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Out of State Winery

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Topic: Sales of Private Collections

As a California winemaker, I will attest that our "vintage wine acquired from private collection" regulation works quite well as the licensed buyer and unlicensed seller arrive at a mutually agreed price without unnecessary time or expense. Can it go wrong, yes, just read "The Billionaire's Vinegar: The Mystery of the World's Most Expensive Bottle of Wine" by Benjamin Wallace, but that is the buyer's problem.

Here is the full text of California ABC regulation § 23104.6.

“Vintage wine” acquired from private collection

(a) Any nonlicensed person owning bottled vintage wine purchased by that person at retail, is authorized to sell that wine to a licensee authorized to sell that wine if each bottle has a permanently affixed label stating that the wine was acquired from a private collection.

(b) “Vintage wine,” as used in this section, means bottled white, rose, or sparkling wine which is not less than five years old or bottled red wine which is not less than 10 years old.

Quite straight-forward.