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Romania

Vineyards

Wines

Highlights

European wine consumption: consumers still prefer a pop Various attempts have been made by the wine industry to overcome the problem of corking. The most obvious solution, to introduce new bottle stopping materials such as screw tops and plastic corks, have proven unpopular - especially among more discerning wine drinkers. Now, a cork manufacturer has found a way to eliminate the problem and continue using traditional cork. http://www.commentwire.com/commwire_story.asp?commentwire_ID=5530

Iceland points the way for Scandinavian monopolies While deregulation of the alcohol markets in Sweden, Norway and Finland has been much discussed in recent years, it could be the smallest Scandinavian nation, Iceland, which will set the pace for liberalisation. Ben Cooper reports on a bill recently put before the Icelandic parliament which would see the abolition of the retail monopoly for beer and wine. <http://just-drinks.com/fd.asp?art=915>

China and Moldova cooperate to cultivate high quality grapes for winemaking A grape cultivation base featuring breeds imported from Moldova, a leading grape producer and winery, has been put into operation in Penglai City, the eastern province Shandong. Shandong is China's major wine producing province where the leading winery Zhangyu Group, with a history of more than 110 years, is based. http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2004-04/12/content_1413467.htm

FRANCE: LVMH sees significant growth in 2004 <http://just-drinks.com/nd.asp?art=22811>

Wine Vision annual meeting set for July 20-21 in Santa Rosa, California, Check out the April 2004 newsletter (pdf file). <http://www.winevision.org/externals/49/256fed84570ba9d613c7f4e2cd425cfbaede89.pdf>

Les vins bio à l'honneur: C'est au château de Kienzheim que l'OPABA (Organisation Professionnelle de l'Agriculture Biologique en Alsace) a organisé, le 5 avril dernier, une rencontre entre producteurs bio et grand public. Parmi les 58 viticulteurs que rassemble l'OPABA, 34 font déjà une production exclusivement biologique. L'objectif de cette rencontre était de présenter, à un public intéressé et venu nombreux, les rudiments de la viticulture biologique... http://www.vinomedia.fr/lettre-vinomedia/lettre_2.htm

Commerce extérieur des vins et spiritueux. Bilan de l'année 2003 mitigé pour les exportations françaises. Evolution des principaux clients de la France en vins. Les exportations françaises de vins sont très concentrées. En valeur, les trois premiers pays clients réalisent 50% du chiffre d'affaires total de nos exportations. Cette concentration est encore plus forte en volume puisque les trois premiers absorbent 51% des ventes. Les deux premiers en concentrent même 39% et 41%... http://www.vinomedia.fr/lettre-vinomedia/lettre_17.htm

New Zealand wines shouldn't be smoked Green MP Ian Ewen-Street says vintners need to use their heads and not their matches when combating frosts. He was responding to a Marlborough Express report that some vineyard owners are burning paint tins, arsenic-treated timber and waste oils to prevent their grapes from freezing. [http://biz.tizwine.com/stories/storyReader\\$6472](http://biz.tizwine.com/stories/storyReader$6472)

FRANCE: Hot wires boost grape expectation Two Chablis wine growers, infuriated at regularly losing up to half their annual grape harvest to spring frosts, have launched an electric heating system for vineyards. "A lot of growers will be looking at it closely," said a spokeswoman for the Burgundy Wine Association. "A few cold nights in April or May and a whole year's production can go." <http://www.guardian.co.uk/france/story/0,11882,1195763,00.html>

Wine Watch - South Africa <http://just-drinks.com/pd.asp?art=24582&lk=e215>

Wine consumption concerns in Bordeaux <http://just-drinks.com/nd.asp?art=22840&dm=yes>

ILLOGICAL approach to UK wine market... UK for many years. 2. Duties, VAT are the same for all imported wines of equal alcohol content. 3. Presumably, shipping costs, packing <http://www.busrep.co.za/index.php?fSectionId=553&fArticleId=402224>

Wine packaging revolutionised A brand of wine packaged in Tetra Prisma 500ml packaging has been launched in the US, while in Europe, a new synthetic cork has been developed. Is this the future of wine packaging in the 21st century?... <http://BeverageDaily.com/news/ng.asp?n=wh16&c=nkeyesrlvkqmynd&id=51233>

Just-Drinks Members' only feature: Taking exports to the next level. In little over a decade South African wines have been transformed from cheap and cheerful offerings to products which can hold their own in international markets. Arnold Kirkby attended the recent Cape Wine 2004 exhibition which proved to be both a showcase for South African wine and a forum for debate concerning the future of the industry. For the full story, visit: <http://just-drinks.com/fd.asp?art=913>

AUS: Our wine beating France in the US Australian wine is going down a treat in the US, with sales soaring 39 per cent during 2003. Australia's reds and whites now rank second to Italy's among the imported wines most preferred by US drinkers; unseating France from second spot. It slipped to third with an 11 per cent sales slump during last year. http://www.theadvertiser.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5936,9331735%255E913,00.html

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