



## **Manganese levels in China**

Wine Australia recommends that before exporting wine to China it should be analysed for manganese content.

We do this reluctantly, since we believe the limit of 2 mg/l imposed by Chinese authorities is not absolute. Chinese law controls the amount of manganese that can be added to wine, and Australians do not add manganese to their wine, neither do winemakers in other traditional wine producing countries.

Manganese is, in fact an essential nutrient. So-called “superfoods” like chia seeds are rich in manganese and many people take manganese supplements.

Manganese is present naturally in wine. A wine may exceed this arbitrary limit of 2 mg/l despite manganese never having been added to the wine.

Nevertheless, in the past 12 months we have reports of 14 Australian wines having been challenged after being analysed for manganese on arrival in China.

We understand some of these wines may have been destroyed and some returned to Australia.

Wine Australia is not aware of any country other than China that imposes such a limit on manganese content.

Unfortunately if you have a wine that exceeds this limit the safest course of action is not to send the wine to China.

It is not compulsory to test the wine for manganese but doing so may provide peace of mind.

Australian wine is not a specific target; other countries are reporting problems with this issue.

Chinese authorities are not accepting test results from any particular laboratory. When they randomly test they are using Chinese government facilities.

If you choose to test for manganese, and we recommend you do, you can use any facility capable of performing the analysis.

If you wish to have the analysis conducted the following laboratories are able to assist:

Australian Wine and Research Institute (AWRI) [commercialservices@awri.com.au](mailto:commercialservices@awri.com.au)

Phone: 08 83136600

Vintessential contact Steve Byrne: [steve@vintessential.com.au](mailto:steve@vintessential.com.au) phone: 1300 30 2242

Winechek contact Rodney Marsh: [rodney@winechek.com](mailto:rodney@winechek.com) phone: 08 97514601

A facility also exists through CCIC Australia. They can be contacted at [marketing@ccicaus.com](mailto:marketing@ccicaus.com)

Wine Australia continues to make representations to Chinese authorities in an attempt to overcome this obstacle to trade.

There are two other metals that have absolute limits in China.

Iron is limited to 8 mg/l and copper to 1 mg/l.

We have made these two limits clear in our Export Market Guide to China.

All licensed exporters and winegrape levy payers have free access to this material through the “Winefacts” section of our website.

Wine should not be sent to China if these limits are exceeded. They risk being rejected upon arrival.