

WHAT IS NATAMYCIN?

Natamycin is an antimycotic substance widely used as preservative in the food and beverage industry to **control yeast** and fungal development.

Other trade names for Natamycin is Pimaricin, Natamax[®], Delvovid[®] and Actistab[®]

APPLICATION IN WINE

- Preservation agent in grape juice, concentrate and during bottling (residual sugar)
- Stop alcoholic fermentation
- Prevent re-fermentation of wines
- Control of spoilage yeast during winemaking e.g. *Brettanomyces* spp.



LEGAL ASPECTS

- Natamycin is allowed for local use in South African wines (Liquor Products Act, Act 60 of 1989).
- Not allowed in wines destined for export to most countries including EU, USA, Argentina, Chile, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.
- Primary reason: Natamycin is not approved by the OIV as wine additive, despite its wide application in different food industries (FDA, WHO approved).

STATUS OF WINE CONTAMINATION

Results following wine analysis in excess of 5000: Only a few wines and certain winemaking products (less than 3% of tested samples) have tested positive for trace levels (<0.005 mg/L) of Natamycin. Primary contamination occurs predominantly from the direct use of Natamycin as additive to grape juice, concentrate and wine.

ALTERNATIVES SUGGESTED FOR WINEMAKING

Options

Improved SO₂ Management

Sterile Membrane Filtration (0.22 µm)

Potassium Sorbate

Velcorin[®] DMDC (Dimethyl dicarbonate)

Flash Pasteurization

PEF (Pulsed Electric Fields)

Important Notes

Very effective against yeast and bacteria, use optimal levels in line with pH

Removes all yeast and bacteria; used as final pre-bottling filtration of clear wine

Only active against yeast, used at bottling, very effective in combination with SO₂; off-flavour risk by lactic acid bacteria

Effective against low concentrations of yeasts; works well with SO₂; in-line dosing at bottling; approved in EU

Effective against yeast and bacteria

Experimental stages only

Good CELLAR HYGIENE, excellent WINEMAKING PROCEDURES and STERILE PRACTICES for BOTTLING would reduce the need for adding alternatives!!