

# Cannabis in Uruguay

## Is it Legal?

Uruguay is the first Latin American country to implement a marijuana legalization project. Marijuana is legal, but it's not sold on the streets just yet. Legislation was passed in 2013, which allows Uruguayans and long-term residents to grow six personal plants and purchase 10 grams per week. More marijuana cultivation is allowed at a cannabis club, which is the reason many people join together at a club to grow large amounts of marijuana.<sup>1</sup> Home growers and club members are technically not allowed to sell the finished product, however, many clubs have paying members that receive dispensed weed. Uruguay's goal is to incorporate registered pharmacies to sell marijuana to documented consumers.

## How Does the Uruguay's Government Support Recreational Marijuana?

Former President of Uruguay, José Pepe Mejica, supported the 2013 cannabis legislation. The current president, Tabaré Vázquez, also supports a marijuana state-run marketplace. Uruguay does not allow marijuana advertisements or brand name affiliation associated with cannabis. The country aims to avoid creating lucrative marijuana businesses. Cultivation license are required to grow for pharmacies. Registered pharmacies are working towards registering consumers, so the weed sales are documented. The government controls the price by allowing about one dollar a gram.<sup>2</sup> Recreational sales are on course,

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.latimes.com/world/mexico-americas/la-fg-uruguay-marijuana-20161109-story.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/24/uruguay-legal-marijuana-next-phase-regulation>

however, the process has been slow. Since Uruguay passed legislation in 2013, Colombia and Chile have both made steps in support of medical marijuana.