

February 2020

Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration



Retrieved mainly from the JRC tool Medisys (<http://medisys.newsbrief.eu>)



Food Fraud Cases



Italian authorities have discovered more than 35 million bottles of counterfeited wine. The owners of the company producing the wine mixed wine of low quality and graduation with wine that fulfilled the legislative requirements and labelled them as prosecco e pinot grigio.

[Il Salvagente](#): 14/02/20

 Wine
 Substitution/
Counterfeit/
Dilution/
Mislabelling

Portuguese authorities seized almost 50000 eggs that were labelled as produced by hens grown in open air. A thorough investigation demonstrated that the information on the labels was not correct. The date when the eggs were laid had also been manipulated to increase the durability of the product.

[Sapo 25](#): 15/02/20

 Eggs
 Mislabelling/
Intentional
distribution of
expired goods


7000 kg of loose species were seized by the Punjab Food Authority. Chilli powder was produced adding dangerous substances such as non food-grade colorants and other chemicals.

[Pakistan Observer](#): 19/02/20

 Spices
 Substitution/
Intentional
distribution of
products not fit for
consumption/

Three producers of Valdepe/as PDO wine are accused of selling young wines as the more expensive "reserve" and "crianza".

[La Rioja](#): 19/02/20

 Wine
 Substitution



Italian authorities have seized in a clandestine cantina one million litres of wine together with artificial aromas, colorants, nutrients and fermentation starters (all of them apt for human consumption).

[Italpress](#): 21/02/20

 Wine
 Artificial
enhancement

A big Austrian company that distributes everyday a million and a half eggs in the form of semi-elaborated products has been accused of mixing in their products rotten eggs stored for several months, some of them contaminated with chicken excrements.

[GreenMe](#): 25/02/20

 Eggs
 Intentional
distribution of
products not fit for
consumption

Spanish policy is dismantling a network of fraudsters that clandestinely imported tomatoes from Morocco and once in Spain relabelled them as Spanish. So far the investigation affects six companies.

[Global Food Mate: 27/02/20](#)

One woman died in Belgium after having drunk counterfeited red wine that contained high levels of the drugs MDMA and MDA. The wine was RED Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon 2016, brand Black & Bianco with a brown cork, the genuine wine has a black cork.

[vrt NWS: 27/02/20](#)



Tomato



Origin masking/
Mislabelling



Wine



Intentional
distribution of
products not fit for
consumption/
Counterfeit/
Mislabelling

Other interesting articles

18/02/2020 – Darjeeling tea substituted by tea from Nepal?

There is some concerned that Darjeeling tea might be substituted by tea from Nepal. The production of Darjeeling tea is around 9 million kilos in one season, about the same amount of tea that is imported from Nepal. Authorities have requested a specialised laboratory to analyse samples to see if some Darjeeling tea has been substituted by tea from Nepal.

[Business Standard](#)



India



Tea

Disclaimer: The presentation of articles reflects their media coverage. In any case, it does not reflect the frequency of food fraud in a particular country and/or concerning a specific food product. The European Commission does not take any responsibility for the validity of the information extracted from the media channels scanned. The views expressed shall not be regarded as stating an official position of the European Commission.

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