BI Daagliks - BI Daily

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For something different

Drinking wine can make you more creative, study finds

A small glass of wine or a pint of beer helps unleash creativity, Austrian scientists have found.

"Alcohol is so linked with creativity," lead author Dr Mathias Benedek said. "Previous research has found almost half of the great writers had a history of drinking. We found that a small drink can indeed help with certain aspects of creativity."

Don’t reach for the morning Merlot just yet!

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Major Wine Producing Countries
A snapshot of Brazil’s wine market

Despite the financial and political turmoil that has gripped Brazil – including a deep recession, major corruption scandals, and the 2016 impeachment and removal from office of President Dilma Rousseff – the wine market showed surprising resilience throughout 2015 and 2016. In 2015, the volume of imported wines remained steady, although there was a decrease in value, partly explained by the devaluation of currency. This means that the increase in volume was largely seen in the low price segment of up to $29.90 per 9-L case, to the detriment of higher-quality wines.

In 2016, 78.5% of imported wines were reds, 19.3% were whites, and 2.2% were rosé; in 2015, the numbers were 81.8% red, 15.9% white, and 2.2% rosé. The increase in white wine consumption is a slow but steady trend, while the global passion for rosé has not yet arrived in Brazil. This year is following the same pattern, with imports in the first four months increasing 40% in volume and 22.6% in value compared to the same period in 2016. The biggest winners have been Chile and Portugal, with Spain, the USA, and Uruguay increasing their market share. Argentina has lagged behind, while sales of Champagne have plummeted.

Meanwhile, the sales of Brazilian wines fell by 30% for still wines and 21% for sparkling wines over the same period.

Natural / Physical Resources

Pinot Gris virus detected in Australia

A virus that attacks Pinot Gris vines causing delayed bud burst, leaf distortion and yield loss has been found in Australian vineyards for the first time.

Grapevine Pinot Gris Virus (GPGV), a member of the genus Trichovirus in the family Betasvirusidae, can be spread via infected propagation material and possibly by bud and blister mite, however its impact on wine health is not well understood. Confirming “isolated” detections of the virus this week, the Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI) and Vinehealth Australia urged winemakers to be vigilant to the symptoms to minimise the risk of the virus spreading.