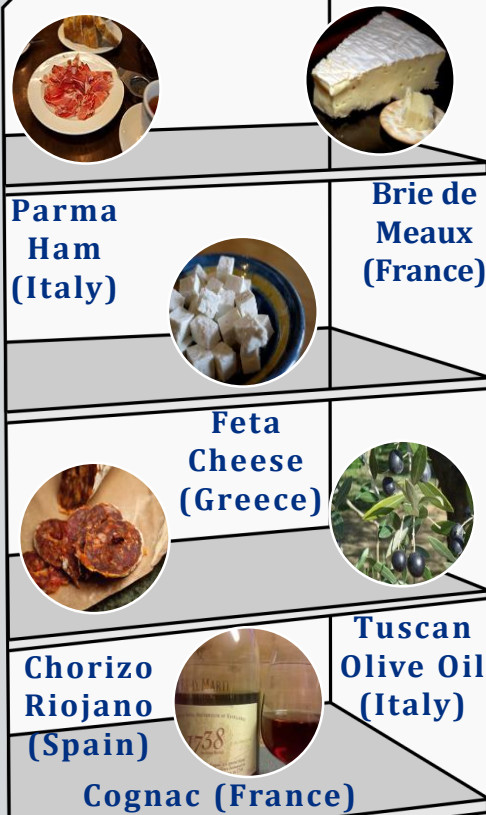


# Something to Snack On: TTIP and Geographic Indications

A geographic indication (GI) is a label used to protect the intellectual property rights of a product whose characteristics are tied to a locality.

The US and EU have different systems in place to protect GIs. The US relies on its trademark system while the EU has a specialized GI-registration process.



Wine and spirits products such as Napa Valley Wine and Cognac are protected in existing agreements. TTIP could expand the list of protected products.



GIs refer mainly to agricultural products, wine or spirits.

**Maine Lobster**



**Vidalia Onions (Georgia)**



**Florida Oranges**  
**Napa Valley Wine (California)**



**Wisconsin Cheese**  
**Bourbon Whiskey (Kentucky)**



The US and EU disagree about whether certain names should be protected or considered generic.

## Sources:

"American Original Products (AOPS): Protecting a Legacy", Organization for an International Geographical Indications Network  
[EU Agriculture and Rural Development DOOR Database](#)  
[European Union Distilled Spirit Drinks Agreement tcc.export.gov](#)  
[Geographical-indications Europa.eu](#)  
[Geographical Indications in U.S.-EU Trade Negotiations Congressional Research Service](#)  
["Geographical Indications and Designations of Origin" Europa.eu](#)  
[Geographical Indications and Property Rights: Protecting Value-Added Agricultural Products Iowa State University](#)  
[US/EC Wine Agreement Q&A's TTB.gov](#)

## Image Sources:

[Coppa di Parma](#), [Brie](#), [Feta](#), [Chorizo](#), [Tuscany Olives](#), [Cognac](#), [Maine Lobster](#), [Vidalia Onions](#), [Florida Oranges](#), [Wisconsin Cheese](#), [Grapes](#), and [Bourbon Barrels](#). All images found on Flickr and used under a [CC BY 2.0 License](#).  
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