

## Wine Reforms Consultation

Consultation document for the third phase of AEUL (assimilated EU law) wine reform.

We are the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. We are responsible for improving and protecting the environment, growing the green economy, sustaining thriving rural communities and supporting our world-class food, farming and fishing industries.

We work closely with our 33 agencies and arm's length bodies on our ambition to make our air purer, our water cleaner, our land greener and our food more sustainable. Our mission is to restore and enhance the environment for the next generation, and to leave the environment in a better state than we found it.



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## Foreword

Leaving the European Union has given us the opportunity to review how we make and shape the regulatory framework for food and drink.

The government has delivered the first two phases of the assimilated EU law (AEUL) wine reforms. The first Statutory Instrument (SI), 'The Wine (Revocation and Consequential Provision) Regulations 2023 (No 1362)', introduced simplified labelling rules for the wine trade which came into effect on 1 January 2024. In addition, packaging requirements for sparkling wine were liberalised to reduce costs and support recycling and the removal of restrictions on hybrid grape varieties will give industry the freedom to innovate. The second SI, 'The Wine (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2024 (No 115)', will update the list of approved oenological practices and introduced a definition for ice wine in July 2024.

Following on from the successful delivery of these reforms, the government intends to continue improving the regulatory landscape to boost industry, encourage investment and support innovation to meet existing and emerging consumer demands and trends.

These amendments work towards creating a regulatory environment suitable to promote innovation and reduce industry burdens. These changes also improve sustainable practices and increase consumer choice without compromising on standards.

This consultation forms part of the government's smarter regulation programme of regulatory reform measures that began in May 2023 with the publication of <u>Smarter</u> <u>regulation to grow the economy</u>. Smarter regulation is about improving regulation and guidance for businesses across the board, ensuring it is clear, proportionate and does not unnecessarily impose burdens on businesses which restrict innovation and growth.

## **Policy Objectives:**

- 1. **Frictionless trade**. Increasing the sector's export capability by removing regulatory barriers to trade.
- 2. **Consumer confidence**. Ensuring labelling and marketing rules continue to give consumers confidence that the products they are buying are safe, authentic, and meet their quality expectations.
- 3. **Sustainable growth**. Ensuring our regulatory framework promotes long-term investment and growth in the sector.
- 4. **Environmental impact**. Introducing regulatory changes that promote sustainable industry practices and are in line with the government's net zero ambitions.
- 5. **Removing burdens**. Reducing red tape and costs for businesses.

## Background

The UK is a global hub for wine. It is home to a diverse and dynamic wine sector and is the second largest importer of wine in the world by value<sup>1</sup>. In 2022, off-trade sales of still, sparkling, and fortified wine via supermarkets, convenience stores, and specialist off-licences in the UK were worth around £7.6 billion, while on-trade sales through hospitality outlets were worth an estimated £3.5 billion<sup>2</sup>.

Following the UK's departure from the European Union, the UK incorporated the existing framework of EU wine law into domestic law. This consultation covers England only. Should these changes be introduced, wine produced in accordance with these new regulatory requirements will be able to be sold by retailers in Northern Ireland when moved under the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme. The Internal Market Act 2020 will allow for products produced in England and Wales to be sold in Wales and Scotland.

The AEUL inherited from the European Union on wine is complex and contains unnecessary restrictions on how wine can be produced and marketed. Defra and the wine industry have identified various instances where AEUL impedes growth and competitiveness in the wine sector, and limits opportunities for business to innovate or promote sustainability within the global wine sector.

The government previously consulted on reforms to wine AEUL to gather views on policy proposals. These provided enough information for the reforms we have already introduced, but only provided an outline for the more complex reforms in this consultation, where more time was needed to work up detail with our wine producers and wine trade. This consultation will gather views on the specific elements that we alluded to in the earlier consultation and allow consultees to view the draft statutory instrument that will amend AEUL.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Data source Comrade and ITC(2022)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> WSTA Market Report April 2023

## **Economic Overview**

For this section we focus on reforms that we think will have the biggest economic impacts for England.

**Transformation of wine** (including carbonation). This is an area of the proposed reforms that we expect to unlock economic potential. Introducing the ability to transform wine inmarket could create business opportunities for the bottling and re-exporting industry. That could take the form of increased foreign direct investment (especially for in-market carbonation) and potential spill-over benefits on the manufacturing sector (increasing demand, employment, R&D and innovation).

We anticipate that importing wine in bulk as compared to shipping packaged (bottled) wine will have significant environmental benefits. Bulk wine containers enable more than double the volume of wine to be shipped per container compared to the finished bottle, which means that businesses can transport two and a half times more wine for the same transportation costs. As well as reducing emissions, shipping consolidation will help to reduce pressure on the supply chain.

If businesses chose to implement these reforms, they can anticipate incurring additional costs including, upfront investment costs for new plants, operational and staff costs. Businesses will also incur familiarisation costs. Our domestic wine production industry, which is growing quickly, has developed a solid reputation for high quality/high-priced wines, especially quality sparkling wine. While transformed sparkling is expected to compete with other sparkling wines already saturating the UK low/mid-priced market, we recognise that the bandwidth of the sector is fluid and could pose a theoretical risk to domestic industry. Mitigations such as adjusting labelling provisions applicable to wine that is carbonated here have been included to make sure that consumers can clearly see what they are buying.

**No and low alcohol wine.** Another area of potential growth is the proposed reforms to the definition of wine to allow for the production of no and low alcohol "wine"<sup>3</sup>. The no and low "wine" share of the total wine category stood at 0.9%<sup>4</sup> in 2022. We believe the main costs of the reforms related to no and low "wine" to be, upfront investment costs for new plants, operational and staff costs (if businesses decide to produce no/low wine), familiarisation, and opportunity costs as consumers shift away from traditional wine. Benefits include increased innovation, giving producers and consumers more choice and wider health benefits.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Throughout this report we have referred to No and Low "wines" in quotation marks as according under regulations these products cannot be named 'wines'. This has been done to enhance the readability of this report.
<sup>4</sup> WSTA Market Report April 2023, found at: https://resources.wsta.co.uk/publications/index

We will consider relevant World Trade Organization (WTO) and free trade agreement (FTA) obligations in proposing these changes. Defra has incorporated stakeholder views into its policy development process so far and has identified areas to take forward in legislation.

# Wine Reform Phase 3: Specific changes and benefits

In the section below we have outlined a further tranche of reforms to our assimilated wine legislation, which will complement the changes that have already been introduced. These reflect some of the most important reform requests from our wine industry, including retailers, bottlers and our domestic wine producers, and help support growth to meet existing and new consumer demand.

The changes cover the transformation of imported wine products such as the sweetening or carbonation of bulk imported wine, scope to produce and market no and low alcohol wine, and changes that ensure consumers are clear on the nature and origin of the products they are purchasing. We are also planning to introduce an online list of currently approved oenological practices and processes.

In addition to the details outlined below, to support your response we have also included a copy of the draft Statutory Instrument (SI). We ask that you review the outline of the proposed reforms and the draft of the SI before responding to the consultation questions.

## Detail on proposed policy changes

### Carbonation of imported bulk wine

The government is proposing to remove the ban on transforming imported still wine into sparkling wine in-market. This practice would allow businesses to add value to imported still wines and increase consumer choice. It is less efficient to transport sparkling wines in bottle to the UK due to high shipping costs and environmental implications from the weight of glass and volume of bottles. Allowing bulk imported wine to be carbonated in-market removes some of the financial and environmental costs associated with getting the product to market. As set out in the attached draft legislation, this will be done by removing the ban on turning imported wine sector products into another wine category in England.

The carbonation of imported wine in England would allow for production of sparkling wine using either aeration (for example pumping  $CO_2$  into the product at high pressure) or Charmat (tank-based secondary fermentation method) only. The UK has built an enviable reputation as a producer of high-quality wine, especially sparkling wines produced by the traditional method, so this form of transformation will not be permitted to imported wine sector products.

To protect the identity of these products, we will also be introducing some complimentary changes to wine labelling laws (Article 45 of Assimilated (EU) Regulation 2019/33). Still wine transformed into sparkling wine in-market will be required to show exactly where the

wine used in its production originated and where the process of carbonation etc took place, for example, '*Sparkling wine of X, carbonated in England*'.

### Sweetening and other adaptation of imported wine

Allowing imported wine to be sweetened or otherwise adapted here could open new possibilities to our bulk wine import trade and reduce potential wastage of wine that, following transit, required further oenological treatment prior to bottling. Increasing the scope to transport dry wine over longer distances and sweeten in-market could reduce the risk of spoilage posed to shipments. Sweet wine for example is more susceptible to spoilage through actions like unexpected secondary fermentation from contamination with wild yeast, and while this can be counteracted by the use of preservatives, these can have health and quality implications. By permitting the sweetening of bulk wine here under controlled conditions, it will help keep spoilage to a minimum and the subsequent use of preservatives reduced.

It is also appropriate to permit other changes to be made to wine that has arrived in England in bulk prior to bottling, for example, to correct faults that have occurred during transit, but only where this is achievable using authorised oenological practices and processes. Many such practices to correct faults are fairly simple to do and do not change the nature of the product materially. Allowing these practices to take place offers the prospect of reducing wastage and gives bottlers the possibility to improve the standards and maintain consistency of wine offered to consumers.

# Producing wine from imported grapes and grape must

We intend to allow grapes and grape must to be imported and turned into wine in England once again. This was possible while we were a member of the EU but for EU origin musts and grapes transiting inside the single market. This is no longer an option as we have assimilated the restriction the EU applied to imported grapes and must in our assimilated EU law.

By opening the market to imported grapes and grape must, from either the EU again or beyond, we aim to re-start a niche business that had built up using EU grapes to make bespoke wines for specialist outlets, including restaurants. The origin of wine produced in England from imported grapes will again have to be clearly labelled to show what process took place in England. The label will also need to indicate where the grapes were harvested or where the grape must was produced. This requirement is to ensure consumers are clear on the origin of the products they are buying and the processes their wine has undergone.

### **British wine**

'British wine' has been produced in the UK for many years. It is a product made in the UK from imported grape juice & grape must. However, rules regarding its production mean it cannot be classed as a wine in the normal sense. British wine falls into a category of products that includes fruit wine, mead, perry etc, all of which come under the general customs heading of 2206 'other fermented beverages'. Wine such as English and Welsh sparkling and other international wine sector products fall under the general customs heading CN 2204 – 'wine of fresh grapes'.

The government is proposing to remove scope for products currently falling in customs heading 2206 from using the term 'British' when accompanied by the term 'wine'. We are concerned that the reputation being gathered by our own vineyards and producers for high quality still and sparkling wines presents a risk that consumers will become confused that 'British Wine' is the same product as English or Welsh wine. This risk has increased by the rapid rise in our domestic wine production and consumption. English and Welsh wines are now regularly stocked by major supermarkets, which put them into the same market outlets as 'British Wine'.

However, the changes we intend to permit to allow for the import of grape must and transformation into wine here, provide a new opportunity for 'British wine' producers to make CN 2204 wine instead. If they currently use approved oenological (winemaking) practices to produce 'British wine' then these products could be marketed as (CN 2204) wine products with the origin of the grape must and place of production noted on the label.

Where producers opt to continue to produce 'wine' under the category CN 2206, they are free to continue, but the product must be marketed as a '*made*' wine or using another word with the word 'wine' that is not 'British', and that will not mislead the consumer. We intend to provide transitional arrangements to allow British Wine producers adapt to the new market arrangements.

We do not intend to prevent other names or fruits from being used in conjunction with wine so there will be no impact on the marketing of products like 'ginger wine 'or 'mead wine'.

# No and Low alcohol wine and changing the minimum alcohol content of wine

The increased consumer demand for no and low alcohol products has been significant and rapid. Other sectors now offer no and low alcohol alternatives, most notably the beer and cider sector. The government sees the increased availability of no and low alcohol alternatives to be beneficial to consumers wishing to moderate their consumption of alcohol and is keen to further stimulate product development and availability in this area.

Assimilated EU law currently permits the alcohol concentration of wine to be corrected by up to 20%, but it does not permit the production and marketing of no and low alcohol wine as wine. Consumer demand is currently being met by products that fall outside the wine regime and so cannot be called wine. Many producers currently meeting this demand are wine producers themselves who also want to be able to market their no and low alcohol products as wine.

We consider the current arrangements inhibit growth in this important new market. We therefore plan to introduce rules that will allow the full or partial removal of alcohol from wine sector products. However, as this is a new possibility for wine products, we are seeking consultee's views to help us shape this policy.

In making these changes we have a number of objectives:

- To ensure that consumers have clear information on the bottle about the alcohol content,
- For consumers to be sure that a 'reduced alcohol wine' has had a meaningful amount of alcohol removed,
- For labelling rules to be as simple as reasonably practicable.

Our proposed regulations would therefore introduce some thresholds.

**'Partially de-alcoholised', 'reduced alcohol' wine**. We are proposing that a wine using terminology such as 'partially de-alcoholised' or 'reduced alcohol' etc, should have *no more than 8.5% alcohol by volume* (abv) when marketed. We are also proposing that these wines will be required to have had *at least 30% of their alcohol removed* compared with their original levels to qualify to use this terminology.

**'De-alcoholised', 'alcohol free' wine.** The government has recently consulted on no and low alcohol labelling guidance, including the maximum level of alcohol that can be present in products claiming to be alcohol free, and whether de-alcoholised should be used as a marker for alcoholic strength. The Department for Health and Social Care is now considering responses, with values of 0.05% or 0.5% abv under consideration for use of the term 'alcohol free'. We intend to set the level of alcohol and descriptors for wine that are consistent with broader government policy.

**Labelling de-alcoholised, partially de-alcoholised wine**. In parallel to establishing the framework for producing no and low alcohol wines, we also intend to set out rules on how these products should be marketed to consumers, so anyone buying that wine is clear that alcohol has been removed.

We have used some examples above which are currently being used on 'wine' products marketed outside the wine sector rules. However, we also recognise this is a rapidly evolving international sector and mandatory labelling rules may not help support a diversity of imports needed to meet growing demand for these products. We therefore seek views on our plan to adopt a flexible approach to labelling these wines. This will be on the basis that the labelling used to show that products have had some or all their alcohol removed meets the definitions set out above, and that the wording ('reduced alcohol', 'partially dealcoholised' etc) conveys the correct information about alcohol content to consumers. These rules would be underpinned by general labelling rules that require wines to be labelled in a way that does not mislead the consumer.

The government intends to issue advice on the production and marketing of no and low alcohol wines. This will appear on GOV.UK.

As a separate proposal to the above, the government proposes to introduce a minimum alcohol threshold of 4.5% abv for wine that has not undergone any dealcoholisation. Currently the minimum alcohol content for wine is 8.5% abv, with the lower 4.5% abv reserved for wines that are registered as a geographical indication (GI). The change removes an unjustified prejudice that existed between wines that have a GI and those that don't. It will also allow for naturally lower alcohol wines to be produced or imported, increasing consumer choice for products with naturally lower abv.

We anticipate that by permitting the transformation of wine in-market we will encourage the import of wines to be de-alcoholised here, further stimulating the market for no and low alcohol wine and providing a boost to our wine import and bottling industry.

# New arrangements for recording approved oenological practices

Approved practices, processes and restrictions for making wine are set out in Assimilated EU Regulation 2019/934. To allow producers to benefit from new and innovative practices adopted by the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV) (of which the UK is a member), this regulation must be updated via an affirmative resolution SI. Given the frequency with which this law is updated, it can be difficult for producers to keep up with the latest approved oenological practices and processes. This could potentially mean they use one practice, where another, more efficient practice would be better suited to their needs.

We therefore intend to provide a concise, consolidated and transparent list of approved practices, processes and restrictions on GOV.UK. This will mirror the approved practices contained in Annex 1 Parts A & B and associated appendixes of assimilated EU Regulation 2019/934. The GOV.UK list will provide an easily accessible list of practices approved in UK law. We intend to update this list when Parliament approves legislation on new or amended oenological practices.

## How to respond

Responses should be received by 11:59pm on 10 May 2024. Our preferred way of receiving responses is through the online Citizen Space platform. If you are unable to use Citizen Space, you can download the consultation documents and return your response by email to <u>Wine.Exports@defra.gov.uk</u>.

### **Campaign responses**

We recognise that respondents may choose to use some standard text to inform their response. Campaigns are when organisations (or individuals) coordinate responses across their membership or support base, often by suggesting a set of wording for respondents to use. Campaign responses are usually very similar or identical to each other. For this consultation, campaign responses may be analysed separately to other responses to ensure the breadth of views received can be summarised effectively and efficiently. All campaign responses will be considered in the final analysis of public views and campaigns help provide an indication of the strength of feeling on an issue. The preferred route for all respondents to provide their views (including where a response is based on a campaign) is via the Citizen Space platform.

### **Privacy notice and data protection**

A summary of responses to this consultation will be published on the government website at: <u>www.gov.uk/defra</u>. An annex to the consultation summary may list all organisations that responded but will not include personal names, addresses or other contact details. Defra may publish the content of your response to this consultation to make it available to the public without your personal data, personal name and private contact details.

If you answer on 'Yes' in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, you are asked to state clearly what information you would like to be kept as confidential and explain your reasons for confidentiality. The reason for this is that information in responses to this consultation may be subject to release to the public or other parties in accordance with the access to information law (these are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances. In view of this, your explanation of your reasons for requesting confidentiality for all or part of your response would help us balance these obligations for disclosure against any obligation of confidentiality. If we receive a request for the information that you have provided in your response to this consultation, we will take full account of your reasons for requesting confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you answer on 'No' in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, we will be able to release the content of your response to

the public, but we won't make your personal name and private contact details publicly available.

Responses may be shared with other government departments. There may be occasions when Defra will share the information you provide including any personal data, with external analysts. This is for the purposes of consultation response analysis only. Where Defra shares your personal data with third parties, we will ensure that we have the right data sharing agreements in place to protect your data and to govern the relationship between Defra and the third party. Defra is conducting this consultation in line with the Cabinet Office <u>consultation principles</u>. Please find our latest privacy notice uploaded as a related document alongside our consultation document.

#### 1. Would you like your response to be confidential? (required)

- a. Yes
- b. No

If you answered yes to this question, please give your reason:

## **Consultation Questions**

Our aim is to bring forward changes that will support growth and competitiveness in the domestic wine sector, the thriving trade arm of the industry and improve availability of products for consumers. The breadth of wine law and the scope of the proposed reforms encompasses a broad range of industry and consumer interest. Given the broad nature of the themes being discussed, we are keen to get views from a broad range of stakeholders. To support this approach, we have included questions below that we would like you to consider in your response. Please note, you will have an opportunity to keep your response confidential if you wish.

### Information about you

- 2. Who are you responding as? (Select one option only)
  - Individual You are responding with your personal views, rather than as an official representative of a business or, business association or, other organisation
  - b. Public sector body In an official capacity as a representative of a local government organisation or, public service provider or, other public sector body in the UK or elsewhere
  - c. Industry (single business) In an official capacity representing the views of a single business
  - d. Industry (multiple businesses) In an official capacity representing the views of multiple businesses or, trade association or, business association

- e. Non-governmental organisation In an official capacity as the representative of a non-governmental organisation or, non-profit organisation or, other organisation
- f. Academia In an official capacity as a representative of an academic institution
- g. Other: please specify

## If responding as 'industry' or 'non-governmental organisation' in question 2, please answer questions 3-7.

- 3. If responding as 'Industry (multiple businesses)' in question 2, how many businesses are you representing? (Select one option only)
  - a. Less than 25
  - b. Between 25-100
  - c. Between 101-250
  - d. More than 250
  - e. Prefer not to say
  - f. Not applicable
- 4. What is your role in the wine sector supply chain? (If you have multiple roles, select all that apply)
  - a. Importer
  - b. Exporter or Re-exporter
  - c. Fine wine trade
  - d. Bottler
  - e. Domestic producer
  - f. Retail
  - g. Hospitality
  - h. Trade body
  - i. Consumer group
  - j. Other: please specify

#### 5. What is the name of your business?

- a. Please write it
- b. Not applicable
- c. Prefer not to say

#### 6. Please identify if your organisation is one of the following (Select one option

only)

- a. Micro business: 1-9 employees
- b. Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME): 10-249 employees
- c. Large business: 250 employees or more
- d. Other: please specify

- e. Not applicable
- 7. Where does your business or organisation operate? (Select all that apply)
  - a. England
  - b. Wales
  - c. Scotland
  - d. Northern Ireland
  - e. EU: please specify
  - f. Rest of the world: please specify

## Carbonation of imported bulk wine

The government proposes to allow for the carbonation of imported bulk wine. This will be limited to aeration with CO<sub>2</sub> and in-tank second fermentation (Charmat method). Labelling rules will also be changed to ensure consumers are clear on the nature, origin and the processes that have taken place on the wine they are buying.

If responding as 'industry' please answer all questions. Otherwise, please only answer questions 11 to 13.

## 8. How likely or unlikely are you (or are those you represent) to make use of the proposed 'Carbonation of imported bulk wine' reform?

- a. Very likely
- b. Quite likely
- c. Neither likely nor unlikely
- d. Quite unlikely
- e. Very unlikely
- f. I don't know
- g. Not applicable
- 9. If likely to make use of the proposed 'Carbonation of imported bulk wine' reform, what would this depend on?
  - a. Free text
- 10. If likely to make use of the proposed the changes, how long do you anticipate it would take you, or the organisation(s) you represent to implement them?
  - a. Less than 1 year
  - b. 1 to 2 years
  - c. 2 to 5 years
  - d. More than 5 years
  - e. Don't know
  - f. Not applicable

#### 11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements

• Carbonation of still, imported wines, should be permitted in England

- Still wine transformed into sparkling wine in England should show exactly where the wine used in its production originated
- Still wine transformed into sparkling wine in England should show exactly where the carbonation took place
- The label should say 'produced in England' on wines that have been carbonated in the UK using wine which has been imported
- The label should say 'carbonated in England' on wines that have been imported into the UK and subsequently undergone the process of carbonation in the UK
  - a. Strongly agree
  - b. Agree
  - c. Neither agree nor disagree
  - d. Disagree
  - e. Strongly disagree
- 12. Please briefly describe the main positive impact(s) the 'Carbonation of imported bulk wine' reform will have for you/ your organisation?
  - a. Free text
- 13. Please briefly describe the main negative impact(s) the 'Carbonation of imported bulk wine' reform will have for you/ your organisation?
  - a. Free text

### Sweetening and other adaptation of imported wine

The government proposes to allow other changes to be made to imported wines including the sweetening wine or other adaptations, such as correcting faults that have developed in bulk wines during transit.

If responding as 'industry' please answer all questions. Otherwise, please only answer questions 16 to 19.

## 14. How likely or unlikely are you (or are those you represent) to make use of the proposed 'Sweetening and other adaptation of imported wine' reform?

- a. Very likely
- b. Quite likely
- c. Neither likely nor unlikely
- d. Quite unlikely
- e. Very unlikely
- f. I don't know
- g. Not applicable
- 15. If likely to make use of the proposed 'Sweetening and other adaptation of imported wine' reform, what would this depend on?
  - a. Free text

**16.**To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements

- The sweeting and adaptation of wine in England should be permitted.
- Businesses should be permitted to correct faults that have occurred during transit of imported wine.
  - a) Strongly agree
  - b) Agree
  - c) Neither agree nor disagree
  - d) Disagree
  - e) Strongly disagree

## 17. Which of the following most reflects your views/ the views of those you represent: (please select your most preferred option).

- The front of pack label should indicate whether the wine has been sweetened or adapted in the UK.
- The back of pack label should indicate whether the wine has been sweetened or adapted in the UK.
- The front of pack and back of pack labels should indicate whether the wine has been sweetened or adapted in the UK.
- 18.If applicable, please briefly describe the main positive impact(s) the 'Sweetening and other adaptation of imported wine' reform will have for you/ your organisation?
  - a. Free text
- 19. If applicable, please briefly describe the main negative impact(s) the 'Sweetening and other adaptation of imported wine' reform will have for you/ your organisation?
  - a. Free text

# Producing wine from imported grapes or grape must

The government intends to allow the production of wine to take place in England using imported grapes or grape must from any origin. This practice was permissible while the UK was in the single EU market but was limited to EU sourced products only.

If responding as 'industry' please answer all questions. Otherwise, please only answer questions 22 to 24.

## 20. How likely or unlikely are you (or are those you represent) to make use of the proposed 'Producing wine from imported grapes and grape must' reform?

- a. Very likely
- b. Quite likely
- c. Neither likely nor unlikely
- d. Quite unlikely
- e. Very unlikely

- f. I don't know
- g. Not applicable
- **21.** If likely to make use of this proposed 'Producing wine from imported grapes and grape must' reform, what would this depend on?
  - a. Free text
- **22.** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements (Strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, strongly disagree, don't know).
- Wine made in England should be permitted to be produced from imported grapes or grape must.
- Wine should be labelled with 'made from grapes imported from X'.
- Wine should be labelled with 'made from grape must from X'.
  - a) Strongly agree
  - b) Agree
  - c) Neither agree nor disagree
  - d) Disagree
  - e) Strongly disagree
- 23.If applicable, please briefly describe the main positive impact(s) the 'Producing wine from imported grapes or grape must' reform will have for you/ your organisation?
  - a. Free text
- 24. If applicable, please briefly describe the main negative impact(s) the 'Producing wine from imported grapes or grape must' reform will have for you/ your organisation?
  - a. Free text

### **British Wine**

The government is planning to stop products that fall outside the wine sector, but are made from imported grape must or juice, from using the composite term 'British' together with the word 'wine'.

If responding as 'industry' please answer all questions. Otherwise, please only answer questions 27 to 29.

- 25. How likely or unlikely are you (or are those you represent) to make use of the proposed 'British Wine' reform?
  - a. Very likely
  - b. Quite likely
  - c. Neither likely nor unlikely
  - d. Quite unlikely
  - e. Very unlikely

- f. I don't know
- g. Not applicable
- 26.If likely to make use of the proposed 'British Wine' reform, what would this depend on?
  - a. Free text
- 27. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements (Strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, strongly disagree, don't know).
- The removal of the term 'British Wine' to refer to 'other fermented beverages'.
- The term 'British Wine' should be used for all types of wine made in England.
- The term 'British Wine' should be used only for wines made in England from grapes grown in England.
- The term 'British Wine' should not replace what is currently considered 'English Wine'.
  - a) Strongly agree
  - b) Agree
  - c) Neither agree nor disagree
  - d) Disagree
  - e) Strongly disagree
- 28. If applicable, please briefly describe the main positive impact(s) the 'British Wine' reform will have for you/ your organisation?
  - a. Free text
- 29.If applicable, please briefly describe the main negative impact(s) the 'British Wine' reform will have for you/ your organisation?
  - a. Free text

# No and Low alcohol wine and changing the minimum alcohol content of wine

The government is intending to introduce rules that will allow for the marketing of no and low alcohol wine products. It also intends to change the minimum alcohol content for naturally produced wines to 4.5% abv.

If responding as 'industry' please answer all questions. Otherwise, please only answer questions 32 to 36.

- 30. How likely or unlikely are you (or are those you represent) to make use of the proposed 'No and Low alcohol wine and changing minimum alcohol content of wine' reform?
  - a. Very likely
  - b. Quite likely

- c. Neither likely nor unlikely
- d. Quite unlikely
- e. Very unlikely
- f. I don't know
- g. Not applicable
- 31.If likely to make use of the proposed 'No and Low alcohol wine and changing minimum alcohol content of wine' reform, what would this depend on?a. Free text

# 32. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements (Strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, strongly disagree, don't know)

- There is a need to change the rules to encourage no and low alcohol wines to be produced and/or marketed in England.
- 'Partially de-alcoholised' or 'reduced alcohol wine' should be produced and/ or marketed in the UK
- For wine to be considered as 'partially de-alcoholised' or 'reduced alcohol wine' it has to have had at least 30% of alcohol removed from their original alcohol level
- Wines that are marketed as 'partially de-alcoholised' must have an actual alcohol content of 8.5% or less
- No and low alcohol wine products should be allowed to be marketed as wine
- Wine that is 4.5% abv should always be considered wine, even if it does not have a Geographical Indication
- It should be permitted to import No and Low alcohol wines to the UK
  - a) Strongly agree
  - b) Agree
  - c) Neither agree nor disagree
  - d) Disagree
  - e) Strongly disagree

#### 33. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement (Strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, strongly disagree, don't know)

- Labelling rules should be flexible to support a diversity of imports needed to meet growing demand for no and low wines
  - f) Strongly agree
  - g) Agree
  - h) Neither agree nor disagree
  - i) Disagree
  - j) Strongly disagree

## If you either selected disagree or strongly disagree in the previous question, please briefly explain why

- a. Free text
- 34. If applicable, please briefly describe the main positive impact(s) the 'No and Low alcohol wine and changing the minimum alcohol content of wine' reform will have for you/ your organisation?
  - a. Free text
- 35. If applicable, please briefly describe the main negative impact(s) the 'No and Low alcohol wine and changing the minimum alcohol content of wine' reform will have for you/ your organisation?
  - a. Free text

# New arrangements for recording approved oenological practices and processes

The government intends to introduce and maintain an electronic register of approved oenological practices and processes on GOV.UK.

If responding as 'industry' please answer all questions. Otherwise, please only answer questions 40 to 41.

## 36. How likely or unlikely are you (or are those you represent) to make use of the proposed 'New arrangements for recording approved oenological practices and processes' reform?

- a. Very likely
- b. Quite likely
- c. Neither likely nor unlikely
- d. Quite unlikely
- e. Very unlikely
- f. I don't know
- g. Not applicable
- 37. If likely to make use of the proposed 'New arrangements for recording approved oenological practices and processes' reform, what would this depend on?
  - a. Free text
- 38. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement (Strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, strongly disagree, don't know).
- This proposal will reduce admin burden for my business.
  - a) Strongly agree
  - b) Agree
  - c) Neither agree nor disagree
  - d) Disagree

- e) Strongly disagree
- 39. If applicable, please briefly describe the main positive impact(s) the 'New arrangements for recording approved oenological practices and processes' reform will have for you/ your organisation?
  - a. Free text
- 40. If applicable, please briefly describe the main negative impact(s) the 'New arrangements for recording approved oenological practices and processes' reform will have for you/ your organisation?
  - a. Free text

## **Next Steps**

**Subject to Parliamentary approval.** Defra will progress a Statutory Instrument (SI) to implement the changes that are proposed in this consultation.

The government intends to use powers contained in the Agriculture Act 2020 as the legal basis to implement the changes. The changes that this consultation has proposed will be implemented in England only, subject to parliamentary approval.