

## 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 was put forward to the UK Government by the United Kingdom Vineyard Association, now Wines of Great Britain Ltd (WineGB).

The schemes are administered by WineGB, with analysis and assessment carried out by Campden BRI, the nominated accredited laboratory. 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><b>PDO</b></p> <p>(Protected Designation of Origin)</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> category and sits above 'PGI'.</p> <p>This is the top category for wine in the UK currently.</p> <p><b>Red items</b> are mandatory label features</p> <p><b>Blue</b> items permitted in the</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 WineGB for sparkling wine.</p> <p>Only 6 vine cultivars are permitted for PDO sparkling: Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier, Pinot Noir Précoce, 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 or Wales).</p> <p>Use of the protected term 'English' or 'Welsh' is permitted on labels.</p> <p>PDO status is sometimes a minimum entry requirement for international competitions 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.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>ANYPLACE VINEYARDS</b></p> <p><b>BLANC DES BLANCS</b></p> <p>English Quality Sparkling Wine Protected Designation of Origin</p> <p><b>75cl      BRUT      12% Vol.</b></p> <p><b>Produced by: Anyplace Vineyards, Anytown, QV1 1AA UK</b></p> <p><b>Contains Sulphites Wine of England L-12345</b></p> </div>

scheme		
<p><b>PGI</b></p> <p>(Protected Geographical Indication)</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> 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 WineGB for sparkling wine.</p> <p>88-90 vine varieties may be used for sparkling wine.</p> <p>Hybrid vine varieties are permitted e.g. 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.</p> <p>85% of the grapes must come from the stated demarcation (England or Wales). 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><b>ANYPLACE VINEYARDS</b></p> <p><b>SEYVAL BLANC 2015</b></p> <p>English Regional Sparkling Wine Protected Geographical Indication</p> <p>75cl                      BRUT                      12% Vol.</p> <p>Produced by: Anyplace Vineyards, Anytown, QV1 1AA UK Contains Sulphites Wine of England L-12345</p> </div>
<p><b>'Varietal'</b></p> <p>(Wine Scheme)</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> category and sits above the basic 'wine' level</p> <p>Red items are mandatory label features</p> <p>Blue items</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 e.g. 'Seyval Blanc 2015'. Where 85% or more of the grapes used in the wine are of a single variety then it is permissible to show just that variety. If more than one variety is stated then all varieties included must be shown in descending order of percentage. In either case at least 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 <b>NOT</b> permitted on labels.</p> <p>Can be labelled as 'varietal wine'.</p> <p>There is no testing requirement for this status.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>ANYPLACE VINEYARDS</b></p> <p><b>BACCHUS 2015</b></p> <p>Sparkling Wine</p> <p>75cl                      BRUT                      12% Vol.</p> <p>Produced by: Anyplace Vineyards, Anytown, QV1 1AA UK Contains Sulphites Wine of England L-12345</p> </div>

permitted in the scheme	An application form for varietal status can be downloaded from the WineGB website, completed and submitted along with a £15 fee (plus VAT) to cover administration costs.	
<p><b>‘Wine’</b></p> <p>(Uncertified)</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> 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 does not have to have been tested.</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 <b>NOT</b> permitted on labels.</p> <p>Statements of vine variety and vintage are <b>NOT</b> permitted on labels. There is no testing requirement for this status.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>ANYPLACE VINEYARDS</b></p> <p><b>SPARKLING WINE</b></p> <p>75cl                      BRUT                      12% Vol.</p> <p>Produced by: Anyplace Vineyards, Anytown, QVI 1AA UK</p> <p>Contains Sulphites Wine of England</p> <p>L-12435</p> </div>

**IMPORTANT:** Please refer to the scheme specifications for full details on PDO, PGI or Varietal categories via the [WineGB](#) website.

**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.*