine Law

The 2000 Amendment to the Wine Law consists essentially of the following points:

1. Changes with regard to contents:

- Changing the practice of sweetening of Prädikatsweine from an offence requiring court action to one requiring administrative action.
- Adaptation of the 1999 Wine Law to the new Common Organisation of the Market in wine (COMW).
- Inclusion of empowerment for the creation and regulation of industry associations (also made necessary by the new COMW).
- Deletion of all competencies of examination by the other federal ministers (except for those of the Minister for Finance) in issuing regulations.
- Deletion of the requirement for harvest and stock declaration as of 30th November.
- Adoption of the requirement that Heuriger (wine from the last vintage), Schilcher and Bergwein (wine grown on a mountain slope steeper than 25 degrees) must be produced in Austria.

2. Changes with regard to wording:

- Replacement of the term Inländischer Wein (domestic wine) by Österreichischer Wein (Austrian wine).
- Deletion of the declaratory regulation on the composition of certain additives that are forbidden in wine production.
- Clarification that, in the case of a smaller geographic unit, 100% of the grapes need not necessarily come from this unit but that the statutory exemption under Article 24 Clause 2 may also apply.
- Adoption of permissibility of the specification of three grape varieties in the case of Schaumwein (sparkling wine), as already permitted under labelling regulations.
- Clarification of which regulations of the Wine Law apply to fruit wine.
- Replacement of the word Frist (fixed period of time) by Stichtag (fixed deadline date) in the penal regulation concerning harvest and stock declarations.
- Insertion of a subsidiary clause in the case of certain administrative offences as in Sections 1 and 2; namely, “...if the offence is not punishable by a heavier penalty in accordance with other regulations”.
- Adaptation of the nomenclature of the federal ministries to the 2000 Amendment to the Law on Federal Ministries.

5.3 The 2002 Amendment to the Wine Law

The most significant issues of Article 10 of the Agrarian Policy Reform 2002 (BGFBL I Nr. 110) amending the Wine Law 1999 (BGB1 I Nr. 141) are as follows:

Article 3 Section 6:

In comparison with the previous formulation of Article 3 Section 6, it is made clear that in all phases of wine production perfect hygiene must be maintained. The term wine production as defined in Article 2 Section 1 is to be included here, in which all phases of production are described, from harvesting and vinification to transfer, storage and sale.

A corresponding civil offence constituent was added to Article 66 Section 1, in which the repeated disrespect for hygienic circumstances during the production of wine as described in Article 3 Section 6 is punishable by Law. Criminal charge is to be made through the Federal wine Cellar Inspection at the district court in addition to notification as specified in Article 3 Section 7.

Article 4 Section 1:

The limit of 15g residual sugar was up until now described in detail only in the sweetening process as specified in Article 5 Section 1. The regulation of the 1985 Wine Law stating that “sugar or concentrated grape juice may be added for fermentation purposes only” was not included in the 1999 Wine Law. Nonetheless, the tolerance limit of 15g per litre for chaptalization continued to be enforced, in order to prevent the production of sweet wines

through the addition of sweeteners. A new formulation includes the 15g per litre limit of the addition of sweeteners in a clearer way that no longer leaves room for legal misinterpretation as was the case with the original phrase “for fermentation purposes only”.

Article 10 Section 4:

European Union labelling Laws make it possible for Austrian Prädikatswein, to state only this Prädikat level on the label. The previous requirement for a further quality statement for wines with the Prädikat “Kabinett” is no longer necessary.

Article 10 Section 6:

The Wine Law Amendment of 2001 introduced Article 39a Section 1 in which the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Water Management and Environment is empowered to establish interprofessional industry organisations. This includes regulations for creating stipulations on typical regional quality wines of geographic origin upon the filing of an application from these organisations.

The corresponding Interprofessional Industry Organisation Decree (BGB1 II Nr. 138/2001) provides that regional wine boards resolve definitions of stipulations for the production and marketing of typical regional quality wines of geographic origin.

The new Section 6 of Article 10 provides for the possibility of marketing typical regional quality wines of geographic origin under the designation “Districtus Austriae Controllatus” or “DAC”. This market designation is a “traditional specific term” as defined in Appendix VII A Clause 2 and as anchored in the new Commission Enforcement Decree for EU labelling regulations. This designation replaces another quality statement on the label such as Qualitätswein or the various Prädikate.

Article 11 Section 1 Clause 7:

Up until now the grapes for the production of Strohwein were required to be dried for a minimum of three months. This strict time regulation proved to be too long under certain weather conditions. In some instances the three-month period minimised the quality of the harvested grapes. The Wine Law reform has provided for the possibility for improvement of Strohwein by permitting grapes to be pressed after a storage of two months, as long as a minimum grape must weight of 30° KMW has been reached. If later analyses show a value of less than 30° KMW in the grape must, the wine must not be labelled as Strohwein, even if 25° KMW has been achieved. As under the old regulations and, equally, the regulations for Eiswein, this wine must not be devalued as industrial wine, but may be marketed as Qualitätswein without a Prädikat.

The quality designation “Schilfwein” has been provided for in the new Wine Law. Similar to other Prädikat levels, this qualifies as a traditional specific term as defined in Appendix VII A Clause 2 lit. c and as anchored in the new Commission Enforcement Decree for EU labelling regulations.

Article 21 Section 3 Clause 3:

The Wine Law reform provides for the new wine-growing area “Steiermark” and for the wine-growing region “Steierland”. The other wine-growing areas remain in existence (analogous to the situation in Niederösterreich (Lower Austria) and Burgenland).

5.4 Wine Law Amendment 2003

The Wine Law of 1999 (BGB1 I Nr. 141) was amended on 26 January 2004 in BGBl I Nr. 3, with the most important points as follows:

Article 3 Section 4:

An effective control (see Article 51 Section 1 Clause 2) of wine treatment substances currently available on the market necessitates the acquisition of data. Wine treatment substances are allowed to enter the market freely after registration at the merchant's own risk. Registration is required not only for new wine treatment substances, but for those allowed before registration became a requirement. Substance registration is mandatory for importers, wholesalers and retailers selling wine treatment substances. A wine treatment substance which has already been reported may be sold without further registration. The listing of a wine treatment substance in the official register means only that it need not be reported again, however this says nothing about the legality of the use of the substance. Registration is for documentation purposes only; through submitting a sample and a product description, assessment of a wine treatment substance's legal use may be made.

Article 12 Section 8:

To simplify administration, details for harvest inspection of grapes destined for Prädikatwein (place, time, etc.) will be listed directly in the legal sanctions for harvest inspection communities. The stipulation for a minimum price continues to be bound to the guidelines of Section 9, stating that the price stipulation is to cover the costs of inspection administration.

Addendum to Clause 6 (Article 16):

Up until now the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BLFUW) was officially responsible for the issue of permits for large research projects. In the future, the Federal Winery Inspection will take over this responsibility which is, in fact, confirmation of what has been practised in the past. The Federal Office for Wine-Growing has co-operated with the Federal Winery Inspection in observing and directing research projects. The adjustment to legal administration, for example, appeal to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, now follow the changes in Article 51 Section 7.

Article 20 Sections 3 and 4:

Consumer deception prevention is the central focus through the abolition of the prohibition principle through the enactment of Decree (EG) Nr. 753/2002 by the Commission as of 29 April 2002 dealing with enforcement stipulations of Decree (EG) Nr. 1493/1999 by the Council over viticultural product protection, description, labelling and packaging. Currently only terms specifically designated and legally permitted could be stated on wine labels (prohibition principle: everything that is not specifically allowed is forbidden). In future "factual information and information useful to the consumer" (Article 47 Section 2 lit. c of the Decree (EG) Nr. 1493/99) is permitted.

The general stipulations for consumer deception prevention as described in Article 20 of the Wine Law have been widened to encompass benefits or attributes that a product does not actually have. To enforce the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice in the case C-221/00 “European commission against the Republic of Austria” on 23 January 2003 and the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice in the case C-77/1997, Unilever on 28 January 1999, Article 20 of the Wine Law 1999 has been amended to stipulate that, in the case of doubt over the labelling, the product producer must give evidence of the information stated on the labels. This responsibility is also in agreement with the basic principles of Article 6 Section 2 of stipulation VO (EG) Nr. 753/2002, which demands that the respective authorities in each member country be responsible for controlling the correctness of labels specifically pertaining to the product type, identity, quality, ingredients and/or origin sourced from all producers, dispatchers and importers.

The enforcement of an assessment process for the interpretation of labelling requirements ensures clarification and legal certainty. By submitting an original label, simple theoretical cases may be spared a formal assessment process.

Article 27 Section 1:

Through the abolition of the prohibition principle (see above), health-specific indications are no longer prohibited as long as they are justified and do not deceive the consumer. This is in accordance with the legal status for food products in general.

Consumer deception prevention takes as a benchmark the average informed consumer. Terms such as “Gesundheitswein” (health wine) are forbidden according to the ruling of Austrian Administrative Court on 22 March 1999, Zl. 98/10/0326/6 – because they are so vague that the average consumer cannot form a clear opinion of which positive health benefits may be expected, which may lead to entirely false expectations.

Consumer deception prevention also applies to the amendment regarding labelling terms with reference to illness. Statements such as “prevents heart attacks” or “prevents strokes” are forbidden, regardless of whether or not based on published data.

Article 32 Section 2:

The enforcement of an effective wine control requires authorities to register data in a central databank, referring to such authorities that are associated with the execution of wine legalities (primarily the Federal winery Inspection, Federal Office for Wine-Growing, Federal Secondary College and Institute for Viticulture and Pomology, and federal financial authorities as well as district administration authorities). Every official should have free access to the information to which he is authorised (Article 22 B-VG) without bureaucratic red tape.

A project concerned with centralising information is currently underway and is, at present, in its first phase; the entering of data from the business registry (Article 32) and from the Federal Office for Wine-Growing (federal inspection numbers). The federal states have also declared their willingness to allow access to their viticultural registry data.

Each official department is responsible for the entry and maintenance of its own data; it is not planned to set up a central office specially concerned with this purpose.

For the next phase, it is planned to enter into the database the data from other departments, such as the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying (Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen).

Article 39a Section 1:

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW) may set an additional fee for DAC wines coupled with the federal inspection number fee, if petitioned to do so by a Regional wine Board. This fee would be collected by the Federal Office for Wine-Growing in Eisenstadt. Subsequently, these funds would be put to use by the Austrian wine Marketing for the promotion of DAC wines under consultation with the Regional wine Board.

5.5 Wine Law Amendment 2004

The Wine Law Amendment 2004 went into effect with the Agricultural Adaptation Law in August 2004. There is now no longer an upper limit for alcohol content after chaptalization. Other details of the Wine Law such as penal provisions for the violation of regulations for the sealing of concentration apparatus or violation of the regulations for harvest and inventory reports were also adjusted.

Further information for the Wine Law Amendment 2004 may be requested from Mag. Martin Raggam, BMLFUW, Tel. +43 1 71100.

5.6 Wine Law Amendment 2005

The European Parliament and Commission jurisdiction 2003/89/EG of November 10th, 2003 changed the food and beverage labelling requirements RL 2000/13/EG.

What are the new labelling requirements?

- The requirement pertains to the word „contains“ followed by the names of ingredients.
- The Administrative Committee for „wine“ sanctioned the following requirements on 10 October 2004 (Legislation of the European Commission Nr. 1991/2004 of 19 December 2004, Register L 344):
 - The declaration of contents may be separated from the other labelling requirements (packaging, volume, percentage of alcohol, etc.);
 - a required print size has not been defined; thus, the general principles on labelling requirements from Decree 753/02 remain valid: easily legible, indelible, and adequately large print;
 - in the declaration of sulphite content, the terms “sulphite” or “sulphur dioxide” must be used; the chemical formula SO₂ is not permitted;

- the language used must follow the general language principles of the wine trade regulations: declarations used in labelling must be in one or more of the recognised languages in the place of sale to ensure that consumers have no difficulty understanding the label (the majority of the member states demand that wines be marketed in the official national language – a final list of all required languages is currently being put together by the European Commission);

Anticipated labelling and translation for several countries:

"Contains sulphites" in EU languages	
ES	Contiene sulfitos
CS	Obsahuje siřičitany
DA	Indeholder sulfitter
DE	Enthält Sulfite
ET	Sisaldab sulfitid
EL	Περιέχει θειώδη
EN	Contains sulphites
FR	Contient sulfites
IT	Contiene solfiti
LV	Satur sulfiti
LT	Sudėtyje yra sulfitai
HU	Tartalmaz szulfitok
MT	Fih solfiti
NL	Bevat sulfieten
PL	Zawiera siarczyny
PT	Contém sulfitos
SK	Obsahuje siričitany
SL	Vsebuje solfiti
FI	Sisältää sulfiitteja
SV	Innehåller sulfiter

- These requirements apply to all products under the jurisdiction of the wine trade regulations including grape must, partially fermented grape must, sparkling wine and wine vinegar.
- No further requirements for flavoured wines or spirits have yet been sanctioned.

When do these labelling requirements come into force?

- Member states must allow the trade with products labelled in the above way by 25 November 2004 at the latest.
- The declaration of allergenic contents is obligatory as of 25 November 2005. The trade with products which were labelled or which entered the market before this date are permitted until supplies are exhausted.

5.7 Wine Labelling Regulations in Keywords

5.7.1 General points on naming and labelling

The name of a product is an important part of product information and, thus, constitutes a means with which vendors create a relationship with their buyers.

The purpose of every name and form of presentation is therefore to provide buyers with exact and truthful information.

New EU labelling Laws will apply as of 1 January 2003. In the case of product names, it is necessary to differentiate between **PRESCRIBED** (mandatory) information, which is necessary for the identification of the product and its classification in the appropriate product category, and **PERMISSIBLE** (optional) information, which represents additional information about the special characteristics of the wine.

Certain additional information on wine labels, for example, pertaining to the grape variety or vintage, are strictly regulated. Despite various restrictions, some liberalisation comes into effect as of 1 January 2003. All labelling terms will be allowed that are not misleading and which can be proved as truthful by the producer. This brings the – long expected – departure from the **PROHIBITION PRINCIPLE** of the old EU wine labelling regulations which forbade all names and information that was not explicitly permitted by Law.

Products that are subject to the labelling regulations of EU Wine Law must not be sold without labels. Each individual bottle must be labelled with the required information. This labelling is mandatory not only for sales to consumers but also for shipping. Marketing of unlabelled bottles is illegal, even if the correct labels are provided at the same time.

The **PRESCRIBED** information must be provided either on the label or on several labels glued to the same container in the same visual field. It must be clearly legible, indelible and in letters sufficiently large to read; it must stand out clearly from the background and all other written information and illustrations. Thus, the prescribed information must be in the same visual area.

Note: it is not sufficient for part of the prescribed information to be on the front of the bottle or another part on the back (rear label). The buyer must be able to see all the prescribed information at a glance.

PERMISSIBLE information must be provided in the same or another visual area, i.e. on the same label as the prescribed information or on one or more additional labels (exceptions are apparent in the elaboration below).

All the information may also be affixed directly to the container itself.

The following elaboration of the labelling regulations is given point by point for each product – depending on the visual area. The regulations are cited only in abbreviated form.

When in doubt about a particular labelling term, producers are advised to seek advice from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW). The following labelling terms serve as basic guidelines to the much larger and more detailed wine labelling regulations.

5.7.2 Austrian *Qualitätswein* (Quality wine)

1. Prescribed information in the same visual area:

- *Österreichischer...* (Austrian...), *Wein aus Österreich* (wine from Austria), *Österreich* (Austria).
- wine-growing area (specific area).
 - a) *Qualitätswein* (quality wine) or *Qualitätswein mit Staatlicher Prüfnummer* (quality wine with a federal inspection number) or *Qualitätswein bestimmter Anbaugebiete* (quality wine produced in a specific region), or *Qualitätswein b. A.* (quality wine produced in a specific region).
 - b) *Qualitätswein* (quality wine) or *Qualitätswein mit Staatlicher Prüfnummer* (quality wine with a federal inspection number) or *Qualitätswein bestimmter Anbaugebiete* (quality wine produced in a specific region), or *Qualitätswein b. A.* (quality wine produced in a specific region) and, in addition, *Kabinett* or *Kabinettwein*.
 - c) *Prädikatswein* (predicate wine) or *Qualitätswein (quality wine)* of special ripening and harvesting plus information on the level of *Prädikat* (*Spätlese* etc.).
- Federal inspection number.
- Nominal volume ("e" may be added).
- *Abfüller* (bottler) or *abgefüllt durch* (bottled by); in the case of contract bottling – *abgefüllt für* (bottled for): name or company name, community or area of the village/town and state of the head office and, if applicable, the actual place of bottling.
- Coding is permitted (company number and postal code as well as information about a marketing participant).
- *Erzeugerabfüllung* (bottled by producer), *Gutsabfüllung* (estate bottled), *Hauerabfüllung* (bottled by wine-grower); these replaced *Abfüller* (bottler).
- Alcohol content in % by volume; only full and half percentage points permitted.
- *Trocken* (sec, dry), *halbtrocken* (demi-sec, medium dry), *lieblich* (demi-doux, semi-sweet), *süß* (doux, sweet).
- Lot identification.

2. Additional labelling terms that lie under specific legal restrictions:

- Red wine – Rosé wine – White wine.
- Vintage (85%).
- Brand names.
- Marketing participants: position, name or company name, community or area of the village/town of the head office.
- Information about the composition (g/l of residual sugar).
- for "Landwein" and "Qualitätswein": *Heuriger* (wine from the last vintage) (+ vintage), *Bergwein* (+ region), *Schilcher*.
- Sensory qualities that are characteristic of the wine.
- wine-growing region.
- Smaller geographic units as the wine-growing area (large vineyard site or *vignoble*, community, small vineyard site or *cru* – 85%).
- One (85%) or two or three (100%) and more grape varieties.
- Awards.
- Number of the container or the lot.
- Proper names: *Weinkellerei* (winery), *Weinhandlung* (wine merchant).

- *Weingut* (estate), *Weingutsbesitzer* (estate owner), *Winzer* (wine-grower), *Weinbau* (viticulture), *Winzerhof*, *Rebenhof*... (wine-farm).
- Names and terms such as: *Cuvée* (blend), *Gemischter Satz* (mixed grape varieties from the same vineyard, vinified together), *Primus* (new season's wine), *Der Junge* (the young wine), *Der Neue* (the new wine).
- *Gelesen*... (harvested).
- Traditional names such as *Selektion* (selection), *Auswahl* (choice), *Ausstich* (best cask), *Erste Wahl* (first choice), *Klassik* (classic or optionally *Classique*).
- *Für Diabetiker geeignet* (suitable for diabetics) if residual sugar is not more than 4g (currently permitted only in Austria).

5.7.3 Austrian *Landwein* (Vin de Pays)

1. Prescribed information in the same visual area:

- *Österreichischer*... (Austrian...), *Wein aus Österreich* (wine from Austria), *Österreich* (Austria).
- *Landwein* (vin de pays).
- wine-growing region.
- Nominal volume ("e" may be added).
- *Abfüller* (bottler) or *abgefüllt durch* (bottled by); in the case of contract bottling – *abgefüllt für* (bottled for): name or company name, community or area of the village/town and state of the head office and, if applicable, the actual place of bottling.
- Coding is permitted (company number and postal code as well as information about a marketing participant).
- *Erzeugerabfüllung* (bottled by producer), *Gutsabfüllung* (estate bottled), *Hauerabfüllung* (bottled by wine-grower); these replaced *Abfüller* (bottler).
- Alcohol content in % by volume; only full and half percentage points permitted.
- *Trocken* (sec, dry), *halbtrocken* (demi-sec, medium dry), *lieblich* (demi-doux, semi-sweet), *süß* (doux, sweet).
- Lot identification.

2. Additional labelling terms that lie under specific legal restrictions:

- Red wine – Rosé wine– White wine.
- Brand names.
- Market participants: position, name or company name, community or are of the village/town of the head office.
- Information on the composition (only g/l residual sugar).
- *Heuriger* (wine from the last vintage) (+ vintage), *Bergwein* (+ region), *Schilcher*.
- Sensory qualities that are characteristic of the wine.
- Proper name of the company, *Weinkellerei* (winery), *Weinhandlung*... (wine merchant).
- 1 (85%) or 2 or 3 (100%) and more grape varieties.
- Awards.
- Number of the container or the lot.
- Proper names: *Weinkellerei* (winery), *Weinhandlung* (wine merchant).
- *Weingut* (estate), *Weingutsbesitzer* (estate owner), *Winzer* (wine-grower), *Weinbau* (viticulture), *Winzerhof*, *Rebenhof*... (wine-farm).

- Names and terms such as: *Cuvée* (blend), *Gemischter Satz* (mixed grape varieties from the same vineyard, vinified together), *Primus* (new season's wine), *Der Junge* (the young wine), *Der Neue* (the new wine).

5.7.4 Austrian *Tafelwein* (Table wine)

1. Prescribed information in the same visual area:

- *Österreichischer...* (Austrian...), *Wein aus Österreich* (wine from Austria), *Österreich* (Austria).
- *Tafelwein* (table wine).
- Nominal volume ("e" may be added).
- *Abfüller* (bottler) or *abgefüllt durch* (bottled by); in the case of contract bottling – *abgefüllt für* (bottled for): name or company name, community or area of the village/town and state of the head office and, if applicable, the actual place of bottling.
- Coding is permitted (company number and postal code as well as information about a marketing participant).
- *Erzeugerabfüllung* (bottled by producer), *Gutsabfüllung* (estate bottled), *Hauerabfüllung* (bottled by wine-grower); these replaced *Abfüller* (bottler).
- Alcohol content in % by volume; only full and half percentage points permitted.
- *Trocken* (sec, dry), *halbtrocken* (demi-sec, medium dry), *lieblich* (demi-doux, semi-sweet), *süß* (doux, sweet).
- Lot identification.

2. Additional labelling terms that lie under specific legal restrictions:

- Red wine – Rosé wine – White wine.
- Brand names.
- Marketing participants: position, name or company name, community or area of the village/town of the head office; *geerntet durch* (harvested by), *verteilt durch* (distributed by) or *importiert durch* (imported by).
- *Für Diabetiker geeignet* (suitable for diabetics) if residual sugar is not more than 4 g (currently possible only in Austria).
- Information about the composition (only g/l residual sugar).
- Sensory qualities that are characteristic of the wine.
- Proper names of the establishment: *Weinkellerei* (winery), *Weinhandlung* (wine merchant)...
- *Weingut* (estate), *Weingutsbesitzer* (estate owner), *Winzer* (wine-grower), *Weinbau* (viticulture), *Winzerhof*, *Rebenhof*... (wine farm).

Note: For *Tafelwein* (table wine) from EU Member states the following must be stated: either

- the name of the member state if the grapes were harvested and the wine produced there (e.g. Italy),
- "*Verschnitt von Weinen aus mehreren Ländern der Europäischen Union*" *) ("blend of wines from several countries of the European Union") and code for specifying the location of the bottler (i.e. A-2230 = postal code) or

- “*In... aus in... geernteten Trauben hergestellter Wein*” (“wine produced in... of grapes harvested in...”) and code for specifying the location of the bottler (i.e. A-2230 = postal code). This information must be provided in the same visual area.

*) If the wine is marketed in Austria, the following abbreviation may be used: “*Verschnitt aus mehreren Ländern der EU*” (“blend from several countries of the European Union”). The appropriate font size must be used.

5.7.5 Austrian *Schaumwein* (Sparkling wine)

1. Prescribed information in the same visual area:

- *Schaumwein* (sparkling wine)
- Nominal volume (“e” may be added)

Taste information:

	sugar content in g/l
brut nature, <i>naturherb</i>	under 3
extra brut, <i>extra herb</i> , extra bruto	0- 6
brut, <i>herb</i> , bruto	under 15
extra dry, <i>extra dry</i> , extra secco	12- 20
sec, <i>dry</i> , secco, asciutto, dry, secco	17- 35
demi-sec, <i>halbtrocken</i> , abboccato, medium dry, semi-sec	33- 50
doux, <i>mild</i> , dolce, sweet, dulce	over 50

Sugar content is expressed in the respective national language.

If the sugar content is above 50g/l, the terms “doux”, etc. may be replaced by an expression stating the g/l.

- Alcohol content in % by volume; only full and half percentage points permitted.
- Producer or vendor: NAME, COMMUNITY/STATE.
(Space does not permit the provision of more details here.)

2. Prescribed information in the same or other visual area:

- *Importeur, Einführer* (importer); *importiert durch, eingeführt durch* (imported by): name or company name, community(area) and state.
- Lot identification, in Austria only after a regulation has been issued; mandatory for marketing on the EU market.

3. Authorised information in the same or other visual area:

- Information that is not misleading.
- 1 (85%), 2 or 3 (100%) of the grape varieties. “Pinot” as a synonym for the Burgundy varieties.
- Name of the member state: if the grapes were harvested and the wine was produced and bottled there.
- Medals, prizes and awards.
- Brand names.

4. Prohibited information – examples:

- Misleading information and packaging.
- Geographic units smaller than the state as designation of origin.
- Vintage.
- *Flaschengärung* etc. (bottle fermentation) as well as *Méthode Champenoise* or *Champagner-Methode* (Champagne method).
- *Hauersekt* (sparkling wine from the wine-grower).
- Mention of health-related effects as well as *natur* (natural), *echt* (genuine), *rein* (pure), *alternativ* (alternative).
- Information about higher quality.
- *Premium* or *Reserve*.

Note:

Third-country wine used as a raw material may come only from certain areas and varieties of Romania. The sense conveyed by the expression on the label must be: Aus rumänischem Wein hergestellt (produced from Romanian wine). This information must be provided in the same visual area.

The term **Hauersekt** (sparkling wine from the wine-grower) may be used in Austria for *Qualitätsschaumwein bestimmter Anbaugebiete* or *Sekt b. A.* (“quality sparkling wine produced in a specified region” or “sparkling wine produced in a specific region”) only if

1. the winery has grown the grapes (quality varieties) and produced the wine made from them itself,
2. the wine was fermented in the bottle according to the traditional method (second fermentation to sparkling wine; from the moment the blend is created it must be constantly aged on its own lees for at least nine months in the same winery and be separated from the sediment by disgorging),
3. it was produced outside the winery under contract because trade regulations prohibit the winery from making sparkling wine,
4. marketing is conducted by the winery that made wine from the grapes,
5. the label specifies the winery, the variety and the vintage,
6. the conditions and labelling requirements for *Qualitätsschaumwein bestimmter Anbaugebiete* (quality sparkling wine produced in a specified region) are met.

Important: The name of the wine-growing area must also appear on the cork. Smaller geographic designation than that of the wine-growing area is permitted. If the company producing the sparkling wine under contract is in a different community from the winery, the location of manufacture of the sparkling wine is placed in the same visual area. The term *Hauersekt* may also be used by production co-operatives.

The term *Winzersekt* (sparkling wine from the wine-grower) is reserved for German *Qualitätsschaumwein b. A.* (quality sparkling wine produced in a specific region).

Note: If the sparkling wine producer operates vineyards, they may take the wine produced from these vineyards under the above conditions and make and market *Hauersekt*.

Source: Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW)