



MEDIA RELEASE

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Winemakers' Federation wins the Prosecco battle

In November 2013, the Winemakers' Federation of Australia (WFA) successfully objected to an attempt by the European Commission, which sought to register the Italian geographical indication (GI) Prosecco as a GI in Australia.

WFA succeeded because the word Prosecco had been used (and continues to be used) in Australia as the name of a variety of grapes, and such registration would have prevented the use of the term by Australian producers to describe their wines which are made from this variety.

The European Commission lodged an appeal in the Federal Court from the initial decision by the Registrar of Trade Marks, and the WFA continued to oppose the Commission's case.

However, the European Commission has now withdrawn the appeal. WFA Chief Executive Paul Evans said "We are delighted that the European Commission has withdrawn their appeal and that the original decision stands, giving certainty to Australian producers on this matter".

He went on to say "WFA fiercely defends the rights of Australian producers and although we were prepared for a long legal battle on the issue, we are pleased that the European Commission recognised the right of our position".

According to Paul Evans "Prosecco is a variety suited to Australian conditions. WFA is delighted with the outcome for our producers and look forward to consumers enjoying the product for many years to come".

Further information:

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