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Paper Title: **Legal Issues Facing the Chilean Wine Industry**

Abstract:

As of 2012, Chilean wine accounted for 8 percent of the global wine industry. Chile is currently the eighth largest wine producer and fifth largest wine exporter in the world. Chile regards its wine as the international symbol of Chilean trade and its ambassador to the world, and Chilean wine is credited with opening Chile to new product exportation and multiple trade agreements around the world. In this context, the Chilean government still must find a balance between promoting the profitability of the wine industry and enforcing sufficient regulations to prevent societal harms. Though seemingly contradictory, there are many ways in which these goals can be achieved together.

This research paper examines the history of the Chilean wine industry and the current legal issues facing the industry in four key areas: bottling and labeling regulations, environmental regulations, labor regulations, and international treaties and trade agreements. With attention to all of these areas, the Chilean government has announced the goal of converting Chile into a top ten exporter of food products within the next ten years; wine is an integral part of that plan.

In some limited respects, the Chilean wine industry and government currently have a very positive working relationship, primarily with respect to bottling and labeling regulations. Labor regulations and, to an even larger extent, environmental regulations are two areas where greater communication and cooperation between the wine industry and government is necessary in order for Chile to meet its goal of increasing its wine exports while also enforcing stricter regulations than ever before. In particular, as of early 2013 Chile has implemented a brand-new environmental enforcement agency, the effects of which have yet to be seen. The current state of confusion among wine producers as to their responsibilities under the new regime is an example of an inefficiency that can be corrected by greater cooperation between the parties.