Arbil Kuala Penyu (Arbil Traditional Alcoholic Drink, Kuala Penyu)

**Country**
Malaysia

**Main characteristics/features**

‘Arbil’ is a traditional alcoholic drink. It is a rice wine that is produced by fermenting rice and then distilling it. It was first introduced by the Tatana ethnic community in the district of Kuala Penyu. The term ‘arbil’ is a combination of two words, that is, ‘arak’ (alcohol) and ‘bilod’ (rice).

**Geographical area**

‘Arbil’ producers in Kuala Penyu, Sabah, are concentrated in Kampung Gorowot, Kampung Malapai, Kapung Menumpang, Kampung Kiambur, Kampung Bundu, Kampung Kayul, Kampung Tegilung and Kampung Kalapun.

**Production/processing**

‘Arbil’ is made from ‘sasad’, a type of rice and yeast. Its production is divided into two stages: fermentation and distillation. ‘Sasad’ is made by soaking rice and then pounding it till it is fine. It is then mixed with uncooked rice for fermenting and stored in a container for 5 days. After 5 days, it is mixed with water and fermented for another 5 days. The fermented mixture is then cooked for 2 hours. It is at this stage that the distillation process is carried out. Vapour from the mixture that is being cooked, called ‘arbil’, is collected and then stored carefully in a special place.

**Publication in the Official Gazette**

- **Competent authority**: Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO)
- **GI rights holder/GI association**: Sabah State Cultural Board
- **Contact information**: Tel: +60 88268863, Fax: +60 88264235

**Link between product and territory**

The ‘arbil’ drink was popularised by the Tatana ethnic community living in Kuala Penyu. The majority of the community are Christians, Buddhists and animists. Many of them use this drink in their religious ceremonies and celebrations. In addition, the non-Muslim communities like the Dusun and Murut also follow the custom of serving ‘arbil’ during their celebrations.

**Type of product**
Wine

**Control body**

**File number**
GI2016-00004

**Websites**
www.sabah.gov.my/lks

*Registered for a term of 10 years from 16/12/2016 to 16/12/2026*