



Department of the Treasury

Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau



Press Release

For Immediate Release
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TTB CONTINUES REQUIREMENT FOR CERTIFICATION OF BRUNELLO di MONTALCINO

Washington, D.C. - On October 20, 2009, the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade (TTB) Administrator met with Luca Zaia, Italian Minister of Agriculture and with Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, Italy's Ambassador to the United States. The Government of Italy requested the meeting to discuss the ongoing investigations into the improper blending of several Italian wines including Brunello di Montalcino. Minister Zaia reassured TTB that his office has taken full responsibility for the integrity of all 500 Italian wine denominations and has ensured that none of the mislabeled products that have been the subject of numerous press reports for months now are on the market. He stressed that he has taken TTB concerns about the integrity of certain Italian wines seriously and consequently mandated a heightened quality control and oversight role for the Ministry of Agriculture. Minister Zaia also advised that the court case would be concluding soon and that TTB would be provided with information on the final disposition of the cases as soon as possible.

Contrary to numerous reports indicating that TTB will no longer require the Italian government certification for imports of Brunello di Montalcino, TTB, at the meeting with the Italian government representatives, emphasized the need to receive the prosecutors report as soon as it is available to assist in determining the future need for and scope of the certification process. At this time, TTB continues to enforce the certification requirement and has no plans to lift this requirement.

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