Global Trends - Wine Industry Key Elements

**Alcohol industry criticises government’s ‘vague’ socioeconomic study**

The South African Liquor Brand Owners Association (Salba) has criticised the government’s inadequate socioeconomic impact assessment of the draft Liquor Amendment Bill because of its failure to quantify the effect on jobs and the economy.

The bill was discussed on Thursday by the social partners in the National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) but Salba spokesperson Sibani Mngadi said on Wednesday that “the vagueness of the impact study submitted by the Department of Trade and Industry limits the ability of Nedlac social partners to engage meaningfully with the proposed amendments to the Liquor Act.

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**Major Wine Producing Countries**

**California Winemakers No Longer Fight Drought — Now It’s Mildew**

After years of drought conditions, California vintners are enjoying wetter conditions this year. But that means vineyards are being plagued with a new problem: mildew, including downy mildew, a form rarely seen in the Golden State. From cooler coastal regions experiencing an increase in a damp marine layer to Central Valley vineyards with more moisture than usual due to a very wet winter, growers and vineyard consultants alike are on the lookout for mildew.

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**Natural / Physical Resources**

**Little-Known Grapevine Disease Uncovered**
Researchers find a fungal disease, Pestalotiopsis, growing from Maryland to Missouri.

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