

Wine Standards: Guide to the 'UK Quality Wine Schemes' – SPARKLING WINES

Wine produced in the UK is categorised using a set of hierarchical schemes. This system is known as the UK Quality Wine Schemes and has been put forward to the UK Government by Wine Great Britain (Wine GB).

The schemes are administered by Wine GB, post bottling analysis is carried out by an accredited laboratory (ISO 17025), and the schemes are enforced by the Food Standards Agency (Wine Standards).

It is important to remember that whilst there is no requirement to participate in these schemes, they do enable the wine producer to use certain labelling terms which they would **not** be able to use otherwise. See the chart below:

Classification	Information	Label Example For Sparkling Wine
<p>PDO</p> <p>(Protected Designation of Origin)</p> <p>4th category and sits above 'PGI'.</p> <p>This is the top category for wine in the UK currently.</p> <p>Red items are mandatory label features</p> <p>Blue items permitted in the scheme</p>	<p>This is the top category of wine in the UK. This wine has been produced within the criteria stated in the PDO specification laid out by the Wine GB for sparkling wine.</p> <p>Only 6 vine cultivars are permitted for PDO sparkling: Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier, Pinot Noir Precoce, Pinot Blanc and Pinot Gris</p> <p>No hybrid vine varieties are permissible.</p> <p>100% of the grapes used must come from within the stated demarcation (England).</p> <p>Use of the protected term 'English' or 'Welsh' is permitted on labels. PDO status is sometimes a minimum entry requirement for international competition and may help promote the wine.</p> <p>This wine will undergo two tests at Campden BRI at application stage – chemical post-bottling analysis and organoleptic no-fault tasting test.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>ANYPLACE VINEYARDS</p> <p>BLANC DES BLANCS</p> <p>2019</p> <p>English Quality Sparkling Wine Protected Designation of Origin</p> <p>75cl BRUT 12% Vol.</p> <p>Produced by: Anyplace Vineyards, Anytown, QV1 1AA UK</p> <p>Product of England Contains Sulphites</p> <p>L-12345</p> </div>

<p>PGI</p> <p>(Protected Geographical Indication)</p> <p>3rd category and sits above 'varietal wine'</p> <p>Red items are mandatory label features</p> <p>Blue items permitted in the scheme</p>	<p>Often regarded as the most flexible category for quality wine in the UK. This wine has been produced within the criteria stated in the PGI specification laid out by Wine GB for sparkling wine.</p> <p>88-90 vine varieties may be used for sparkling wine. Hybrid vine varieties are permitted i.e. Seyval Blanc</p> <p>Use of the protected term 'English Regional' or 'Welsh Regional' is permitted on labels.</p> <p>This wine will undergo two tests at Campden BRI at application stage – chemical post-bottling analysis and organoleptic no-fault tasting test.</p> <p>85% of the grapes must come from the stated demarcation (England). Remaining 15% can come from Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. No EU grapes can be used.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>ANYPLACE VINEYARDS</p> <p>SEYVAL BLANC</p> <p>2019</p> <p>English Regional Quality Sparkling Wine Protected Geographical Indication</p> <p>75cl BRUT 12% Vol.</p> <p>Produced by: Anyplace Vineyards, Anytown, QV1 1AA UK</p> <p>Product of England Contains Sulphites</p> <p>L-12345</p> </div>
<p>'Varietal'</p> <p>(Wine Scheme)</p> <p>2nd category and sits above the basic 'wine' level</p> <p>Red items are mandatory label features</p> <p>Blue items permitted in the scheme</p>	<p>This category sits above basic uncertified wine. Successful application for this status allows the wine producer to state the cultivar and vintage on their label i.e. 'Bacchus 2015'. 85% of the grapes used in this wine must be the stated variety or 100% of the stated varieties in order of prevalence. Equally 85% of the grapes must come from the stated vintage.</p> <p>Use of the protected term 'English' or 'Welsh' or 'English Regional' or 'Welsh Regional' is NOT permitted on labels.</p> <p>Can be labelled as 'varietal wine'.</p> <p>There is no testing requirement for this status.</p> <p>An application for varietal status can be downloaded from the Wine GB website, completed and submitted along with a £15 fee to cover administration costs.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>ANYPLACE VINEYARDS</p> <p>BACCHUS</p> <p>BRUT</p> <p>2015</p> <p>75cl Sparking Wine 12% Vol</p> <p>Produced by: Anyplace Vineyards, Anytown, QV1 1AA UK</p> <p>Product of England L-12345 Contains Sulphites</p> </div>

<p>'Wine'</p> <p>(Uncertified)</p> <p>1st and most basic category for wine in the UK</p> <p>Red items are mandatory label features</p> <p>Blue items permitted in the scheme</p>	<p>This wine has not passed through one of the above categories in the UK Quality Wine Schemes and remains untested.</p> <p>Labels should be kept plain and refer to the product simply as 'white wine' for example.</p> <p>Use of the protected term 'English' or 'Welsh' or 'English Regional' or 'Welsh Regional' is NOT permitted on labels.</p> <p>Statements of vine variety and vintage are NOT permitted on labels. There is no testing requirement for this status.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>ANYPLACE VINEYARDS</p> <p>SPARKLING WINE</p> <p>75cl BRUT 12% Vol.</p> <p>Produced by: Anyplace Vineyards, Anytown, QV1 1AA UK</p> <p>Product of England Contains Sulphites</p> <p>L-12435</p> </div>
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IMPORTANT: Please refer to the Wine GB specification for full details on PDO, PGI or Varietal categories via the following website link <https://wsa.ukva.org.uk/>

PLEASE NOTE: *There are different mandatory labelling requirements for still wine and the labels shown above are for sparkling wine only and are designed to provide a basic visualisation of the mandatory labelling items and the items permitted for use at each categorisation through the schemes. This document is not designed to be the authoritative guide to the UK Quality Wine Schemes. If in any doubt about label compliance against the regulations, please contact your local Wine Standards Inspector before going to print.*