



TABLE: FEDERAL MANDATORY

FEDERAL MANDATORY	WHERE	RULES/CONTENT
Alcohol Net contents Product of Canada Common name (Wine)	In a single field of vision with each other (consumer can see all without turning the container)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bilingual</li> <li>• At least 1.6 mm font size, format correct</li> <li>• Numerals in net contents at least 3.2 mm</li> <li>• Alcohol within +/- 1% of actual tested</li> <li>• Alcohol within min/max limits for category (e.g., 7.0 - 14.9% for table wine)</li> </ul> <p>Example 12.5% alc./vol., 750 mL, Product of/Produit du Canada, Wine/Vin</p>
Allergen warning	Anywhere	Contains sulphites/contient des sulfites Please consult CFIA for specific format and legibility information
Producer name and address	Anywhere	Name, city/town, province, or Canada



TABLE: VQA GENERAL

VQA REGULATED	WHERE	RULES/CONTENT
Appellation with VQA letters on each side	Principal display panel (the customary front label as determined by the Wine Authority)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 2 mm, clearly legible with contrast</li> <li>At least 3.2 mm if no VQA logo on package</li> <li>Same typeface, colour, and size on same line (no stacking)</li> <li>At least 85% (100% for sub-appellations) from stated appellation</li> <li>Consistent with application (label cannot make an origin claim more specific than what is stated on the application)</li> <li>Ontario appellation only for hybrids and sparkling that does not meet traditional method requirements</li> </ul>
VQA logo (not required if appellation is at least 3.2 mm in size)	Anywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gold on black</li> <li>Size between 15-25 mm, square</li> <li>10mm for bottles less than 375mL</li> </ul>
Vintage date (optional for table, sparkling, fortified)	Anywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wine content at least 85% from year stated on label</li> <li>Displayed as four digits (no stacking)</li> <li>Non-vintage dated wines must include lot number</li> </ul>
For sparkling wines - method of production for Traditional and Charmat	Anywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Method must be declared for Traditional or Charmat/Cuve Close</li> <li>No reference to method of production for sparkling wines that do not meet the first two method requirements, optional for sparkling Icewine</li> </ul>
Hybrid grape varieties	Anywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If any hybrid content, varieties are declared including the hybrid under varietal rules</li> <li>Ontario appellation only</li> </ul>
Skin Fermented White	Principal display panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skin Fermented White on front label at least 2 mm and adjacent to variety name if a varietal wine</li> <li>Skin Fermented White at least 3.2 mm if no grape varieties declared</li> <li>If used "orange" wine in no bigger than Skin Fermented White</li> </ul>



TABLE: VQA OPTIONAL

VQA OPTIONAL	WHERE	RULES/CONTENT
<b>IF GRAPE VARIETIES APPEAR ON THE LABEL</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wine meets varietal labelling rules</li> </ul>
Single grape variety	Anywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 85% of named variety</li> </ul>
Two grape varieties*	Anywhere, in descending order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 90% of named varieties, at least 15% of second</li> </ul>
Three grape varieties*	Anywhere, in descending order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 95% of named varieties, at least 15% of second, 10% of third</li> </ul>
More than three varieties	Anywhere, in descending order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 95% of named varieties</li> </ul>
Proprietary Name (No varieties on label, back or front)	Anywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be 100% Vitis vinifera</li> </ul>
Meritage	Anywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contains only Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Malbec OR Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon, Muscadelle</li> </ul>
Unfiltered or Bottled with Lees (if declared on application for approval)	Anywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unfiltered or Bottled with Lees declared on label</li> </ul>
<p><b>* IF THE WINE DOES NOT MEET DUAL/TRIPLE REQUIREMENTS, 2 OR 3 VARIETIES CAN BE NAMED IF PERCENTAGES INCLUDED</b></p>		



TABLE: VQA OPTIONAL (CONT'D)

VQA OPTIONAL (CONT'D)	WHERE	RULES/CONTENT
Vineyard name (not permitted for VQA Ontario designated wines)	Anywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% of wine is from named vineyard</li> <li>If naming more than one vineyard, exact percentages are included</li> </ul>
Virtual wineries – a name other than the name of the VQA member winery	Anywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name of VQA winery or registered brand/operating name is on the label</li> </ul>
For sparkling wines: Sweetness Descriptors (optional)	Anywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural Brut, Brut, Extra Dry, Dry, Medium Dry, Sweet – check meets the required Total Residual Sugar Level for each descriptor</li> </ul>
All labels	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wine content matches rules for terms used on labels, all claims, descriptions are true and accurate</li> <li>No appellation names that the wine is not entitled to, such as Bordeaux, Burgundy, Port</li> </ul>



TABLE: ALTERNATE PACKAGING

ALTERNATE (NON-GLASS) PACKAGING	WHERE	RULES/CONTENT
<p>Permitted containers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stainless steel</li> <li>Aluminum</li> <li>Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)</li> <li>Multi-layer containers (such as TetraPak or bag-in-box)</li> </ul> <p>Maximum container size: 4 L</p> <p>For licensee (wholesale) sale only - maximum container size: 20 L</p>	<p>All category labelling rules apply</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Filling date appears in plain language (e.g., December 1, 2013, 28-Jan-2014 etc.)</li> <li>Lot number for non-vintage wines</li> </ul> <p>Certain terms prohibited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estate bottled</li> <li>Traditional Method terms including Fermented in this Bottle</li> <li>Icewine</li> </ul>

**QUESTIONS?**

See our website at [www.vqaontario.ca](http://www.vqaontario.ca) – look under “Wine Categories and Labelling”

Contact the Ontario Wine Appellation Authority at [info@vqaontario.ca](mailto:info@vqaontario.ca) or 416-367-2002

Foreign appellations – is the term I want to use prohibited? Look it up at <http://www.ic.gc.ca/cipo/listqiws.nsf/qimenu-eng?readForm>