

With its first edition it covered 20 wine producing/consuming countries. The present third edition now covers 26 countries, with India as a notable new entrant to the book.

A few authors have changed since the first edition, and based on reader feedback, the questionnaire to which chapter authors respond has been slightly adapted in a few places.

The first edition of the book was published in both hard form and online, but the second and all future editions are published only online. The book will be updated and extended regularly.

The goal of the book is to be the most practical, complete, and up-to-date international wine law book available.

Recent developments in European law

Whilst the third edition of this book deals with the viticultural laws of 26 countries, the European Union continues to be a key region, especially given the extent of regulations dealing with the wine sector.

From an EU standpoint, wine law has evolved significantly in the last three years.

In our introduction to the second edition we described the most important developments in the European Union legal framework at that time, in particular Regulation 2021/2117, adopted in December 2021¹, amending the basic “Wine Regulation” 1308/2013.

Since then, national legal systems of the member states have been called to adjust to the new requirements, pursuant to the general principle of sincere cooperation (Art. 4 § 3 TEU), according to which “the Member States shall take any appropriate measure, general or particular, to ensure fulfilment of the obligations arising out of the Treaties or resulting from the acts of the institutions of the Union”.

By way of example, as from 8 December 2023, Regulation (EU) 1308/2013 not only introduced the compulsory listing of ingredients and a nutrient declaration for wines, but it also provided for an important innovation, by permitting the display of the list of ingredients as well as of the nutrient declaration through electronic means.

Further developments have occurred more recently. First, the European Commission, introducing a new form of regulation of the wine sector, published two texts of “Questions & Answers”, one concerning the implementation of new EU wine label-

1 Regulation (EU) 2021/2117 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products, (EU) No 1151/2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs, (EU) No 251/2014 on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of aromatised wine products and (EU) No 228/2013 laying down specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union (OJ L 435, 6.12.2021, p. 262–314).