



Australian Government

Wine Australia

Apera and Topaque Update

JUNE 2012

Apera and Topaque now registered in Australia

Australian trademark registration has been completed for “Apera” and “Topaque”, the new names chosen for Australian products previously sold as “Sherry” and “Tokay” respectively.

Producers wishing to use these terms should now enter into a licence agreement with Wine Australia, which owns the trademark and is required to keep a record of businesses using the terms.

To notify us of your intention to use “Apera” and/or “Topaque” contact Andreas Clark, Chief Operating Officer, at andreas.clark@wineaustralia.com or (08) 8228 2072.

Prescribed Rules of Use also apply to both terms. You can download the rules for “Apera” [here](#) and “Topaque” [here](#).

Australian producers have been prohibited from using the term “Sherry” since September 1 2011 but can continue to use “Tokay” until 1 September 2020 in Australia and other countries with laws that allow its use as part of a 10-year phase in period. “Topaque” can be used immediately.

The new descriptors for Apera, replacing Fino, Amontillado and Oloroso, are Dry, Medium Dry, Medium Sweet, Semi-Sweet and Sweet.

The changes follow the ratification of the [Agreement between Australia and the European Community on Trade in Wine](#), under which Australia agreed to relinquish use of European geographical indications in return for a number of benefits providing improved access to European markets.

“Apera” and “Topaque” have been registered in a number of key export markets to ensure producers have certainty regarding their use in those countries.

Exporters should be aware, however, that the registration of “Apera” in Europe has been slowed down by the need to respond to a trademark opposition lodged against the name. Until this is finalised, product labelled as “Apera” should not be exported to the EU.