



DNA for Fine Wine

A new wine authentication system developed by Applied DNA Sciences in Stony Brook, N.Y., could protect premium wineries from future fraud--and provide collectors with a foolproof method of identifying stolen wine. According to CEO James Hayward, his DNA-based system, called SigNature[®], embeds a customized botanical DNA segment into a specialized ink that is then applied to a wine bottle, a cork or a label. "Once applied, the segment can be detected in a simple spot test or analyzed forensically. SigNature[®] cannot be copied or removed," he explained. Given the rise of fake vintage classics both at auction and at retail, plus an increase in wine thefts, the potential benefits of an encrypted identification system are exciting. For example, a collector could have his entire cellar encoded so that in the event of theft, the bottles would be readily identifiable by police, auction houses or wine merchants.

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